

Volume 4

No. 15



Thursday

2nd September, 1948

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OFFICIAL REPORT

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GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON

GOVERNOR-GENERAL

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR HENRY MONCK-MASON MOORE, G.C.M.G.

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Minister of Health and Local Government, and Leader of the House of Representatives—The Hon. Mr. S. W. R. D. BANDARANAIKE, M.P.

Minister Without Portfolio—The Hon. Mr. A. E. GOONESINHA, M.P.

Minister of Labour and Social Services—The Hon. Mr. T. B. JAYAH, M.P.

Minister of Finance—The Hon. Mr. J. R. JAYEWARDENE, M.P.

Minister of Transport and Works—The Hon. Sir JOHN KOTELAWALA, K.B.E., M.P.

Minister of Education—The Hon. Mr. E. A. NUGAWELA, M.P.

Minister of Justice and Leader of the Senate—The Hon. Dr. L. A. RAJAPAKSE, K.C.

Minister of Food and Co-operative Undertakings—The Hon. Mr. A. RATNAYAKE, M.P.

Minister of Agriculture and Lands—The Hon. Mr. DUDLEY SENANAYAKE, M.P.

Minister of Posts and Telecommunication, and Industries, Industrial Research and Fisheries—The Hon. Mr. C. SITTAMPALAM, M.P.

Minister of Commerce and Trade—The Hon. Mr. C. SUNTHARALINGAM, M.P.

Minister of Home Affairs and Rural Development—The Hon. Mr. E. A. P. WIJEYERATNE.

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Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and Local Government—Mr. V. NALLIAH, M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industries, Industrial Research and Fisheries—Mr. H. DE Z. SRIWARDANA, M.P.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, 2nd September, 1948

The House met at 2 p.m., MR. SPEAKER [THE HON. MR. A. F. MOLAMURE] in the Chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. Speaker: I have received the following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General:

No. C.21/1948.
King's Pavilion,
Kandy, 28th August, 1948.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that, in terms of section 36 (2) of the Ceylon (Constitution) Order in Council, 1946, I have this day assented in His Majesty's name to the Bill intituled—

“An Act to amend the Trade Unions Ordinance in order to make special provision relating to the registration of trade unions of public servants and to other matters connected therewith.”

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Sgd.) HENRY MOORE,
Governor-General.

The Honourable the Speaker
of the House of Representatives.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Supplementary Estimates Nos. 23, 24, 25 and 26 of 1947-48.—[Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake.]

Ordered to lie upon the Table.

Supplementary Estimates Nos. 21 and 22 of 1947-48.—[Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Ordered to lie upon the Table.

Supplementary Estimate No. 29 of 1947-48.—[Hon. Mr. Jayah.]

Ordered to lie upon the Table.

(1) Supplementary Estimates Nos. 45, 46, 47, 48, 49 and 50 of 1947-48.

(2) Report of the Directors of the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund and Scheme for 1946 (Sessional Paper No. XVII. of 1948).—[Hon. Mr. Jayewardene.]

Ordered to lie upon the Table.

(1) Two Sets of Regulations made under Sections 82 and 174 of the Motor Car Ordinance, No. 45 of 1938.

(2) Supplementary Estimates Nos. 20, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, and 44 of 1947-48.—[Hon. Sir John Kotelawala.]

Ordered to lie upon the Table.

Supplementary Estimate No. 28 of 1947-48.—[Hon. Mr. Nugawela.]

Ordered to lie upon the Table.

Supplementary Estimates Nos. 31, 32 and 33 of 1947-48.—[Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake.]

Ordered to lie upon the Table.

Supplementary Estimates Nos. 27 and 30 of 1947-48.—[Hon. Mr. Sittampalam.]

Ordered to lie upon the Table.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS Maternity Benefits

1. **Mr. Dahanayake:** Will the Hon. Minister of Labour and Social Services state: (a) Is he aware that the period of 150 days of work needed to secure maternity benefits cannot be reached in many cases because of the general curtailment of work? (b) Whether he will take steps to amend the law in this respect to bring the period down to 100 days?

The Hon. Mr. T. B. Jayah (Minister of Labour and Social Services): The Answers to the hon. Member's Questions are as follows: (a) No. (b) No.

Two-man Commission to Malaya

2. **Mr. Sri Nissanka:** Will the Prime Minister state: What were the terms of reference issued to the two-man Commission which went to Malaya to inquire into the rioting of Ceylon Pioneers in that country?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and External Affairs): There was no formal appointment of a Commission. A Military Officer and a Bhikkhu were asked to proceed to Malaya to make informal inquiries to ascertain and report on the cause of the reported disturbances by the Ceylon Pioneers in that country.

Mr. Dahanayake: May I ask a Supplementary Question? Will the report submitted by that unofficial Commission be made available to hon. Members?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: No.

Mr. Dahanayake: Why not?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Because I do not consider it necessary. It was for my information that I got that report.

Dr. Perera: Might I ask a question? Was it a part of the instructions issued to this particular Commission that they should also inquire into the conditions of work of these pioneers?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Yes.

Use of Ceylon Air Fields by British Military Aircraft

3. **Mr. Sri Nissanka:** Will the Prime Minister state whether sanction of Parliament will be obtained before permitting British Military Aircraft to use Ceylon air fields for the purpose of military operations in other countries?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: The question of British Military Aircraft using Ceylon air fields for purposes of military operations in other countries is a matter for mutual agreement between the Government of Ceylon and the Government of the United Kingdom according to circumstances existing at that time.

Dr. Perera: May I ask a Supplementary Question? If Parliamentary sanction is not necessary, has the Minister given sanction for the use of air fields at the present moment?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: No.

Dr. Perera: Has there been any mutual agreement between the Government of Ceylon and the Government of England?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: That is another question.

Mr. Sri Nissanka: Has the Cabinet given sanction for the use of these air fields?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: No.

Mr. Sri Nissanka: To the Government of England to use our air fields?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: There are certain air fields in Trincomalee which are used by British planes. There was therefore no sanction necessary for the use of those air fields.

Mr. Sri Nissanka: For this particular operation?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: No.

Mr. D. B. R. Gunawardena: As the Prime Minister said that there are certain aerodromes which are being used by British planes, may I know whether he has any control over those aerodromes?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: I do not know under which question this supplementary question is being asked. I am asked about something which may happen in the future. I should be glad if my hon. friends would read the question first before they ask supplementary questions. The question that is asked is whether sanction of Parliament will be obtained before permitting British Military Aircraft to use Ceylon air fields. That is something that has to be decided in the future.

Mr. Speaker: The question has already been answered.

Use of Ceylon Air Fields by British Beau Fighters to strafe Malayan Communists

4. **Mr. Sri Nissanka:** Will the Prime Minister state why British Beau Fighters have been allowed to take off from Ceylon air fields to strafe Malayan Communists?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: A flight of Beau Fighters from a squadron normally stationed in Ceylon were on their normal exercise flight to Singapore and Hong Kong; when at Singapore they appear to have been used for action in Malaya. It is not correct to say that they took off from Ceylon air fields to strafe Malayan Communists.

Type Plans for Construction of Buildings on Estates

5. **Mr. Thondaman:** Will the Minister of Education state: (a) Whether he is aware that a number of Estates have asked for type plans to enable them to proceed with the construction of buildings as required by the Education Department's Circular No. ASB 134 dated

3rd August, 1948? (b) Whether he is aware that the Department has failed to respond to those requests so far?

The Hon. Mr. E. A. Nugawela (Minister of Education): The Answers to the hon. Member's Questions are as follows:

(a) Yes.

(b) Type plans have been despatched to applications received so far.

Mr. Thondaman: How many estates have been supplied with such plans?

The Hon. Mr. Nugawela: I am sorry, Sir, I am not in a position to give that information.

Education Department: Examination Branch

6. **Mr. Ilangaratne:** Will the Minister of Education state: (a) Is he aware that the building housing the Examination Branch of the Education Department is unsuitable for the purpose and has no latrine accommodation? (b) Is he aware that several clerks attached to this office are suffering from tuberculosis? (c) Whether he will take steps to shift the office to better quarters, and to have the tuberculosis cases treated at Government expense?

The Hon. Mr. Nugawela: The Answers to the hon. Member's Questions are as follows:

(a) The Examination Branch of the Education Department is housed in the best building available. It is incorrect to say that there is no latrine accommodation.

(b) There have been 2 positive and 1 suspected case of tuberculosis among 113 clerks, but there is nothing to justify the implication in the hon. Member's question that they contracted tuberculosis as a result of working in this building.

(c) The office will be shifted when better quarters are available. There is no urgency in the matter.

Amendment of the Land Settlement Ordinance

7. **Mr. Herat:** Will the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice state: Whether he will consider early

the amending of the Land Settlement Ordinance so that cases of illicit clearing of jungle may be prosecuted in Rural Courts?

Mr. G. R. de Silva (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice): Action has been taken in the case of illicit clearing of jungle under the Forests Ordinance and not under the Settlement Ordinance. It is not considered advisable that such cases should be prosecuted in the Rural Courts.

Olupaliyave Tank in Wannī Hatpattu

8. **Mr. Herat:** Will the Minister of Agriculture and Lands state: (a) Whether he is aware that the owners of the paddy fields and lands inundated by raising the spill level of the Olupaliyave Tank in Wannī Hatpattu in Kurunegala District have not been paid compensation? (b) Whether he will consider the payment of these claims without further delay?

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake (Minister of Agriculture and Lands): The Answers to the hon. Member's Questions are as follows:

(a) Olupaliyawa tank was recently improved by the Irrigation Department at a cost of nearly Rs. 19,500 for the benefit of 108 acres. These improvements did not in any way involve either the raising of the existing spill level or the submergence of any extra level beyond the area already liable to innundation at the present spill level. All that is proposed is to acquire 24.7 acres of private land liable to submergence at the existing full Supply Level 114. This is estimated to cost Rs. 7,000.

(b) Acquisition proceedings have not commenced. Compensation due will be paid after acquisition proceedings are completed.

Kudagalla-oya Scheme

9. **Mr. Herat:** Will the Minister of Agriculture and Lands state: (a) Is he aware that no information on the proposed Kudagalla-oya Scheme (i.e., a channel from Kadigalla to Tabbowa) is available from any official sources? (b) If so, why? (c) How far has this scheme progressed?

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake:

The Answers to the hon. Member's Questions are as follows:

(a) There is a new proposal to impound the waters of the Kala-oya by a dam at a point approximately about 4 miles down stream of the Kala-oya bridge on the Kurunegala-Anuradhapura P. W. D. road. The proposed reservoir may impound about 50,000 Ac. ft. of storage to command in the neighbourhood of 10,000 acres of irrigable paddy for Maha, and this is called the Kudagala Scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The river flow is being gauged in the vicinity of the P. W. D. bridge since October, 1945. A reconnaissance engineering contour survey of the proposed tank bed and the bund site has been made.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY-SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

The Hon. Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike (Minister of Health and Local Government, and Leader of the House): I propose the name of Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya, Member for Baddegama, for the office of Deputy-Speaker and Chairman of Committees.

The Hon. Mr. A. E. Goonesinha (Minister without Portfolio): I have pleasure in seconding the Motion—*[Pause]*—

Mr. Speaker: I declare Mr. Amarasuriya duly elected as Deputy-Speaker and Chairman of Committees, and, on behalf of the House, I congratulate the hon. Member.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: DR. COLVIN R. DE SILVA

Mr. J. C. T. Kotalawela (Second Badulla): I move,

"That Dr. Colvin R. de Silva, Member for Wellawatta-Galkissa, be granted leave under Section 24 (1) (e) of the Ceylon (Constitution) Order in Council, 1946, to be absent from the Sittings of the House for a period of 4 months from Thursday, September 2, 1948."

Mr. L. Rajapaksa (Hambantota) seconded.

Question put, and agreed to

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

2.13 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: I move,

"That Government Business be exempted at this day's Sitting from the provisions of Standing Order No. 8."

May I move them all or may I explain—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister can explain them one by one.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: They are all dependent upon each other.

Mr. Speaker: You can explain all that one by one.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: Sir, the proposal is this, that after we finish Government Business this week we adjourn till the 23rd of November. There is a possibility that Government Business may be finished today and I thought perhaps that hon. Members, instead of meeting again tomorrow, if it is possible, might wish even to meet later than the usual hour of adjournment at 5.30 P.M. and try to finish Government Business today. Of course, if it cannot be finished today then we will have to meet tomorrow. That is the purpose of Motion No. 4. Motion No. 5 is for the exemption from the provisions of Standing Order No. 24 of certain Supplementary Estimates which are formal in their nature and for which the necessary 5 days' notice has to be given.

Question put, and agreed to.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

2.15 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: I move,

"That, if the Government Business on the Paper be disposed of this day, this House at its rising this day, do adjourn until 2 P.M. on Tuesday, 23rd November, 1948."

Question proposed.

2.15 P.M.

Dr. N. M. Perera (Ruwanwella): I am sorry I have to oppose this Motion. It is a little awkward, because what I am really opposing is the adjournment until the 23rd of November, the so-called recess that we are going to have for nearly three months.

I do not know what hon. Members on the other side of the House feel, but we, on this side, feel that there is plenty of work to be done. So far as we are concerned, we do not want this recess at all, but the Government finds it convenient to adjourn for long periods. Immediately after the so-called Independence, and the recess we have had, we come here and find ourselves rushed through to get a certain amount of work done, and then, the House is to be adjourned again. We do not want this rush business. I think it is much better for the House to sit regularly. If certain hon. Members want to get away from this Island, I do not know why the rest cannot function.

The Hon. Mr. J. R. Jayewardene (Minister of Finance): We will be functioning.

Dr. Perera: I see the difficulty in the case of your goodself, Sir, but I do think, now that we have elected a new Deputy Speaker with an amount of Parliamentary experience, we might be able to carry on even in your absence—much as I should hate to feel that you are not here.

I am sorry we of the Opposition cannot agree to the postponement of the Sittings of this House till the 23rd November.

2.17 P.M.

Mr. W. Dahanayake (Galle): The Hon. Leader of the House will find, if he pursues the various Agenda Papers, a very large number of very important Motions in the names of Private Members. Evidently, it seems to be the intention of the Government never to give the back-benchers a chance; never to allow the people of the country to voice their grievances through Parliamentary channels. I feel that this Parliament, ever since it was inaugurated, has had far too many holidays. There have been more holidays than working days. We, on this side of the House, protest on behalf of the people whom we have come to represent here, and we ask that the Government should not place obstacles in the way of our working for the people.

Question put.

The House divided (under Standing Order 48): Ayes, 50; Noes, 34.

2.18 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: I move, "That, if all Government Business on the Paper be not disposed of this day, this House at its rising this day, do adjourn until 10 A.M. on Friday, 3rd September, 1948."

Dr. Perera: In any case, I believe, you are having some Supplementary Estimates to be moved tomorrow.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: No, all have been put down for today. The next Motion I shall be moving is for that purpose. That means that all the Supplementary Estimates will be moved today.

Question put, and agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

2.19 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: I move, "That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 24, items Nos. 26, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 38 and 39 on the Paper be proceeded with this day."

These are Supplementary Estimates. When they are reached, hon. Members will see that they are fairly formal in nature. They are Motions of which the necessary five days' notice have not been given.

Question proposed.

2.20 P.M.

Dr. Perera: I think that we of the Opposition require protection in this matter. Normally notice is required. Although the Hon. Minister may say that the Supplementary Estimates are formal, we have to satisfy ourselves that they are so.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: I do not know whether the hon. Member is in Order in raising this question, because in the last Motion he agreed to all the Supplementary Estimates on the Agenda being taken up today.

Dr. Perera: No.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister has questioned the right of the hon. Member. I think the Hon. Minister is in

[Mr. Speaker.]

Order in moving the Suspension of Standing Orders to take up these Supplementary Estimates today.

Dr. Perera: That would be all right in case we received notice of the particular Motion. Is it your Ruling that the Government can suspend Standing Orders and get any business passed without giving us notice or without giving us any indication of the business?

Mr. Speaker: Notice has been given to hon. Members in that all this business had been printed and circulated to hon. Members many days ago. It is only that the five clear days' notice has not been complied with.

Dr. Perera: The only purpose of the Standing Order is to give the Opposition the maximum chance of going through those items and studying them.

Mr. Speaker: The purpose is to give all hon. Members of the House notice. Notice has been given.

Dr. Perera: We should have notice for the purpose of going through and finding out whether the Supplementary Estimates are to be objected to or not. Surely we ought to have that protection? I object to these steam-rolling tactics.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: If any particular Motion is taken up even after the passage of this Motion, and an hon. Member objects to it, then he can move that the item be deferred and give reasons for it.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Education wants to move the Supplementary Estimate standing in his name first.

Dr. Perera: Why is that?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: For personal reasons.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: SALARIES AND EXPENSES, &c.

2.26 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Nugawela: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Four Million Three Hundred and Seventy seven Thousand Three Hundred and ten

(Rs. 4,377,310) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the services of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 101, Education Department.

Rs.

Vote No. 1.—Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Education including expenses of Boards and Committees and cost of examinations and special services ... 777,310

Vote No. 3.—Grants in aid to Assisted schools including Living and other allowances to teachers in Assisted schools and grants to various Societies ... 3,000,000

Vote No. 4.—Cost of midday meals to school children, scholarships (tenable in Ceylon and abroad), Maintenance allowance and sundry awards ... 600,000."

I am grateful to the House for showing me the indulgence of letting me move this Supplementary Estimate before the others are moved. It is purely for personal reasons.

Primarily, the intention of this Supplementary Estimate is to cover the deficit caused by the over-all cut of 10 per cent. in the Education Department Estimates last year. It is purely for salaries and cost-of-living allowances. The overall cut had to be over the whole item of Rs. 91,756,317. There was no distribution allocated, and there are no savings from which to make good this sum of money. This is non-controversial. In Vote No. 4 there is a sum of Rs. 600,000 for midday meals which is really due to the fact that 200 new schools have come into the midday meal scheme. Then, there is the item for Rs. 3,000,000 which is to cover the salaries to be paid on the conversion which took place after the last Budget was passed. Provision for this purpose was made in the last Budget but the 10 per cent. cut necessitated a reduction of this amount. There are also the salaries and cost-of-living allowances for teachers in Assisted schools to be met.

Question proposed.

2.28 P.M.

Dr. Perera: I really want a reply from the Hon. Minister of Finance. In the face of his experience, why has the

Hon. Minister agreed to this procedure? I wonder whether we should not go into a Committee of the whole House to discuss this matter.

Mr. Speaker: It is not worth going into Committee.

Dr. Perera: What I want to point out is this. In the face of this Supplementary Estimate, these 7½, 10 and 15 per cent. cuts are meaningless. Why did the Hon. Minister of Finance agree to continue this practice of cuts in the Budget for 1948-49? This is not the only item. Hon. Members will find a number of such items where, as a result of this practice, Supplementary Estimates have been brought up. I can find no precedence in any other country for this over-all cut of 10 per cent. which includes a cut on midday meals. The result is that the Hon. Minister of Education has to come before this House with Supplementary Estimates. I should like to have a reply from the Hon. Minister of Finance. We strongly object to this piecemeal bad budgeting.

2.29 P.M.

Mr. Dahanayake: I think the Government ought to have learned a lesson from what has happened. When they found it difficult to balance the Budget they resorted to subterfuge.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member must withdraw that word.

Mr. Dahanayake: I withdraw it, Sir. They resort to something unprecedented in the annals of budgeting in the world.

Then, at a subsequent date they resorted to something unprecedented, once again, by bringing up supplementary estimates to cover the over-all cut. In that way, we are denied a picture of the true position of the finances of the country. The public is unable to find out how precisely the Government is budgeting for the needs of the country.

The Minister of Finance must give an assurance, now that the lesson has been brought home to him, that he will no longer resort to this vicious practice of making an over-all cut.

The Minister of Education says, in the remarks appended to this supplementary estimate, that he proposes to get down new machinery in order to introduce

mechanized accounting in the Education Department. That gives us some hope, but in the same remarks the Minister points out that mechanized accounting will become operative only in January, 1950. Till then, I presume, the payment of teachers' salaries will continue to be delayed. The Minister has had ample time——

Mr. Speaker: That has no connection with this Vote.

Mr. Dahanayake: The payment of teachers' salaries——

Mr. Speaker: That does not form part of this Vote.

Mr. Dahanayake: There is a new sub-head 11, which refers to machinery for mechanized accounting. I am referring to that new sub-head.

Mr. Speaker: There is nothing about that in the Vote now before the House.

Dr. Perera: That is part of the explanation——

Mr. Speaker: There is nothing about it in the Vote before the House.

Mr. Dahanayake: New sub-head 11 reads as follows:—

“Mechanized accounting. . . .”

Mr. Speaker: I do not see any reference to that in the printed Resolution now before the House.

Mr. Dahanayake: It is found in the details furnished to us, for our study.

Mr. Speaker: That has nothing to do with me.

Mr. Dahanayake: In any case, this money is needed partly for the purpose of starting a scheme for the mechanization of accounting in the Education Department. If that is so, I do hope that the present delay in the payment of teachers' salaries will not continue. But I understand that even if we pass this supplementary estimate as presented, the payment of teachers' salaries will continue to be delayed, and that the delay will continue till 1950. I say that——

Mr. Speaker: I must inform the hon. Member that the payment of teachers' salaries is not relevant to the supplementary estimate now before the House.

Mr. Dahanayake: Now that I have said almost all that I had to say, I shall be satisfied if the Minister would give me the assurance that these matters will be looked into.

2.34 P.M.

Mr. K. Kanagaratnam (Valdukkodai): I am glad the Minister has frankly admitted that this supplementary estimate has had to be brought up because of the meaningless "cuts" which were made in his vote. As the hon. Member for Ruwanwella (Dr. Perera) pointed out, there are a number of supplementary estimates now before the House which have become necessary because of the "cuts" made in the provision included under the various heads of expenditure in the Estimates.

I am now raising the general question of the availability of funds to meet all these supplementary estimates.

The House has already passed 18 supplementary estimates, and today we have under consideration 32 others under various heads of the Estimates, some for "token votes", others under "Loan Funds". Leaving aside the votes under "Loan Funds" and the "token" votes, I find that the total sum asked for under the various Heads amounts to over Rs. 33,000,000—Rs. 33,336,748, to be exact.

Earlier, we have passed supplementary estimates to the extent of about Rs. 10,000,000.

If hon. Members will refer to page 41 of the Finance Minister's Budget speech, they will find that for 1947-48 he anticipated the surplus to be Rs. 90,000,000 and not Rs. 40,000,000 as forecast in his previous Budget speech. This sum of Rs. 90,000,000 has already been exhausted in meeting supplementary provision of Rs. 222,000,000—

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: No.

Mr. Kanagaratnam: I shall quote from his own speech:

"The losses on the Railway in 1946-47 and 1947-48 amounted to Rs. 33,000,000, and on the other Advance Accounts for 1947-48 to Rs. 2,000,000. . . ."

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is not in Order—

Mr. Kanagaratnam: I am endeavouring to show that we have no money to meet this expenditure—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is not in Order. He must confine himself to the Vote now before the House—

Mr. Kanagaratnam: The Motion before the House asks for supplementary provision. It is one of 26 similar votes. I am trying to show that there are no funds available to meet the supplementary amounts now asked for.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Do not worry about that!

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Join the Government!

Mr. Kanagaratnam: We must find out whether there is money available to meet these votes. The Rs. 90,000,000 which was available in the General Reserve has already been used up to meet the deficit of Rs. 222,000,000 arising from food subsidies. The Minister of Finance has no money—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is not in Order. He cannot go into the whole financial policy of the Government, or its financial position on a supplementary estimate.

Mr. Kanagaratnam: I am entitled to ask—

Mr. Speaker: The Debate on a supplementary vote must be confined to that particular supplementary vote.

Mr. Kanagaratnam: I want to know whether there is money available to meet these supplementary estimates.

Mr. Wilmot A. Perera (Matugama): With regard to the Vote for midday meals, in Government schools the mid-day meal is provided only in necessitous cases. I want to know whether it is proposed to provide meals to every child in school.

2.38 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Nugawela: The last question needs an answer. I gave an undertaking that I would go into the whole matter, and I shall produce a plan very soon.

With regard to the machinery that is coming out, the machines were ordered in 1948. They are due to arrive this year, but the fitting up of the machines and the training of the people who are to work the machines will prove to be an arduous task, and cannot be completed before 1950. In no case, machinery or no machinery, will teachers' salaries be delayed. Now they may be delayed by one or two days owing to special circumstances, and naturally there are complaints.

Mr. Speaker: I shall put the question—

Mr. Kanagaratnam: My question—

Mr. Speaker: It is not necessary to answer that question. It was ruled out of Order.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I shall reply later.

Question put, and agreed to.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

2.39 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Fifty thousand (Rs. 50,000) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Rs.

Head 14, Minister of Defence and External Affairs.

New Vote No. 4.—Relief of distress in other countries ... 50,000."

This is to enable us to pay a contribution towards the relief of distress in Palestine. An appeal was made on behalf of Palestine refugees to this Government, and the suggestion was even put forward that the general public be asked to make donations. This Government wishes to make a contribution.

2.40 P.M.

Mr. Dahanayake: I am certain that nobody will oppose this proposal, but it is necessary to remind this Government that there are refugees in this country even as there are refugees in Palestine. There are refugees who run away from the inaction of the U.N.P. Government; there are refugees who have no homes, and to whom the Government does not intend to give homes—

Mr. Speaker: This is all irrelevant. This Vote refers to distress in other countries.

Mr. Dahanayake: I want to remind the Government that they must think of relieving distress in this country.

Mr. Speaker: I say that that is irrelevant. The hon. Member must not indulge in irrelevancies. This Vote refers to distress in another country, and has nothing to do with distress here.

Question put, and agreed to.

CEYLON ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

2.42 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Ten (Rs. 10) (Token Vote) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 15, Ceylon Defence.

Rs.

Vote No. 2.—Salaries and Expenses of the Ceylon Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

... 10
(Token Vote)."

This is only a token vote, as money is available from other sources. This is merely a request for authority to pay this sum.

2.43 P.M.

Dr. Perera: This refers to the purchase of a vessel that is not serviceable. It would appear that it was proposed to hand over this vessel to us free of charge, as a gift from the American Government. Apparently, under the laws of America, it is not possible to

[Dr. Perera.]

make such a gift, and therefore it is proposed that the Ceylon Government should pay Rs. 30,000 for this vessel.

If all that the American Government wanted was a token payment, in order to keep within the letter of the law that obtains in America, we might have been asked to pay something very much less than this Rs. 30,000, plus the Rs. 60,000 provided for in this present supplementary estimate, making a total of Rs. 90,000. If we had to build barracks and prepare the necessary parade grounds and playing fields for the 200 men, the cost would have come to Rs. 125,000 according to the figures given by the Prime Minister himself. The difference is only about Rs. 30,000 at the best.

Is the Prime Minister satisfied that there will not be any further expenditure on this vessel? We have had experience of taking over out-of-date vessels from other Governments and footing large bills for their benefit. This may be a discarded vessel which the Minister proposes to utilize for the specific purpose he has in mind, but we might find in the end that the annual recurrent expenditure is much more than the amount we would have been called upon to spend if we had set up barracks on shore.

I am not so certain that this is really the cheapest or the most economic proposition that the Prime Minister could have put forward. I can understand the vessel being handed over as a gift, and a token payment of a couple of hundred or thousand rupees being made in order to satisfy the requirements of American law, but here we are being asked to spend a substantial sum on a vessel which the owners would have had to get rid of at considerable expense to themselves. If they had to tow the vessel out and sink it outside our territorial waters, they would have had to spend quite a substantial sum on the operation. Now they are getting what amounts to a *santhosum* of Rs. 30,000.

I am afraid the Prime Minister has not made a good bargain at all.

2.45 P.M.

Mr. Dahanayake: I want to know on whose opinion the Government says that this vessel is in a fair condition and

serviceable. I understand that the vessel is not seaworthy and it is damaged beyond "economic repairs." I would point out to the Hon. Prime Minister a good instance of the way in which this Government has blundered in the past in regard to the purchasing of sea-going vessels.

I want to remind the Hon. Prime Minister of the case of the "Raglan Castle". When the "Raglan Castle" was purchased the Hon. Minister of Health was full of praise for it, that it would open a new era in fishing in Ceylon, that it was very cheap for the price Government was going to pay for it.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid that is not relevant again.

Mr. Dahanayake: I want to illustrate

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member must remember that these are Supplementary Estimates and that the remarks should be confined to the estimates and not to anything outside them. The "Raglan Castle" has nothing to do with this Supplementary Estimate.

Mr. Dahanayake: I am trying to show the Government—

Mr. Speaker: I do not mind the hon. Member, in passing, drawing the attention of the House to something. But I do not want that to be gone into in detail.

Mr. Dahanayake: I am not going into details. I do not wish to do so.

Mr. Speaker: When the hon. Member referred to the purchase of the "Raglan Castle," all knew what it was about.

Mr. Dahanayake: But the Government does not know or has forgotten. The Government blundered over the purchase of the "Raglan Castle". Here is a repetition of the blunder. I say you do not want this at all. Further, I ask the Government when it proposes to train men for the C.R.N.V.R., and what its plans are about the Ceylon Navy. It has no plans. When somebody comes along and makes an offer to them, although they have no plans, this is what they do.

They do not view the subject as a whole. I suppose the next stage is that when somebody else offers some unserviceable article there will be yet another supplementary estimate for the training of the Navy. That will never be realized. I find that the present proposals of the Government are not to have a Ceylon Navy or Ceylon Defence unit but to look to the British for their assistance. If that is going to be the policy, are you not frittering away the taxpayer's money on tit-bits of this type? We want a full explanation from the Government as to what its plans are and how the purchase of this vessel fits into its full plan.

2.49 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: With regard to our plans about a modern Naval and Air Force they were indicated when the Budget was introduced.

Mr. Dahanayake: No.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: And the hon. Members who were, I believe, present in the House, and not downstairs, would have known what we intended to do.

With regard to this Supplementary Estimate, this vessel is to be bought at scrap value. The original value of this vessel was Rs. 5,000,000. The amount which we are paying represents the value of scrap iron. This is not a seaworthy vessel. It is one in which we intend to house our sailors so that they will be accustomed to conditions on sea which at present are not available as they live in barracks. The living conditions on this vessel would be the same. This vessel is much better than the barracks.

Dr. Perera: What is the expenditure?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: There would not be any expenditure except that of maintenance.

Dr. Perera: How long will you use this?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: We can use this vessel till it sinks.

Question put, and agreed to.

NEW PREMISES FOR CEYLON HOUSE IN LONDON

2.50 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Seven Hundred Thousand (Rs. 700,000) be payable by way of advance out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head: Part IV.—Loan Fund Expenditure.
Rs.

Item No. 2.—Purchase of new premises for Ceylon House in London 700,000."

This is for the purchase of premises for Ceylon House in London, Rs. 700,000. The particulars are given in the Supplementary Estimate. I do not think hon. Members will want any more particulars.

Mr. Dahanayake: Why do you want such a large sum of money?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: The facts are stated in the particulars supplied.

Mr. Dahanayake: Where are they?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Read the particulars and you will find the facts.

Mr. Dahanayake: These facts we are not allowed to use in the House.

Question proposed.

2.52 P.M.

Mr. S. A. Pakeman (Appointed Member): I want some information on one point with regard to this Estimate. When we were dealing with the current Estimates for the coming year we passed an item of Rs. 150,000 for rent and other expenses connected with Ceylon House in London. It did not strike me that this building was going to be purchased. I assumed from that particular estimate that the building was going to be rented. If this building is now going to be purchased the question of rent can hardly arise. I wonder if the Hon. Prime Minister will explain this point

2.53 P.M.

Dr. Perera: I am afraid we cannot accede to this request for a sum of Rs. 700,000. In fact the real sum involved is about Rs. 800,000.

Mr. Dahanayake: Rs. 900,000.

Dr. Perera: Mr. Speaker, you will remember—and I think your memory is fairly fresh—that some time last year there was a building bought in London called Addison House. It cost this Government, or this country, Rs. 250,000. I do not want to advert to the attitude you yourself adopted on that occasion, and I think you were a strong opponent of the luxury expenditure. But what I would like to know from the Hon. Prime Minister is this. Why is Addison House being given up, if it is being given up at all? Are we going to have another Ceylon House in addition to the residence of the High Commissioner who is now being shifted to America? What is to happen to the Ceylon House that is in Addison Road?

The new premises refers to Grosvenor House, apparently. This building is in the most expensive quarter that you can think of in London. I think outside the American Embassy this is the best building in that place. And hon. Members know the capacity of the American Government to spend. That we should try to emulate the American Government in this matter seems to me thoroughly foolhardy.

The Hon. Prime Minister agreed to an expenditure of Rs. 260,000. Of that a good portion was spent on repairs to Addison House—I think the sum was about Rs. 150,000. Now what is going to happen? Who is going to utilize Addison House? The Hon. Prime Minister might have given us an explanation and saved us the trouble of discussion. In fairness to the House I think an explanation should be made. A huge sum of money is asked for by way of a supplementary estimate. Hon. Members will find in the Budget this year that there is money provided for India House. Why cannot the Government wait to include this sum of money in the Budget? Then we might have the full question discussed. A lot of other buildings are available. There is Ceylon House in Cockspur Street; then

there is Addison House, and now we are going to have Grosvenor House—three buildings for Ceylon House or the Representatives that we are having in England.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: A fourth residence also.

Dr. Perera: They are going to provide separately for a Students' Hostel. That is quite a different thing. But so far as the representatives of this House are concerned—

Mr. Keuneman: A Ceylon base in England!

Dr. Perera: I cannot understand why it is necessary to have this additional house in Grosvenor Square. When we have got Addison House for the residence of the High Commissioner why cannot we utilize that? Surely we are not going to have Addison House in addition to Grosvenor House. I cannot understand the purpose—

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I will explain.

Dr. Perera: If you explain now I will not get a chance of speaking at all. You should have explained this earlier.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Then there would not have been the need to speak.

Dr. Perera: We want an explanation. We are not speaking for the pleasure of doing so. I have seen the details. There is not a word said about Addison House, which is the most important item so far as we are concerned. We are spending for 87 years apparently in respect of these premises £50,000 and also an additional sum of £10,000 for the purpose of structural alterations and improvements. That is nearly Rs. 130,000. Surely there must be some limit to the madness of this Government's way of throwing away money. I must enter a word of protest against Advance Warrants being used for this particular purpose. This must be considered normal expenditure and should not be used except in grave emergencies. For normal expenditure this Government has utilized Advance Warrants. At least hon. Members on this side of the House are going to oppose this Supplementary Estimate.

Mr. Wilmot A. Perera: I want to know what the unexpired period of the lease is.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: 87 years.

2.59 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I think I can explain to the hon. Member something about this, because I was in England when these matters were discussed. A number of houses were seen by myself, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, the High Commissioner, and Mr. Weerasinghe. Originally the Ceylon Government had only one establishment in London; that was at Cockspur Street. Cockspur Street is a very good business quarter. It is very close to Trafalgar Square. Unfortunately those particular premises were totally inadequate for the Ceylon Government Representative as he existed before we became a dominion country. The building consists really of three or four storeys and on each floor there is no room for more than one staff officer to work. It is more like the Ceylon Clock Tower than a business premises. If you wish to see the Ceylon Government Representative you have to climb up to the fourth storey. If you want to see the Deputy Commissioner you have to come down to the third storey. If you want to see the next officer, you have to come down to the second storey. It is only the staff officer and possibly his clerks who were able to work in each storey—

Dr. Perera: Who is responsible for it?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Whoever is responsible, this was long before our time. I think the hon. Member for Ruwanwella (Dr. Perera) was then in the Executive Committee—

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Oh yes; he recommended it.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: He should know it better than I.

Dr. Perera: It was recommended by the High Commissioner.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I do not blame anybody for acquiring the premises; they are really admirable premises for business activities; they are

close to Trafalgar Square, and practically all the other offices of the other Dominions. But when we began to expand our activities and we became a Dominion, it was represented that Ceylon House was inadequate. Mr. Corea had made enquiries and found that premises were available next to Cockspur Street. That was a fairly extensive area, but unfortunately our Government was too late and the South African Government acquired those premises.

So when we went to London the question was, first of all, the acquisition of premises, not for the residence of the Ceylon High Commissioner, but for the purpose of housing the staff and carrying on the work of the Ceylon High Commissioner in London. We inspected three or four buildings. I cannot remember the names of those buildings, but we found them unsuitable. They were too far away from the business centre of London. We were also asked to inspect premises for the purpose of the Ceylon Students' Hostel. Therefore we had to find two new buildings: one for the Ceylon Students' Hostel, and the other for the extension of the activities of the Ceylon Government Representative.

As you know, the premises in Addison Road had been acquired as the residence of the Ceylon Government Representative. Therefore that was available at any time the Ceylon Government Representative was promoted to be Ceylon High Commissioner; the Ambassador or Ceylon Representative could live in Addison Road. But in addition to that, we required two new premises: one for the Ceylon Students' Hostel, and the other for the new work that has fallen upon the Ceylon High Commissioner in London. When we investigated a number of new premises, we found that one of them, the new premises adjoining Cockspur Street, required for a period of fourteen years an annual premium of £25 and an annual rent of £12,000 which would in fourteen years have cost Rs. 2,300,000 to the Government of Ceylon.

We found another place, the Queen's Gate premises, which would have cost us Rs. 160,000. Another place, Nuffield House, which had been used by the Americans during the war we found quite unsatisfactory.

[Hon. Mr. Jayewardene.]

Fortunately, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke having friends in London, the Grosvenor Square premises were made available to us. We inspected it. Undoubtedly they are in a very fine and posh quarter in London. We found those premises suitable for various reasons. Firstly, the High Commissioner could live in the premises themselves. One or two floors could be used for the business activities of the Ceylon High Commissioner. The rent that was asked—it is mentioned here—was fairly reasonable, considering the area in which the premises were situated. Therefore we achieved two of our objects by the purchase of Grosvenor House. Firstly, we found quarters for the Ceylon High Commissioner, and secondly, we found a building for the extension of the activities of the Ceylon High Commissioner. We were unable to find a single place close to Cockspur Street. The only place that was available had been snapped up by the South African High Commissioner, and we made every effort through the Commonwealth Relations Office to get it back for us, but they were not prepared to give it.

When we found that Grosvenor House was able to combine two purposes—a residence for the High Commissioner as well as an office for the business activities of the Ceylon High Commissioner, what were we going to do with the Addison Road house? Is it suitable for the Ceylon Students? I am not aware whether it is suitable. If they say it is not suitable, we can utilize it as a residence for the various officials who go from Ceylon. I know the difficulties that people who go from Ceylon have in finding a place to live. I myself could not get a place to live when I went to England on Government business, and had not Mr. Corea come to my assistance, I would have been in a bad predicament. I know the Minister of Transport was staying at the Savoy Hotel, and when he was suddenly asked to leave—

Mr. Dahanayake: Why was he asked to leave?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Fortunately there was the distinguished guests' residence in London available at the time the Minister of Commerce and Trade went to England, and he lived there. The Deputy High Commissioner

Mr. Weerasinghe, who went to England in January or February, had no place to live in for five months. They were sharing quarters with some others. I know that young man, Mr. Walter Jayewardene, had no place to live in London. In fact, he had no money to go to Geneva. He bought a suit in London which he had to sell later to pay for his lodgings.

Hon. gentlemen here do not understand the difficulties of finding accommodation in London. So we have made arrangements for the Ceylon House to continue at Cockspur Street, because that is a fine business quarter, and when we have the Trade Representative he could carry on his work from there. At Grosvenor Square House, we shall have the residence of the Ceylon High Commissioner as well as an office for the activities of the Ceylon House. The students are still looking out for a hostel to suit their purposes. Money has been provided in the Budget, and when they agree on a place, that could be arranged. The Addison Road premises can be used for the purpose of housing the various officials who will be connected with Ceylon House in London.

The reason for the Hon. Minister of Transport leaving the Savoy Hotel was that he had to vacate the room for another guest.

Dr. Perera: Or, was it for violation of the hotel rules?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: The charge was made that we are using a Special Warrant for this purpose. The reason was that we had to complete the transaction before June 15, and this House had already passed a sum of Rs. 1,000,000 under Loan Fund expenditure as the maximum amount that will be chargeable from public funds for the purpose of buying Ceylon House. Hon. Members will remember that we passed a sum of Rs. 1,000,000, but only voted a sum of Rs. 100,000 to be spent in the current year. We thought that the advance warrant method would be the best procedure to adopt as we had to finish the transaction before 15th June, and we have now come here with a supplementary estimate to cover that amount. I do not see why hon. Members should object to our providing quarters to our Representative.

Mr. Dahanayake: Why cannot he live in a flat?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: This is a flat. The hon. Member does not know what a flat is in London.

Mr. Dahanayake: This is a palace!

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: It is not a palace. I have been there, and I know it is not a palace like the palaces that are in London. When one considers the expenditure incurred by other Governments in providing quarters for their Representatives, one sees that our expenditure on this account is not at all excessive. For instance, the High Commissioner for India lives in a house employing 2,000 people——

Dr. Perera: You are talking of India House. That is different.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Their expenditure comes to about Rs. 2,000,000 a year. The point to decide is, are we to have a High Commissioner in London or not? If we are to have a High Commissioner, then I say this expenditure is not too much, and according to the circumstances which are mentioned, I do not think we could have done better than this.

3.12 P.M.

Mr. Dahanayake: Will the Hon. Minister explain why it is intended to ask for about £10,000 for structural alterations and decorations——

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene *rose*.

Mr. Dahanayake: The Hon. Minister must allow me to complete my remarks. I have a recollection that when the other house where the Trade Representative lives was purchased, the same question arose. A large sum of money was voted for decorations. These are items on which there can be a saving. If the house is so good as the Hon. Minister has told us, why is it necessary to carry out structural alterations at such an enormous price? Again, cannot the Minister scrap this decorations item, because the people who will be working, or rather not working there, who will have no work

to do within the four walls of that building, would be decorations in themselves, because I feel that Ceylon's brightest wall-flower is the newly-elected High Commissioner in London—Sir Oliver Goonetilleke. So there need not be any further decorations. At least Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 60,000 can be saved on that account.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Am I to explain that?

Mr. Speaker: No, it is out of Order.

Question put, the Chairman declaring that the "Noes" had it.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Divide!

Mr. Dahanayake: I submit that the vote of the Hon. Minister without Portfolio cannot be counted, because he is not in his seat.

Mr. Speaker: I am not counting it.

The House divided (under Standing Order 48): Ayes, 44; Noes, 30.

Mr. Speaker: Actually there were 45 "Ayes", but I am not counting the vote of the Hon. Minister without Portfolio.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

3.14 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees One Million Five Hundred and Sixty Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty-two (Rs. 1,560,422) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 53, Police.

Rs.

Vote No. 1.—Salaries and expenses of the Police Department, &c. ... 1,560,422."

This is much less than the amount provided for in the Estimates. There would be a certain amount of money required, owing to the "cut" imposed.

Dr. Perera: Will the Hon. Minister of Finance explain this? At least there should be an assurance that this procedure of having these over-all "cuts" will be given up.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: It is included in the Budget which was passed.

Dr. Perera: That is all right, but we want an explanation from the Hon. Minister of Finance.

3.15 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I remember during the Budget Debate the only hon. Member who raised this question was, not the hon. Member for Ruwanwella (Dr. Perera), but the hon. Member for Vaddukoddai (Mr. Kanagaratnam). You acquiesced in the cut and passed the Budget. The Hon. Minister of Industries explained the reason for this cut. It is really due to the fact that it is difficult to estimate exactly the expenditure of Government because a large portion of the Personal Emoluments Vote depends on the cost of living which keeps on going up and down. I should say, therefore, that about 90 per cent. of the Supplementary Estimates that have been brought today is due to the rise in the cost of living [*Interruption.*] The hon. Member for Ruwanwella (Dr. Perera) does not listen to what I say, and he suddenly interrupts me. What I said was that these Supplementary Estimates are due to the cost of living index which rises under the Personal Emoluments Bill in excess of what we have already passed in the Budget. It is, therefore, not possible to estimate during the year actually to what heights the cost of living will rise, but hon. Members can see in the Estimates that are printed the actual expenditure that a Ministry proposes to incur, the percentage of the cut, the amount that is reduced and the reduced amount. Therefore, there is nothing hidden from hon. Members or from the House or from the public. The House knows exactly what the position was when the Ministers asked for Votes, and the cut was imposed with the sanction of the Ministers, the sanction of the Cabinet and ultimately with the sanction of the House when the Budget was passed in this House. It is only when we find that the cost of living is high

and we cannot manage to meet it within the amount that is passed that we come to this House for a supplementary vote.

3.16 P.M.

Mr. Dahanayake: May I point out that the Hon. Minister's explanation is not correct in all details. He will know that nearly half of this money is needed to cover up a wrong estimate under the Sub-head, "Personal Emoluments." As a matter of fact, the correct figures are as follows. The additional sum required under the Sub-head, "Personal Emoluments," is Rs. 953,000 and under the Sub-head, "Cost of Living Allowance," Rs. 1,200,000.

Now if the overall cut operated on items of Personal Emoluments, which is more or less a fixed quantity which can be calculated accurately, and if the Government is compelled thereafter to come to this House to make up that amount, then the Hon. Minister ought to realize that that procedure is defective and should be given up. That is the point we are stressing, that at some stage the Government must face this question of the overall cut. What are the principles upon which it operates, for what Heads and Sub-heads will it not operate? If these things go on as they have gone on in the past a large number of supplementary estimates as deficits under "Personal Emoluments" will keep on cropping up again and again under every Department. Is it not a wastage of time and energy, and is it not better to give up this overall cut altogether?

Furthermore, we protest against this procedure because a very false picture of the financial position of the country is presented to the House and to the country.

Question put, and agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BY-LAWS, &c.

3.18 P.M.

Resolved:

That the By-law relating to dangerous trees made by the Wattala-Mabole-Peliyagoda Urban Council under Sections 166 and 170 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,886 of July 16, 1948, which was presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed.—
[Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-law relating to licences made by the Wattala-Mabole-Peliyagoda Urban Council under Sections 166 and 170 of the Urban

Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,886 of July 16, 1948, which was presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed.—[Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-laws relating to the tax on Vehicles and Animals made by the Town Council, Hikkaduwa-Dodanduwa, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,883 of July 2, 1948, which were presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed.—[Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-laws relating to scavenging made by the Talawakelle-Lindula Urban Council under Sections 166 and 170 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,880 of June 18, 1948, which were presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the Rule relating to the quorum for the meetings of the Kadugannawa Urban Council, made by the Minister of Health and Local Government under Section 205 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,880 of June 18, 1948, and which was presented on August 25, 1948, be approved. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-laws relating to the conservancy fees made by the Horana Urban Council under Sections 166 and 170 (9) of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,883 of July 2, 1948, which were presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-law relating to loitering made by the Wattala-Mabole-Peliyagoda Urban Council under Sections 166 and 170 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,886 of July 16, 1948, which was presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-laws relating to the registration of Mortgages made by the Wattala-Mabole-Peliyagoda Urban Council under Sections 166 and 170 (5) of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,883 of July 2, 1948, which were presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-laws relating to the care of Public or Waste lands, made by the Talawakelle-Lindula Urban Council under Sections 166 and 170 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,880 of June 18, 1948, which were presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-law relating to the water rate made by the Matale Urban Council under Sections 143 (b) and 166 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government, published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,886 of July 16, 1948, which was presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-law relating to the market made by the Wattala-Mabole-Peliyagoda Urban Council under Sections 166 and 170 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,886 of July 16, 1948, which was presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-law relating to the conservancy rate made by the Wattegama Urban Council under Sections 143 (b) and 166 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,883 of July 2, 1948, which was presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-laws relating to the Tax on Vehicles and Animals made by the Town Council, Madampe, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,890 of July 30, 1948, which were presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-law relating to the licensing of hawkers made by the Municipal Council of Kandy under Sections 267 and 272 of the Municipal Councils Ordinance, No. 29 of 1947, and approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government which was presented on August 25, 1948, be confirmed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-law relating to Dangerous and Offensive Trades made by the Municipal Council of Colombo under Sections 148 and 267 of the Municipal Councils Ordinance, No. 29 of 1947, and approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government which was presented on August 25, 1948, be confirmed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-laws relating to meetings and licences made by the Town Council, Mullaitivu, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,885 of July 9, 1948, which were presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-laws relating to Licences, made by the Town Council, Sammanturai, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,886 of July 16, 1948, which were presented on August 25, 1948, be not allowed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-laws relating to meetings, made by the Town Council, Madampe, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,885 of July 9, 1948, which were presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-laws relating to licences, made by the Haputale Urban Council under Sections 166 and 170 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, approved by the Executive Committee of Local Administration and confirmed by the Governor and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,729 of July 4, 1947, which were presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

Resolved:

That the By-laws relating to markets made by the Town Council, Vavuniya, approved by the Minister of Health and Local Government and published in *Government Gazette* No. 9,885 of July 9, 1948, which were presented on August 25, 1948, be not disallowed. [Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

3.24 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: I move,

"That in terms of section 6 of the Public Works Loan (1937) Ordinance (Chapter 285) it is hereby resolved that this House authorizes the expenditure, out of the moneys raised under the authority of that Ordinance, of a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,437.50 from the sum of Rs. 7,500,000 specified in the second column of the schedule to that Ordinance and appropriated thereby for "Water Supply Schemes", a purpose mentioned as item 45 in the first column of that schedule."

This provision is for a water supply scheme.

Question proposed.

Dr. Perera: For what area?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: It is for different areas.

Dr. Perera: Yes, Sir, but may we know for what particular town or towns this sum of money of one lakh is wanted?

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: It is not one lakh. It is only some Rs. 33,000. It is for one of these small towns in the Kandy district.

Dr. Perera: Cannot the Hon. Minister tell us for which particular town it is wanted?

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: These are two small water schemes that have been hanging fire like the Padiyapelella scheme that was passed the other day. I have not got it here, but I can get the particulars for my hon. friend if he so wishes.

Mr. C. Yanniasingham (Kopai): There are two items, Sir, items 25 and 26.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: Yes, it is for the Central Province.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Hon. Minister want to hold them over?

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: Not necessary, Sir. I will get those particulars and supply them to my hon. friend. I am sorry I have not got them here at the moment.

Question put, and agreed to.

3.26 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: I move,

"That in terms of section 6 of the Public Works Loan (1937) Ordinance (Chapter 285), it is hereby resolved that this House authorises the expenditure, out of the moneys raised under the authority of that Ordinance, of a sum not exceeding Rs. 147,500 from the sum of Rs. 7,500,000 specified in the second column of the Schedule to that Ordinance and appropriated thereby for "Water Supply Schemes", a purpose mentioned as item 45 in the first column of that Schedule."

It is similar to the previous Motion, Sir.

Question put, and agreed to.

MEDICAL AND SANITARY SERVICES: COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES, &c.

3.27 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,506,500 be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 88, Medical and Sanitary Services. Rs.

Vote No. 1.—Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Medical and Sanitary Services including cost of indoor and outdoor treatment of patients in Government Medical Institutions; Training and Research; Health Propaganda and Incidental Services and special expenses connected with purchase and distribution of opium; removing and relieving destitute sick persons; Conservation of cemeteries; Purchase of Ambulances and Vans and experiments with Industrial waste and models and other special services ... 3,506,500."

This money is really intended to meet the cost of living allowance, and another small sum of Rs. 6,000 to meet the expenses of the Ceylon Representative who went to the World Health Organization.

3.28 P.M.

Dr. Perera: May I know when it was decided to send this officer to the Conference arranged by the World Health Organization? It commenced on the 24th of June, 1948. I am asking that question because I am not satisfied that the Civil Contingencies Fund should be utilised for this purpose. I notice that the Hon. Minister of Finance has permitted the use of the Civil Contingencies Fund for a number of matters, like sending officers abroad or for the payment of certain officers recruited from abroad. I thought that when this Fund was passed that it was going to be used for special cases that arose occasionally.

but here, apparently, even when expenditure can be visualised in advance, they are finding it a convenient means of expending the money and then coming to the House with a *fait accompli*, with the result that this House has no alternative but to pass whatever sum of money is involved. I am getting a bit worried because I find that this Fund is not being put to the original use to which we intended it to be put. That is what I am worried about.

3.29 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake:

My hon. friend would realize that it is only when money has become short in the course of the year for the purpose for which it was passed that recourse is had to this Contingencies Fund. Even for the purpose mentioned here there was a Vote given to me, but that Vote was not sufficient. So in the meantime we had to utilize money out of the Contingencies Fund which is meant to be utilized during a time of emergency.

Dr. Perera: But this is not an emergency.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake:

The position is this. There was money in my Vote which was voted by the Council for missions abroad. Now we have exceeded that Vote. Furthermore, this Officer was sent at very short notice

Dr. Perera: That is what I want to know.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake:

The reason was that we were invited just a few weeks earlier before the meeting in Geneva. We found that the Vote provided by this House was not sufficient to cover all the expenses. When a Vote has been approved by this House, and when the money is found to be insufficient for the purpose for which that money had been voted, the Contingencies Fund is made use of and we come here with a supplementary estimate to get the approval of the House for the extra money spent.

3.30 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: That is quite correct. As for the urgency of this matter, we only received information a

[Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

few weeks earlier and we sent the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services. I think the House will agree that, not only have very excellent results been achieved, but also that we have been appointed to the Executive Committee of the World Health Organization. The Hon. Prime Minister has explained why this extra sum of money becomes necessary.

Question put, and agreed to.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL AND SANITARY SERVICES

3.31 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees One million five-hundred and three-thousand nine-hundred and twenty-two (Rs. 1,503,922) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 88, Director of Medical and Sanitary Services.

Rs.

Vote No. 1.—Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Medical and Sanitary Services including cost of indoor and outdoor treatment of patients in Government Medical Institutions; Training and Research; Health Propaganda and Incidental Services and Special expenses connected with purchase and distribution of opium; Removing and relieving destitute sick persons; conservation of cemeteries; Purchase of Ambulances and Vans and experiments with Industrial waste and models and other special services

... 1,503,922 "

Dr. Perera: Can you say that this money is also required for an emergency? Here, again, the money is to be paid out of the Contingencies Fund.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: Yes.

Dr. Perera: Why had Dr. C. O. Perera to go for that Congress Meeting?

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: Dr. C. O. Perera was not to go. One of our Medical Officers in England was to attend the International Congress in Mental Health. But then, when we got information that there was no person sufficiently qualified to deal with this particular Congress, we had, at the last moment, to send Dr. C. O. Perera from here. The original intention was that somebody there in England should represent us.

Question put, and agreed to.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMIS- SIONER OF LABOUR

3.33 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Jayah: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Ten (Rs. 10) (Token Vote) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 110, Commissioner of Labour.

Rs.

Vote No. 1.—Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Commissioner of Labour ... 10

(Token Vote)."

On representations made to us that advantage should be taken of the course for women to study problems of social welfare in Sweden, the Government decided to send two women delegates from Ceylon. The course of study is designed to meet the needs of Eastern women, and we thought we should take the advantage of sending representatives from here because the experience gained by them will be of great value to the Government in dealing with social matters in the future.

Mr. D. B. R. Gunawardena: May I know whether the Swedish Government offered to take a delegate from here on their own and train her? If so, were they not prepared to meet the costs?

The Hon. Mr. Jayah: The Government is meeting part of the cost of travelling to and from Sweden of the two delegates.

Dr. Perera: I am not objecting to this Vote. I certainly like more of our women to go on holiday jaunts, but, on what basis did you select the two individuals? Was the appointment of these two married ladies specified to one organization?

Mr. Dahanayake: Were they two U.N.P. ladies?

Dr. Perera: Would their going to Sweden be purely a holiday jaunt, or would they actually come back and do something useful here? With the experience and knowledge that they would get, what guarantee is there that these people are going to devote a certain amount of their time for the purpose of utilizing the experience that they would gain. Has the Hon. Minister looked into this aspect of the question? Is it only the Eksath Kantha Peramuna that has been excluded in making these selections?

The Hon. Mr. Jayah: We have been very careful to select women of special experience in this country—those who have done social service work. They are women who belong to voluntary organizations and who have been doing a good deal of social work. They have been long connected with this kind of work. As a matter of fact, one of them was Ceylon's representative in Delhi last year.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: They went with me.

Dr. Perera: That is not a qualification.

The Hon. Mr. Jayah: We have seen to it that they will study questions relating to social welfare and that when they return they will present a report on certain defined specific matters.

Question put, and agreed to.

EXPORT DUTY ON DESCICCATED COCONUT

3.36 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move,

"That this House resolves, under section 9 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 185) as modified by the Proclamation published in the *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 9,773 of September 24, 1947, that—

Gazette Extraordinary No. 9,773 of September 24, 1947, that—

(1) with effect from the date on which this resolution is notified in the *Gazette*, export duty on desiccated coconut shall be levied and paid at the rate of twenty rupees for every unit of one hundred pounds of desiccated coconut or any outstanding part of such unit, in lieu of the export duty leviable and payable on desiccated coconut at the date of this resolution; and

(2) nothing contained in this resolution shall affect any export duty leviable and payable on desiccated coconut under any written law other than the Customs Ordinance."

This is a Motion to reduce the export duty leviable on desiccated Coconut. On the 1st of December, 1947, the budgetary proposals were to increase the export duty on desiccated coconut from 20 cents a pound to 30 cents a pound. During the months of January to June this year, the increased export duty was operative and we made a sum of about Rs. 4,000,000. Then, we found that there was severe competition from the Philippine Islands, and Ceylon desiccated coconut found it difficult to find a market on a high rate of export duty, and the Minister of Commerce and Trade and the Cabinet decided that the duty should be reduced from 30 cents a pound to 20 cents a pound. The new rate was levied in June 1948 under the Revenue Production Ordinance and this House is now asked to sanction that decision. We shall be losing Rs. 2,500,000 by way of revenue, but one can say that it is not really a loss because if the duty was not reduced the desiccated coconut would not have left the island.

Dr. Perera: Question!

3.39 P.M.

Mr. T. B. Subasinghe (Bingiriya): I wish to raise a point. Here is an instance where, every time a question like this crops up, the Government takes sides with the big capitalists. The desiccated millers were some of the people who made the highest profits during the war and even after the war. Tremendous profits were made by them. I am given to understand that some millers used to make a profit of Rs. 150 on 1,000 coconuts.

[Mr. Subasinghe.]

Now, by reducing the export duty, the Hon. Minister is not making any attempt to pass on any benefits that might be gained to the producers and thereby to the people actually engaged in the industry. This benefit will go to the millers again. We strongly oppose this sort of action.

3.40 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. C. Suntharalingam (Minister of Commerce and Trade): I think hon. Members on the other side of the House have completely misunderstood the facts of the case. This money does not go to the private millers at all. Actually, the quota which had been given to them had been more or less exhausted by the time the duty was reduced. In fact, this duty will benefit only the Co-operative Societies and new millers. There is not a cent which is passing to the old millers. It is for this reason we had to deal with the situation as it arose.

Actually, when the Minister of Finance came forward with his proposals last year, he wanted to levy a duty of only 20 cents per pound on desiccated coconut, and it was at my suggestion that the rate was increased to 30 cents per pound, because at that time we had no competition from the Philippine Islands. We were making mints of money. We got just what we wanted and we thought that a share of the profits must go to revenue. Accordingly, the rate was raised from 20 cents to 30 cents a pound. It was subsequently that the Philippine Islands came into production and their desiccated coconut millers started functioning. They had an advantage over us in two respects: First, in regard to the American market. They were very close to America and so they had better shipping facilities. Secondly, the American Government had a duty of $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound of desiccated coconut against us. Three and a half cents a pound of their money amounts to nearly 10 cents of our money. So, in order to make an allowance, we said we should reduce the duty. The persons who are benefiting are not the millers, I repeat.

3.43 P.M.

Dr. Perera: I am surprised at the statement made by the Hon. Minister

of Commerce and Trade. He knows that the facts are entirely different from what has been stated. He came before this House and wanted the duty on desiccated coconut increased to 30 cents a pound. At that stage what was the price prevailing.

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: It was Re. 1.04 f.o.b.

Dr. Perera: Now the Hon. Minister makes a case and says that because of competition with the Philippine Islands it is necessary to reduce the duty. What is the price at the moment?

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: It is 84 cents.

Dr. Perera: When the Hon. Minister made this proposal the price was 70 cents.

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: Not at all!

Dr. Perera: I have seen those figures. The Hon. Minister cannot deny that. When he brought forward the suggestion to reduce the duty, the f.o.b. price was 70 cents.

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: It is not true. It was 70 plus 30 plus 4.

Dr. Perera: No. I must ask the Hon. Minister to verify his figures, because the figures I have obtained are from authoritative sources. When the Hon. Minister put this proposal up the f.o.b. price was 70 cents.

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: Excuse me, no.

Dr. Perera: What is the price now?

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: It is 84 cents f.o.b.

Dr. Perera: The previous price was 70 cents f.o.b.

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: It was Re. 1.04.

Dr. Perera: Before that it was 70 cents.

The Hon. Sir John Kotelawala (Minister of Transport and Works): Is cross talk allowable?

Dr. Perera: The Hon. Minister has not proved to this House that this increase or decrease of 10 cents is going to make a fundamental difference to Ceylon. What is the difference in price actually between the price that the Ceylon producers get and the price that the Phillippine Islands producers get? The difference of 10 cents is not going to make a huge difference. In point of fact, this competition that exists, if it does exist, will continue to exist partly because of other facilities that are obtaining. The Hon. Minister knows that, notwithstanding this, because the quality of the desiccated coconut that we produce is much better than the Philippine Island coconuts, therefore we have a definite market for the Ceylon desiccated coconut. I see vigorous shakes of the head in front of me, but these are facts which the Minister must admit.

I am strongly opposed to this proposal, because the reduction of duty, as pointed out by my hon. Friend here, is going to benefit only the millers. This reduction in duty has been operating from June last. As the Ministers know, these very millers put every possible obstacle in the way of the co-operative societies getting a market outside for the extra quota they were given.

The millers today—[*Interruption.*]—yes, their quota has been exhausted, but what about the coming year? They will get the same quota, and the reduced rate of duty will operate for the coming year. I saw in the papers the *Gazette* notification which said—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Commerce and Trade has already replied.

Dr. Perera: Replied?

Mr. Speaker: I thought you were—

Dr. Perera: The Minister of Commerce and Trade was asked a question, and he replied. I cannot accept the position that—

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: He did not speak.

Dr. Perera: I hope the House will give him the necessary indulgence to speak again, as the Minister of Finance did not explain the position.

We are not convinced that this reduction in duty is going to benefit the producer. It is going to help the millers.

Mr. Speaker: After the Minister of Finance introduced this Motion, the hon. Member for Bingiriya spoke, and the Minister of Commerce and Trade replied. I cannot allow him to speak again.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: If you do not mind, I shall reply.

Dr. Perera: The Minister of Finance can reply.

My position is this. The millers are buying, and have been buying, coconuts at very much lower prices than the co-operative societies are paying—[*Interruption.*]—The Minister of Commerce and Trade is not in touch with the market outside. He knows nothing about it. The Minister knows that the co-operative societies are prepared to buy at Rs. 125, whereas the millers have been forcing the price down to Rs. 90—

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: The co-operative societies got their quota later.

Dr. Perera: This particular reduction in duty is going to benefit the millers and the millers only.

The Hon. Mr. A. Ratnayake (Minister of Food and Co-operative Undertakings): No, only the co-operative societies.

Dr. Perera: I have seen the *Gazette* notification which appeared in the papers, containing the new set of duties. I thought the Minister was not going to move this Resolution in view of that new set of duties—

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: That is on other coconut products.

Dr. Perera: Desiccated coconut?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Under the contract.

Dr. Perera: These duties regularize the position up to date—

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Desiccated coconut is not under contract.

Dr. Perera: I am objecting to this proposal. This is a *santhosum* given to the millers.

3.49 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: My hon. Friend should get a clearer idea of the reasons why this proposal is being made.

He referred to the millers and the co-operative societies. A quota of 10,000 tons desiccated coconut was allowed to Ceylon exporters. This quota was given to the millers, and after that a quota of 5,000 tons was given to co-operative societies. The millers already had had their share. They exported desiccated coconut to the extent of the quota allowed to them, paying the higher duty. This reduction in duty goes to the benefit of the co-operative societies, who alone will get the benefit of this reduction in the current year—
[*Interruption*]—They have not exported their quota yet. There is another 5,000 tons—

A Member: 2,000 tons.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Another 2,000 tons to be handed over to the co-operative societies. After the quota of 5,000 tons was given, a scheme was worked out under which the co-operative societies were to pay for nuts Rs. 125. They were able to make that payment in view of this reduction in duty. If the old rate of duty remained, they could not have paid Rs. 125 for nuts—

Dr. Perera: They could—

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: What is the good of my hon. Friend saying that? I know all the facts.

Dr. Perera: I have the figures.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: I have other figures. His figures are all wrong.

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: Quite wrong.

Question put, and agreed to.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES (LOSS OF TREASURY CASH IN TRANSIT)

3.52 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move,

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Ten (Token Vote) (Rs. 10) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 36—Miscellaneous Services.

Vote No. 3.—Miscellaneous Services Rs. 10
(Token Vote).”

On the night of March 25, 1947, a sum of Rs. 800,000 was sent by train to the Government Agent, North-Central Province. Between Ambepusse and Alawwe, one of the chests disappeared from the Railway. Attempts were made to stop the train, but unfortunately the emergency communication cord was not working, and it was not possible to stop the train. At the next station, another train was requisitioned, and part of the money was recovered, except for a bundle containing Rs. 5,000, which was lost.

This vote is to reimburse that loss of Rs. 5,000. Rs. 4,900 is available from savings, and the House is now asked to pass a token vote of Rs. 10.

3.53 P.M.

Mr. Dahanayake: I wish to say a few words in protest against this Motion of the Minister of Finance. When money is sent in this way certain Financial Regulations have to be adhered to. One of them, F. R. 743, specifies the number of people who should go in charge of the money—

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: They were sent.

Mr. Dahanayake: In this particular instance, F. R. 743 was violated, and therefore the loss incurred should be surcharged against the officers who agreed, or ordered, that F. R. 743 should not be adhered to. There is no sense in the Government first violating the F. R. and then putting up a proposal that the taxpayer should meet the loss incurred as a result of that violation.

The Prime Minister owes this House an explanation as to why, when F. R. are violated, no surcharge is made against the delinquent officers.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: What is the F. R. the hon. Member is referring to?

Mr. Dahanayake: The Minister knows.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: The Police Sergeant and the Constable who formed the escort were dismissed. The shroff was called upon to show cause why he should not make good the loss of Rs. 5,000. These steps were taken—

Mr. Dahanayake: Why was F. R. 743 violated?

The Hon. Sir John Kotelawala: What are the requirements of that F. R.?

Mr. Dahanayake: That money should be sent in charge of a certain number of officers.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: That F. R. was observed. That is why two of the men were dismissed.

Mr. Dahanayake: The number of officers who accompany—

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: What is the F. R. the Member is referring to?

Mr. Dahanayake: No. 743.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I am not aware of that particular F. R. I am aware of the requirements of F. R. 642—

The Hon. Mr. Goonesinha: What are the requirements of F. R. 743?

Mr. Dahanayake: May I tell the Finance Minister that the Secretary to the Currency Board ordered that in this particular instance—

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: F. R. 642 requires that remittances should be accompanied by two shroffs—

Mr. Dahanayake: That requirement was not observed in this instance.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Not under the F. R. quoted by the hon. Member.

The requirements of F. R. 642 are that two shroffs, one sergeant and two constables should accompany the remittance. Notwithstanding the protests of the Treasury, the number of shroffs was reduced to one, and the escort from one sergeant and two constables to one sergeant and one constable during the war period, owing to lack of staff.

Mr. Dahanayake: Not at all—

Dr. Perera: Were there accomplices?

Mr. Dahanayake: They wanted to rob the money—

Question put, and agreed to.

IMPORT DUTIES

The following item stood next upon the Orders of the Day:—

The Minister of Finance,—Customs Ordinance (Resolution),—That this House resolves under section 9 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 185) that with effect from the date on which this resolution is notified in the *Government Gazette*, the import duty under that Ordinance shall be levied and paid on the goods specified in Column I. of the Schedule hereto—

(a) at the General Rates set out in the corresponding entries in Column III. of the Schedule hereto; or

(b) at the Preferential Rates set out in the corresponding entries in Column II. of the Schedule hereto, where preferential rates are leviable and payable under the provisions of Schedule A to the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 185) as amended by section 17 (i.) No. 32 of 1941.

Mr. Speaker: Order!

I.		Schedule.			Column I.		Column II.		Column III.	
					Goods.		Preferential Rate.		General Rate.	
							ad valorem. Rs. c.		ad valorem. Rs. c.	
1	Abrasives, crude—									
	Carborundum	..	..	..	..	..			17½%	
	Emery ..	..	..	..	..	..			17½%	
	Pumice stone	..	..	..	..	..			17½%	
5	Other ..	..	..	..	..	..			17½%	
	Abrasives, manufactured—									
	Carborundum wheels, stones and paste	..	..	..	..	..			17½%	
	Abrasive soap	..	..	..	..	..			17½%	
	Abrasive tape	..	..	..	..	..			17½%	
10	Emery wheels, stones, paper and cloth	..	..	..	..	..			17½%	
	Glass paper and cloth	..	..	..	..	..			17½%	
	Grinding paste, not elsewhere specified	..	..	..	..	..			17½%	
	Pumice powder and blocks	..	..	..	..	..			17½%	
	Sand paper and cloth	..	..	..	..	..			17½%	
15	Other ..	..	..	..	..	..			17½%	
	Acids, other than acetic and formic, not elsewhere specified	..	..	..	..	..	17½%		17½%	
	Adhesive flock	..	..	..	..	..			27½%	
	Agricultural tractors, disc-tillers, hay-balers, maize shellers, monkey grabbers, paddy winnows, reapers, reaper binders, self-propelled combined harvesters, threshers, tractor harrows, tractor manure machines and distributors, tractor ploughs, tractor seed drills, tractor hay mowers, billhooks, earth augers, mattocks and scythes and parts thereof	..	..	..	..	..	5%		15%	
	Agricultural implements, parts for	..	..	..	..	..	5%		15%	
25	Almonds—									
	Shelled ..	..	..	..	..	..	200	0		233 0
	With shell ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	0		117 0

II.

1	Aluminium barbed wire	..	12½%	..	22½%
	Aluminium buckets which are shown to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs to have been imported for use on rubber estates	..		..	
5	Aluminium foil, not elsewhere specified	..	2½%	..	12½%
	Aluminium sheets, corrugated, and ridges for roofing	..	17½%	..	27½%
		..	12½%	..	22½%
	Aluminium ware of the following description which is shown to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs to have been imported for use in the rubber or tea industries—				
10	Bulking tanks to be used in rubber and tea factories	..	2½%	..	12½%
	Coagulating pans for use in the rubber industry	..	2½%	..	12½%
	Latex measures	..	2½%	..	12½%
	Tea leaf basins	..	2½%	..	12½%
	Transportation tanks for use in the rubber industry	..	2½%	..	12½%
15	Amber	..		..	100%
	Animal bones other than manure	..		..	17½%
	Animal glue and size	..		..	17½%
	Arecanuts	..		..	100%
20	Arms, parts and accessories for—				
	Cleaning outfits for arms	..		..	100%
	Parts and other accessories for arms	..		..	100%
	Arrows and bows and parts and accessories thereof	..		..	100%
	Artificial flowers, foliage and fruit	..		..	100%
	Artificial glue	..		..	17½%
25	Artificial leather cloth including rexine	..		..	50%

III.

Column I. Goods.	Column II. Preferential Rate.		Column III. General Rate.	
	ad valorem.	Rs. c.	ad valorem.	Rs. c.
1 Artificial resin, not elsewhere specified	..	..	17½%	..
Artists' boards	..	..	45%	..
Artists' colours	..	..	45%	..
Asbestos—				
5 Fibrous fillers	..	..	17½%	..
Packing	..	..	17½%	..
Ridges	..	..	17½%	..
Tiles	..	..	17½%	..
Manufactures not elsewhere specified	..	..	17½%	..
10 Atomisers, other than scent sprays, and parts	..	..	27½%	..
Avarum bark	..	per cwt.	17½%	2 0
Balunga	..	per cwt.	..	35 0
Baskets and basketware, not elsewhere specified	..	..	100%	..
Bathing caps	..	..	100%	..
Bath mats and boards, wooden	..	..	100%	..
Bath room fittings, not elsewhere specified—				
Brass	..	..	30%	..
Iron and steel	..	..	27½%	..
Wooden	..	..	100%	..
20 Baths and sinks—				
Earthenware, porcelain and china	..	..	40%	..
Beads, not elsewhere specified	..	..	100%	..
Beedy leaves	..	..	..	5 0
Belt preservatives and syrup	..	per cwt.	17½%	..
25 Betel leaves	..	per cwt.	..	75 0
Biscuits	..	..	60%	..
Bitters, peach	..	..	100%	..
Bitumen and bituminous solutions	..	per cwt.	17½%	1 10
Boiler cements and compositions	..	..	..	..

IV.

1	Boiler cleaning fluid	..	..	..	17½%	..	17½%
	Book binding cloth	..	..	..	..	..	17½%
	Boot and shoe lasts—						
5	Iron and steel	..	..	..	17½%	..	27½%
	Wooden	..	..	..	..	..	27½%
	Boot and shoe protectors—						
	Iron and steel	..	..	..	20%	..	30%
	Leather	..	..	..	20%	..	30%
	Rubber	..	..	..	..	..	30%
10	Other	..	..	..	..	..	30%
	Boot and shoe soles and heels—						
	Leather	..	..	..	90%	..	100%
	Rubber	..	..	..	..	..	100%
	Wooden	..	..	..	..	..	17½%
15	Boots and shoe trees—						
	Aluminium	..	..	..	20%	..	30%
	Iron and steel	..	..	..	20%	..	30%
	Wooden	..	..	..	..	..	30%
	Other	..	..	..	..	..	30%
20	Boot polish and cleaners	..	..	..	..	100	0
	Brazil nuts	..	..	..	per cwt.	117	0
	Breakfast, tiffin, tea and dinner wagons and parts thereof	..	..	..	..	..	100%
	Brewing sugars and other ingredients for use in brewing, not elsewhere specified	..	..	..	17½%	..	27½%
25	Bristles	..	..	..	..	..	17½%
	Brooms	..	..	..	..	..	100%

V.		Column I. Goods.	Column II. Preferential Rate. ad valorem. Rs. c.	Column III. General Rate. ad valorem. Rs. c.
1	Brushes—	..	35 %	45 %
	Artists' ..	..		17½ %
	Cloth ..	..		17½ %
	Dental plate ..	..		17½ %
	Iodine ..	..		17½ %
	Jewellers' ..	..		17½ %
	Painters' (decorators) ..	..		27½ %
	Scrubbing ..	..		17½ %
	Shoe ..	..		17½ %
	Throat and medical ..	..		17½ %
10	Builders' woodwork, not elsewhere specified ..	..	17½ %	17½ %
	Bullets, pellets, and shot—	..		100 %
	Lead ..	..		40 %
	Nickel ..	..		40 %
15	Cables, cordage, rope and twine, not elsewhere specified—	..		
	Hemp ..	..		17½ %
	Jute ..	..		17½ %
	Manilla ..	..		17½ %
	Sisal ..	..		17½ %
	Cakes ..	..		60 %
20	Candle sticks and stands other than electroplated ware—	..	50 %	
	Brass ..	..		40 %
	Plastic ..	..		40 %
	Wooden ..	..		100 %
25	Canes and rattans ..	..		
	Carbon black..	..	per cwt.	6 0
	Casein ..	..		21½ %
	Cement, coloured and ferrocrete ..	..		17½ %
	Chalk, tailors' ..	..		30 %
30	Chalk, not elsewhere specified ..	..		17½ %
	Charts, thermograph recording ..	..		17½ %
	Cheakai ..	..	2½ %	12½ %
		..	per cwt.	20 0

VII.

Column I. Goods.		Column II. Preferential Rate. ad valorem. Rs. c.		Column III. General Rate. ad valorem. Rs. c.	
1	Gases—				
	Carbonic acid	..		..	27½%
	Oxygen	..		..	27½%
	Other	..		..	27½%
5	Glass powder	..		..	27½%
	Glaubar salts	..		..	27½%
	Hartal—				
	Solid	..	90 0	..	130 0
	Powder	..	90 0	..	130 0
10	Hydrogen peroxide	..		..	
	Insecticides	..		..	27½%
	Mineral jelly	..		..	17½%
	Munsal ..	..		..	27½%
	Napthalene	..	50 0	..	75 0
15	Potassium per manganate	..		..	
	Rubber solution	..		..	27½%
	Saccharine	..		..	27½%
	Saltpetre ..	..		..	27½%
	Soda ash ..	..		..	27½%
20	Soda bisulphite	..		..	27½%
	Sodium metabisulphite	..		..	2½%
	Sodium carbonate	..		..	12½%
	Stearine, not elsewhere specified	..		..	27½%
	Sulphur ..	..		..	27½%
25	Weed killers	..		..	27½%
	Wood preservatives	..		..	17½%
	Other ..	..		..	27½%
	Christmas tree decorations other than paper ..	..		..	100 %

VIII.

1	Cigar and cigarette boxes, cases and holders other than gold and silverplated ware and gold, platinum and silverware—				
	Iron and steel	90 %	..	100 %	
	Other		..	100 %	
5	Cloisonneware, not elsewhere specified		..	100 %	
	Coal pitch		..	27½ %	
	Coal tar		..	27½ %	
	Coffee substitutes, not elsewhere specified		..	50 %	
	Coffin mountings—				
10	Brass		..	40 %	
	Plated		..	40 %	
	Compressed fibre boards		..	17½ %	
	Corks and cork manufactures, not elsewhere specified—				
15	Corks		..	17½ %	
	Cork sheets		..	17½ %	
	Crown corks		..	17½ %	
	Cotton waste		..	17½ %	
	Cotton wadding		..	15 %	
	Crucibles		..	17½ %	
20	Cups and saucers, dishes and plates—				
	Aluminium	25 %	..	35 %	
	Glass		..	35 %	
	Plastic and bakelite		..	35 %	
	Curtain rods and fittings—				
25	Iron and steel	35 %	..	45 %	
	Wooden		..	100 %	
	Cutch		..		50 0
	Damasceneware, not elsewhere specified		..	100 %	

IX.

Column I. Goods.		Column II. Preferential Rate. ad valorem. Rs. c.		Column III. General Rate. ad valorem. Rs. c.	
1	Earthenware— Pots and pans	..	25 0 ..	30 0	per 100
	Electric heating and cooking apparatus, irons, vacuum cleaners and washing machines—parts and accessories for ..	..	..	60 %	
5	Electric accumulators and batteries (except splash proof accumulators and batteries for motor vehicles and dry cells) alternators, dynamos, exciters, generators, control and switch gear parts for ..	10 % 10 % 7½ %		20 % 20 % 17½ %	
10	Electric motors, transformers and converters, parts for ..	..	..	30 %	
	Electrodes ..	..	..	100 %	
	Electroplated ware except silverplated and goldplated ware— Bath room fittings ..	..	..	100 %	
	Candlesticks and stands ..	..	..	100 %	
15	Trays ..	..	..	100 %	
	Vases ..	..	..	100 %	
	Waiters ..	..	..	100 %	
	Feathers and plumes ..	..	..	100 %	
	Felt— Asphalted ..	..	..	17½ %	
20	Hair ..	..	..	17½ %	
	Roofing ..	..	..	17½ %	
	Fibre— Aloe ..	..	..	17½ %	
	Flax ..	..	..	17½ %	
25	Hemp ..	..	..	17½ %	
	Jute ..	..	..	17½ %	
	Palmyrah ..	..	..	17½ %	
	Sisal ..	..	..	17½ %	
	Other ..	..	..	17½ %	
30	Fire cement ..	..	..	17½ %	
	Fire clay ..	..	..	17½ %	

X.

1	Fireproof clothing	..	..	17½%	..	15 0
	First aid outfits	..	..	17½%	..	
	Fish hooks ..	..	..	15 %	..	
	Fishing lines (thangus)	..	..	15 %	..	
5	Fuller's earth not prepared	..	..	17½%	..	
	Furniture, parts for excluding upholstery material	..	..	100 %	..	
	Furniture polish	..	..	50 %	..	
	Garden umbrellas	..	..	100 %	..	
	Gauntlets, rubber	..	..	17½%	..	
10	Glue not elsewhere specified	..	..	17½%	..	
	Grafting tape	..	..	15 %	..	
	Graphite ..	..	..	17½%	..	
	Grass, straw and rush manufactures not elsewhere specified	..	..	100 %	..	
	Groundnuts ..	..	per cwt.	..	..	15 0
15	Gums and resins not elsewhere specified—					
	Acacia ..	..	..	17½%	..	
	Arabic ..	..	..	35 %	..	
	Benjamin ..	..	per cwt.	..	..	65 0
	Copal ..	..	..	27½%	..	
20	Dammar ..	..	per cwt.	..	..	30 0
	Lac ..	..	..	27½%	..	
	Olibanum ..	..	per cwt.	..	..	30 0
	Shellac ..	..	..	27½%	..	
25	Hat bodies and parts excluding manufactures of silk or artificial silk and any admixture thereof other than admixtures containing over 50% by weight of cotton ..	..	..	17½%	..	

XI.

Column I. Goods.		Column II. Preferential Rate. ad valorem. Rs. c.		Column III. General Rate. Rs. c.	
1	Hats not elsewhere specified—				
	Felt ..			50 %	
	Other ..			50 %	
	Heating apparatus not elsewhere specified and parts thereof ..	40 %		60 %	
5	Honey ..			70 %	
	Horse shoes, aluminium ..			100 %	
	Hose pipes and piping and coupling therefor, except pipes and piping made exclusively of rubber and not exceeding 1½ inches in diameter ..	90 %			
10	Hot water bottles ..			17½ %	
	Images and statues—			17½ %	
	Earthenware, porcelain, china and stone ..			45 %	
	Wooden ..	35 %		45 %	
	Ink other than writing ink—				
15	Drawing ..			17½ %	
	Duplicating ..			17½ %	
	Indian ..			17½ %	
	Marking ..			17½ %	
	Printing ..			17½ %	
20	Stencil ..			17½ %	
	Thermograph ..			17½ %	
	Incandescent mantles ..			17½ %	
	Infants and invalids' foods other than milk foods ..			45 %	
25	Instruments, appliances and apparatus, and parts thereof, not elsewhere specified—	35 %		17½ %	
	Dental plates ..			17½ %	
	Dissecting instruments ..			17½ %	
	Fire extinguishers and refills ..			17½ %	
	Galvanometers ..			17½ %	
	Gasometers ..			17½ %	
30	Incubators ..			17½ %	

XII.

1	Instruments, appliances and apparatus, and parts thereof, not elsewhere specified— <i>contd.</i>				
	Lenses not elsewhere specified	..		17½%	
	Poultry farming apparatus, not elsewhere specified	..		17½%	
5	Rain recorders	..		17½%	
	Surgical catgut and silk and art silk ligatures and sutures	..		17½%	
	Sunshine recorders	..		17½%	
	Thermometers, not elsewhere specified	..		17½%	
	Trusses	..		17½%	
10	Watermeters	..		17½%	
	Parts for the above	..		17½%	
	Parts for scientific, surgical and mathematical instruments..	..		17½%	
	Sundials and parts thereof	..		17½%	
15	Weighing instruments and parts thereof, not elsewhere specified—	..		50%	
	Iron and steel, wholly or mainly of	..	17½%	27½%	
	Other ..	..		27½%	
	Jewellery and trinket boxes other than gold and silverplated and gold, platinum and silver boxes	..		100%	
20	Jointing	..		17½%	
	Joss sticks	..			1 50
	Kenam bark	..			6 0
	Lamps and lanterns (except paper) and parts, not elsewhere specified—	..			
25	Incandescent—				
	Iron and steel	..	35%	45%	
	Other ..	..		45%	

XIII.

Column I. Goods.		Column II. Preferential Rate. ad valorem Rs. c.	Column III. General Rate. ad valorem Rs. c.
1	Oil—		
	Iron and steel	20 %	30 %
	Other	..	30 %
	Leather dressing and polish	..	30 %
5	Machinery—		
	Cranes, hoists and lifting and pumping machinery—parts for	15 %	25 %
	Machine belting—fasteners for	17½ %	27½ %
	Machine tools—parts for	17½ %	27½ %
	Machines, self contained air conditioning, comprising elements for cooling, controlling humidity, cleaning and circulating air—parts for	90 %	100 %
10	Machinery which is shown to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs to have been imported for the purpose of processing latex, sole crepe and softened rubber and parts for such machinery	21½ %	12½ %
15	Machinery which is shown to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs to have been imported for the purpose of the manufacture of finished rubber goods, and parts for such machinery	21½ %	12½ %
20	Marukkolunthu	..	1 10
	Mechanical lighters—parts for	..	100 %
	Medicinal herbs and other ingredients used in indigenous medicine—	..	12½ %
25	Asaphoetida including hinja	..	35 0
	Gorachena	..	80 0
	Margosa oil	..	15 0
	Musk	..	300 0
	Pepper long	..	50 0
30	Medicinal herbs and other ingredients used in indigenous medicine, not elsewhere specified	17½ %	10 0
	Mercury	..	27½ %

XV.

Column I. Goods.		Column II. Preferential Rate. Rs. c. ad valorem.		Column III. General Rate. Rs. c. ad valorem.	
1	Mops				100 %
	Motor cars and motor station wagons (not including motor lorries) engines and chassis thereof—				
	(i.) 12 horse power and under	30 %		37½ %	
5	(ii.) Over 12 horse power and up to and including 18 horse power				
	(iii.) Over 18 horse power	45 %		52½ %	
	Mother of pearl	70 %		77½ %	
	Nickel silverware, not elsewhere specified			17½ %	
10	Night lights			100 %	
	Oakum			50 %	
	Office and factory furniture and equipment wholly or mainly of iron and steel—			17½ %	
	Book cases				
15	Book racks	17½ %		27½ %	
	Cabinets	17½ %		27½ %	
	Chairs	17½ %		27½ %	
	Counters	17½ %		27½ %	
	Deed and cash boxes	17½ %		27½ %	
20	Desks	17½ %		27½ %	
	Distributors	17½ %		27½ %	
	Letter racks	17½ %		27½ %	
	Letter trays	17½ %		27½ %	
	Lockers	17½ %		27½ %	
25	Partitions and partitioning	17½ %		27½ %	
	Seating	17½ %		27½ %	
	Shelving	17½ %		27½ %	
	Stands	17½ %		27½ %	
	Stools	17½ %		27½ %	
30	Storage bins	17½ %		27½ %	
	Storage racks	17½ %		27½ %	

XVI.

1 Office and factory furniture and equipment wholly or mainly of iron and steel—*contd.*

Stationery boxes	..	17½%	..	27½%	..
Tables ..	..	17½%	..	27½%	..
Tool stands	..	17½%	..	27½%	..
Transfer boxes	..	17½%	..	27½%	..
Wall panels	..	17½%	..	27½%	..
Waste paper bins and boxes	..	17½%	..	27½%	..
Parts for the above	..	17½%	..	27½%	..
10 Office requisites not elsewhere specified—					
Card record systems	..		..	17½%	..
Filing equipment, not elsewhere specified	..		..	17½%	..
Filing systems	..		..	17½%	..
Ledger posting equipment	..		..	17½%	..
Loose leaf ledger covers	..		..	17½%	..
Punchers ..	..		..	17½%	..
Visible card record systems	..		..	17½%	..
Visible control systems	..		..	17½%	..
Visible indexing systems	..		..	17½%	..
Parts for the above	..		..	17½%	..
20 Oils, fats and greases, not elsewhere specified—					
Castor oil in bulk	..	per cwt.	..	40 0	..
Cutting oil	..		..		..
Gingelly oil	..	per cwt.	..	55 0	..
Groundnut oil	..	per cwt.	..	40 0	..
Linseed oil	..		..		..
Lubricating grease	..		..		..
25				17½%	27½% 17½%

XVII.

Column I. Goods.		Column II. Preferential Rate. ad valorem. Rs. c.	Column III. General Rate. ad valorem. Rs. c.
1	Neat's foot oil	..	17½%
	Quenching oil	..	17½%
	Shock absorber oil	..	17½%
	Transformer oil	..	17½%
5	Tung oil ..	..	17½%
	Packing for engines and boilers, not elsewhere specified	..	17½%
	Painters materials, not elsewhere specified—	..	..
	Spirits denatured to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector	..	..
10	of Customs	17½%	27½%
	Thinner ..	17½%	27½%
	Turpentine•	17½%	27½%
	Other ..	25 %	35 %
	Paper and manufactures thereof, not elsewhere specified—	..	..
15	Account books	..	27½%
	Bags for cement	..	27½%
	Blotting paper	17½%	27½%
	Book cover paper	5 %	15 %
	Cards and folders for filing systems	..	17½%
	Copy books in paper covers	5 %	15 %
20	Diaries ..	..	27½%
	Drawing books in paper covers	5 %	15 %
	Drawing paper	17½%	27½%
	Exercise books in paper covers	5 %	15 %
	Filter paper	17½%	27½%
25	Forms, ruled or printed	17½%	27½%
	Kraft paper	17½%	27½%
	Linotype paper	17½%	27½%
	Manuscript books, not elsewhere specified	..	27½%
	Marble paper	..	15 %
30	Match labels	5 %	27½%

XVIII.

1	Paper and manufactures thereof, not elsewhere specified— <i>contd.</i>			
	Match paper	17½%	..	27½%
	Exercise books in thick covers		..	27½%
	Milk bottle discs		..	7½%
5	Note books		..	27½%
	Ocean paper	17½%	..	27½%
10	Paper of the kind commonly used for the purpose of packing sole crepe rubber for export and of lining tea chests, tea packets or desiccated coconut chests, where it is shown to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs that such paper has been imported for such purpose and is likely to be used mainly for such purpose	5 %	..	15 %
	Press copy books		..	27½%
15	Printed labels and printed wrappers for use in packing Ceylon produce for export		..	17½%
	Stencils for use with duplicating machines	17½%	..	17½%
	Tissue paper	17½%	..	27½%
	Tracing paper	17½%	..	27½%
20	Wrapping and packing paper, not elsewhere specified, including old newspapers	17½%	..	27½%
	Carbon paper	17½%	..	27½%
	Pearls, culture		..	10 %
	Pearls, natural		..	10 %
25	Papier mache manufactures, not elsewhere specified		..	100 %
	Photo engraving machinery, and parts	17½%	..	27½%
	Photographic goods (including unprocessed cinema films and photographic chemicals) not elsewhere specified	33 %	..	44 %

XIX.

Column I. Goods.		Column II. Preferential Rate. Rs. c. ad valorem.		Column III. General Rate. Rs. c. ad valorem.	
1	Picnic sets	..	..	100 %	..
	Picture and photo frames and stands	..	..	100 %	..
	Pipe clay	..	..	30 %	..
	Plaster of Paris	..	..	17½ %	..
5	Polishing compositions and polishes, not elsewhere specified	..	..	30 %	..
	Pouches, tobacco	..	..	100 %	..
	Precious and semi-precious stones, except Ceylon stones and diamonds, cut—	..	..	..	..
	Genuine ..	..	..	25 %	..
	Imitation ..	..	..	25 %	..
10	Precious and semi-precious stones except Ceylon stones, un-cut	..	..	10 %	..
	Printers' materials, not elsewhere specified—	..	..	..	..
	Iron and steel	..	7½ %	17½ %	..
	Other ..	..	..	17½ %	..
	Putty ..	..	..	17½ %	..
15	Rat traps, wholly or mainly of wood	..	..	40 %	..
	Receptacles, boxes and chests and shooks and fittings, of a kind suited for the purpose of packing Ceylon produce for export, where it is shown to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs that such articles have been imported for such purpose and are likely to be used mainly for such purpose	..	..	..	..
	Roofing compound	..	..	5½ %	..
	Ruberoid cement	..	..	17½ %	..
	Ruberoid composition	..	..	17½ %	..
25	Rubber manufactures wholly or mainly of, not elsewhere specified—	..	..	17½ %	..
	Cushions for motor vehicles	..	..	..	..
	Erasers ..	..	30 %	37½ %	..
	Pencil protectors	..	..	50 %	..
30	Perambulator tyres	..	..	50 %	..

XX.

1 Rubber manufactures wholly or mainly of, not elsewhere specified—*contd.*

5	Play balls ..	..	50 %	..	60 %
	Rickshaw tyres ..	..		..	50 %
	Rubber toys ..	..	50 %	..	60 %
	Rubber bands for office use ..	..		..	50 %
	Hospital sheeting ..	..		..	17½ %
	Teats ..	..		..	50 %
	Soothers ..	..		..	17½ %
10	Toy balloons ..	..	50 %	..	60 %
	Tyre flaps ..	..		..	17½ %
	Unvulcanized rubber compounds ..	..		..	50 %
	Rubber proofed fabrics, not made up ..	..		..	17½ %
15	Rubbing compound ..	..	17½ %	..	17½ %
	Safes, iron and steel ..	..		..	27½ %

Safes, stands for—

20	Wooden ..	..	17½ %	..	100 %	50 0
	Other ..	..		..	27½ %	18 0
	Saffron ..	..		..		
	Sago ..	..		..		
	Sanitary towels ..	..		..	17½ %	

Sanitaryware and fittings—

	Cisterns, flushing pipes and fittings, iron and steel ..	..	17½ %	..	27½ %	
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XXI.

Column I. Goods.	Column II. Preferential Rate. ad valorem. Rs. c.		Column III. General Rate. ad valorem. Rs. c.	
1 Seeds, not elsewhere specified—				
Gingelly ..	..	per cwt.	..	20 0
Tukmaria ..	..	per cwt.	..	15 0
5 Shaving sets ..	..	..	..	..
Shells, not elsewhere specified	..	..	50 %	..
Smokers' requisites, not elsewhere specified	..	..	50 %	..
silverplated ware and gold, platinum and silverware—				
Iron and steel ..	..	90 %	..	100 %
Other ..	..	..	..	100 %
10 Spectacles—mountings, frame parts and cases for	..	..	..	17½ %
Stationery, other than paper—				
Blotters—				
Iron and steel ..	..	..	..	27½ %
Earthenware, porcelain and China ..	..	..	..	27½ %
Other except gold and silverware and gold and silverplated	..	17½ %	..	..
ware ..	..	17½ %	..	..
Files ..	..	..	27½ %	..
Fountain pens, and parts excluding nibs	..	..	27½ %	..
Gloy and mucilage, prepared	..	..	27½ %	..
Ink ..	..	..	27½ %	..
Ink powder ..	..	..	27½ %	..
Ink wells and stands except goldplated and silverplated and	..	17½ %	..	..
gold platinum and silverware—				
Earthenware, porcelain and China ..	..	17½ %	..	27½ %
Other ..	..	..	..	27½ %
25 Nibs—				
Iron and steel ..	..	17½ %	..	27½ %
Other ..	..	..	..	27½ %

XXII.

1 Stationery, other than paper—*contd.*

Paper clips and fasteners—

Brass ..	..	..	27½%
Iron and steel ..	..	..	27½%
Pencils, lead, copying and coloured other than school crayons in boxes of 12 and under in assorted colours ..	..	17½%	27½%
Pencil sharpeners ..	..	..	27½%
Pen holders ..	..	..	27½%

Propelling pencils and parts thereof—

Silver and gold, wholly or mainly of ..	..	..	100 %
Other ..	..	..	50 %
Refills for propelling pencils ..	..	..	50 %
Sealing wax ..	..	..	27½%

Stencils, not elsewhere specified—

Iron and steel ..	..	17½%	27½%
Other ..	..	..	27½%

Suit cases, trunks and bags, excluding ladies handbags, other than leather and iron and steel

Talc powder for packing rubber ..	..	..	40 %
Tapioca ..	..	..	12½%

20 Tenterhooks, rivets and wire nails which are shown to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs to have been imported for the construction of chests or boxes for packing Ceylon produce for export ..

per cwt.	..	..	18 0
..	..	..	2½%

XXIII.

Column I. Goods.		Column II. Preferential Rate. ad valorem. Rs. c.	Column III. General Rate. ad valorem. Rs. c.
1	Textiles and manufactures of textile materials—		
	Dental floss ..	15 %	25 %
	Handloom towels and towelling ..		60 %
	Linen shoe thread ..		15 %
5	Silk waste ..	15 %	25 %
	Tiles, other than glassware, earthenware, porcelain and China..		25 %
	Timber which is shown to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs to have been imported for the manufacture of receptacles for packing Ceylon produce for export ..	2½ %	12½ %
10	Tinned plates for packing Ceylon produce for export ..		
	Collector of Customs to have been imported for the manufacture of receptacles for packing Ceylon produce for export, and of fittings therefor ..		
	Tipping wagons (other than motor wagons) and parts thereof ..	17½ %	2½ %
15	Tortoise shells ..		27½ %
	Tow, flax and hemp ..		17½ %
	Tracing cloth ..		17½ %
	Trays and waiters, not elsewhere specified—		
	Brass ..		40 %
20	Plastic ..		40 %
	Wooden ..		100 %
	Walking sticks and canes ..		100 %
	Wall and partitioning boards including porous boards and hard boards other than asbestos—		
25	Wooden ..		27½ %
	Other ..		27½ %
	Walnuts ..	100 0	117 0
	Waterproof cement ..		17½ %

XXIV.

1	Wax other than for candles, not elsewhere specified—			
	Beeswax ..	..	..	17½%
	Bottling wax ..	..	..	17½%
	Paraffin wax ..	..	..	17½%
5	Match wax ..	..	..	17½%
	Wicker works not elsewhere specified ..	..	..	100%
10	Articles of the following description which are shown to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs to have been imported by and for use in hotels and resthouses approved by the Director of the Tourists Bureau, provided that such articles bear indelible marks indentifying them as the property of such Hotels and Resthouses—			
	Crockery ..	..	..	17½%
	Cutlery ..	..	..	17½%
15	Electroplated ware other than gold and silverplated ware—			
	Iron and steel ..	..	..	27½%
	Other ..	..	..	27½%
	Manufactures of linen ..	..	..	27½%
20	Articles, other than machinery chemicals, dyes and fillers, which are shown to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs to have been imported for the purpose of manufacturing finished rubber goods ..	..	..	2½%

(Cabinet approval signified.)

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Shall we take up this item after tea?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. You might move the Motion now.

3.59 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move,

"That this House resolves under section 9 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 185) that with effect from the date on which this resolution is notified in the *Government Gazette*, the import duty under that Ordinance shall be levied and paid on the goods specified in Column I. of the Schedule hereto—

(a) at the General Rates set out in the corresponding entries in Column III. of the Schedule hereto; or

(b) at the Preferential Rates set out in the corresponding entries in Column II. of the Schedule hereto, where preferential rates are leviable and payable under the provisions of Schedule A to the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 185) as amended by section 17 (i.) No. 32 of 1941."

Question proposed.

Dr. Perera: Does that mean that the Minister will not explain the position to us—

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I shall explain after tea.

Dr. Perera: He says he has finished speaking—

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I shall explain. I have not finished my speech.

Mr. Speaker: The sitting is suspended till 4.30 P.M.

Sitting accordingly suspended until 4.30 p.m., and then resumed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: There is a Message from the Senate.

The Clerk read the following Message:

"The Senate have agreed to the Trade Unions Amendment Bill."

Dr. Perera: What a shame!

IMPORT DUTIES

4.31 P.M.

Mr. Dahanayake: Please explain the Motion fully.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I said that I was going to do so when I was moving the Motion.

Dr. Perera: Can we not go into Committee?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I do not think I can read the large number of items mentioned.

Mr. Speaker: No.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: This Motion deals with an Amendment to the Customs Ordinance incorporating certain revenue proposals which are part of the Budget for 1948-49.

Hon. Members may remember that at the time of the introduction of the budgetary proposals for 1947-48 owing to an adverse balance of trade this House agreed to the imposition of very heavy import duties. Those duties were levied according to the semi-essentiality or non-essentiality of the imported articles.

Since the last Budget was introduced we have entered into a sterling assets agreement with His Majesty's Government. Consequent on that we have imposed a very rigorous measure of exchange control and it is possible for the Government to recommend, even in a slight way, a relaxation of some of those import duties.

We have therefore in this Motion recommended the relaxation of the import duties passed on these principles. We have endeavoured to give assistance to the tea and rubber-growing industries by reduction of duties on certain goods essential for those industries; (2) assistance to local industries where possible and where such assistance is considered to be justified by lowering duties of materials required by those industries; (3) assistance to local industries by placing prohibitive duties on certain commodities which are being produced locally in cases where it is considered that such protective duties will assist local industries to produce a better quality article and meet the local

demand; and (4) increasing the duties on certain luxury and non-essential goods.

Hon. Members will see in the Customs Schedule certain items under an omnibus heading such as, for instance, "Goods not elsewhere specified: Paper and manufactures thereof". We found that some of the goods that were essential and some that were luxuries, all had to bear the same rate of taxation. For instance, some of the essential goods had to bear a taxation of 100 per cent. which was really imposed on non-essential goods. So we have split up some of those omnibus items, and the items that are included under "manufactures" have been taxed according to their essentiality. Some of those items are goods not elsewhere specified—Aluminium Ware not elsewhere specified; Food and Drink not elsewhere specified; Manufactures of Iron and Steel not elsewhere specified; Paper and Manufactures thereof not elsewhere specified.

Another slight change has been made in the method of taxation. I mentioned that in my Budget Speech with regard to changing the taxation from an *ad valorem* basis to a rated basis on certain commodities. This has been done because of the difficulty in ascertaining correctly the local market value of such goods. The values are liable to fluctuation and have, in the past, led to administrative difficulties in collecting the taxes. One such item, I would mention, is in respect of the importation of betel. We have changed it from an *ad valorem* to a rated basis.

Finally, the opportunity has been taken to examine the Schedule as a whole, and hon. Members will see that we have made certain alterations in the nomenclature and in the rates of duties so as to make the Schedule more rational and the rates of duties of similar articles more uniform than they have been in the past. I will explain when the items come up, in detail, where we are seeking to change the rate of duties from what they were in December, 1947.

We have, as I said before, not changed the essential basis of the principles we adopted in December. That is, we are seeking to preserve our balance of trade by preventing, as far as possible by taxation, non-essential goods from coming into the Island. On luxury goods, which

are semi-essential, we have maintained the basis of taxation between the taxation imposed on luxury items and essential items. On essential items we have maintained the same level as in December, 1947.

Representations were made to us, as soon as taxes were imposed in December, with regard to a wide circle of goods, both from the tea and rubber industry, from merchants, and from people engaged in the photographic industry on which we had to impose a tax of almost 100 per cent. It was said that a large number of people were dependent on photography. We have reduced the tax on photographic articles to what it was in December. Therefore, while reserving to myself the right to deal with these matters, if hon. Members want information, I shall be prepared to give it to them. The basis of our new import duties is the same as it was in December, 1947.

A large number of changes have been really occasioned by the splitting up of the omnibus items which releases a large number of items which we have had to tax according to essentiality and also the necessity for bringing our import duties into better shape than they were before.

There are certain Amendments. May I move them now?

Mr. Speaker: That can be done as we come to those items. Hon. Members may want the House to go into Committee.

4.38 P.M.

Dr. Perera: There is only one point.

Mr. Speaker: Will the Hon. Minister move the House into Committee?

Dr. Perera: The Hon. Minister has enunciated certain principles. I would like to make a few observations on the general principle that he has enunciated in order to get some information as to the facts on which it is based. I do not know whether you will permit me to do that in the Committee stage.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Member thinks that the Committee stage will not meet that desire, I do not mind his raising the question now.

Dr. Perera: Yes. I think it will make it a little easier for us.

Mr. Speaker: Because the hon. Member would not be raising the Question—

Dr. Perera: On the general policy.

I notice that the second and third principles enunciated were the assistance to local industries and the imposition of prohibitive duties where the Hon. Minister was satisfied that the articles could be manufactured in Ceylon.

There is only just this point I would like the Hon. Minister to explain. We are also concerned with the position of the consumers of these articles. We must be satisfied that heavy or extra duty is not a screen to help manufacturers of local articles—I do not know—on the one hand, to give us an inferior article, and on the other to continue to remain in a nascent stage. You must see that they are not in that stage, that they pass on and are in a position at some stage or other to provide competitive articles. Surely it is not to the advantage of the country to protect them to such an extent that they continue to exploit the consumer. I hope the Hon. Minister will consider these two points also in imposing these duties.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Agreed.

4.41 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I said that this assistance to local industries by placing prohibitive duties on certain commodities where necessary is with a view to assisting the local industries to produce a better quality article and meet the local demand. We are keeping that point in mind.

Dr. Perera: What I am trying to impress on the Hon. Minister is that he should have a certain amount of control or hold not to allow the manufacturers to mulct the consumer. That is a point of view which the Hon. Minister must keep in mind all the time. I will give one example. Take the biscuit manufacture—

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Match manufacture.

Dr. Perera: There are certain people who want to import machinery for the purpose of manufacturing biscuits and giving the public a good product. We must encourage them; we must see that they give us a good product, a suitable substitute for the imported product. Any shoddy article passing off as a biscuit is not good enough.

May I also urge that some of the biscuit manufacturers who have been prevented from importing machinery be allowed to do so. Representations were made to the Hon. Minister. Some gentlemen have gone across to England and they find that they cannot buy machinery owing to the exchange control restrictions and the difficulty of getting machinery.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: That has not been brought to my notice. If that is so, we will give them all help. We will not stop any machinery being imported for the purpose of manufacturing consumer goods.

I move that the House do go into Committee.

Schedule considered in Committee.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

The Chairman: I will read out the items, as far as possible, up to every five lines. Then, if any Amendment has to be moved, and a question has to be asked, all that could be done.

Mr. Dahanayake: We want to know every item on which there has been a reduction.

The Chairman: It will be explained. As a matter of fact, I can give the information because I have got the figures with me.

Abrasives, crude

Dr. Perera: Is there an increase?

The Chairman: A reduction from 45 per cent. to 17½ per cent.

There is a gentleman from the Customs here whom I have got down to assist us, if necessary. If any questions are asked, I could supply the information.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: May I explain why the duty has been reduced? These items were previously classified as "goods not elsewhere specified." That omnibus clause has been split up and goods used for industrial purposes in workshops, factories, and so on—abrasives and acids—have been reduced to the December level of $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Agricultural Tractors, etc.

Dr. Perera: The only point is, why cannot the duty on these items be reduced in the same way as you have reduced the duty on articles necessary for the rubber industry?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We have reduced the duty from $27\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 15 per cent.

4.45 P.M.

Dr. Perera: I notice that in regard to goods connected with the rubber industry, the duty has been reduced to $12\frac{1}{3}$ per cent.

Mr. Pakeman: With regard to aluminium buckets imported for use on rubber estates, I may point out that galvanized iron buckets are also used by a considerable number of estates for precisely the same purposes as aluminium buckets, and I was wondering whether the Hon. Minister would be willing to include galvanized iron buckets in the same category as aluminium buckets.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: One of the statements made was that aluminium buckets and galvanized iron buckets are used for the same purposes in rubber and tea estates, and that the duty has been raised—

Mr. Wilmot A. Perera: Aluminium is rarely used.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: The duty on galvanized iron buckets is not higher than it is today; it is lower.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: The hon. Member might bring it up when we come to that item.

The Chairman: There is no item as "Galvanized iron buckets."

Dr. Perera: Cannot you get it in here by an Amendment?

The Chairman: The hon. Appointed Member did not move an Amendment. If it is an Amendment it will be out of Order. He wants to know whether it is possible to include this item.

Mr. A. L. Thamblayah (Kayts): Galvanized iron buckets are manufactured locally. It is to protect this local industry, I think, that this duty has been put up.

Mr. Pakeman: I want to bring galvanized buckets under the same heading as aluminium buckets, because they are used for precisely the same purpose.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We will have to consider that carefully.

Bulking Tanks to be used in Rubber and Tea Factories

Mr. Pakeman: There are three other items used for the same purposes, namely, winnows, coagulating pans and separators. They are used in the rubber and tea industries, but they are not included under the headings already in the Schedule. If the Hon. Minister takes these three extra items, which are on exactly the same basis as latex measures and coagulating pans, the industry would be very grateful.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: If the hon. Member will write to me, I will consider it. It is rather difficult to bear it in mind.

The Chairman: The Hon. Minister says he is unable to give a definite reply at once without looking into the facts.

Mr. Pakeman: I have sent some Amendments to the Hon. Minister.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Most of them have been incorporated in this.

Mr. Dahanayake: Galvanized buckets are not found anywhere in this Schedule.

Artists' Colours

Mr. Wilmot A. Perera: What about artists' colours?

The Chairman: The duty has been reduced from 50 per cent.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: No, Sir, it has been increased.

Mr. Dahanayake: Is that the way the Minister encourages art?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Colours can be made in Ceylon. The Kelaniya temple was painted with colours made locally.

Mr. Wilmot A. Perera: That is a particular type of painting.

Mr. A. Reginald Perera (Dehiowita): Those colours are good for bali ceremonies and that sort of thing.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: The increase of the duty from 25 per cent. to 35 per cent. and from 35 per cent. to 45 per cent. is made to differentiate between artists' materials and painters and decorators' materials, the former being non-essential. Decorators' materials, needed for painting houses, we are keeping at a lower rate than materials required for pure art, which is really a hobby.

Mr. Wilmot A. Perera: Is it that you do not want to promote art?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: You cannot have bread and art!

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: The Hon. Minister must reconsider that attitude. House painters, he puts up on a far higher pedestal than artists. With the Hon. Minister of Education trying to foster art, I am sure the Hon. Minister of Finance will reconsider his decision and reduce the duty on artists' colours.

The Chairman: The increase is from 35 to 45 per cent.

Dr. Perera: Can I move an Amendment to bring it back to the old rate?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: These have been very carefully considered. There are many reasons for these proposals, though we cannot think of all those reasons now. They have been very carefully considered.

Mr. Dahanayake: In other words, you do not want us to examine these items?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: You cannot, because you have not got the facts before you.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We cannot allow a reduction of this duty because we want to differentiate between materials used by artists and those used by house painters. The duty on colours used by private-hobby-artists is higher.

Mr. Subasinghe: Why do you call it a hobby?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Then call it politics or whatever you like. There is a difference between those who paint houses and those who paint for pleasure.

Mr. Subasinghe: You wish to encourage art, do you not?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: But by differentiation.

Dr. Perera: Not by increasing the duty, surely?

Asbestos

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: The duty has been reduced from 45 per cent. to 17½ per cent.

Balunga

Mr. Dahanayake: What is balunga, Sir?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: This is a seed that is imported from India. It is used as a base for sherbet.

An Hon. Member: This is what is called "kasa kasa".

Bathing Caps

Dr. Perera: This is very hard on ladies. Sir, this increase of duty on bathing caps.

The Chairman: I understand that they are being made in Ceylon.

Mr. Dahanayake: What about the Kundasale ladies?

An Hon. Member: They can do without these caps.

Betel Leaves

Mr. Dahanayake: In the case of betel leaves, the duty has been increased.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Yes, we can grow a certain amount here.

Mr. Dahanayake: What is the increase?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We have changed it from an *ad valorem* to a rated basis. We are trying to protect the local betel industry. There was an editorial in the "Dinamina", based on wrong information, to say that we had not increased the duty. We have increased it to protect the industry in Ceylon.

Biscuits

Dr. Perera: Is this a protective duty?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Yes.

The Hon. Mr. C. Sittampalam (Minister of Posts and Telecommunication, and Industries, Industrial Research and Fisheries): We are manufacturing biscuits locally.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: The original rate in December was 45 per cent.; we are making it 60 per cent. We want to see how the Ceylon biscuits progress.

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: They are going from bad to worse.

Mr. Subasinghe: There is no improvement in the quality.

The Chairman: It is awful stuff.

Brooms

Mr. Dahanayake: What about new brooms!

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We have increased the duty on imported brooms, because we have brooms made in Ceylon.

Brushes

5.0 P.M.

Mr. Pakeman: May I know what the position is with regard to brushes?

The Chairman: They are all increased from 35 per cent. to 45 per cent.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: On brushes we have increased the duty from 35 per cent. to 45 per cent. but on Artists' brushes—hon. Members spoke of art—we have decreased the duty. What we make on the paint we are going to give back on the brush.

Mr. Pakeman: One small point with regard to brushes. I do not find here, among the various brushes that are listed, an item like stencil brushes. There are stencil brushes of a particular kind which are used for stencilling names on tea and rubber chests. Might I suggest to the Hon. Minister the inclusion of stencil brushes with the imposition of a duty of 17½ per cent.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We felt that as there was quite a sufficient variety of brushes, without giving preference to stencil brushes, they would be able to use tooth brushes instead.

Mr. Wilmot A. Perera: I do not think the Hon. Minister is correct when he says that the duty on artists' brushes has been reduced. I think it has been increased.

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: Will the Hon. Minister follow the policy he laid down of taking up one point at a time.

Mr. Wilmot A. Perera: Has a reduction been made?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Whatever is there must stand.

Mr. Dahanayake: The hon. Appointed Member's request was a reasonable one, but it has been treated very light-heartedly.

Dr. Perera: Surely the duty on artists' brushes could be reduced. Would not these artists' brushes cover the small brushes used by school children also? Surely the Hon. Minister does not want to increase the duty on all those things used by school children?

The Chairman: What is used by school children is not included in this. It is only those used by the professionals.

Builders' Woodwork

Mr. Dahanayake: What is this Builders' woodwork?

The Chairman: That is increased from 60 per cent. to 100 per cent.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: They can be made in Ceylon.

Cables, Cordage, Rope and Twine

Mr. Dahanayake: May we know what the position is with regard to cables?

The Chairman: They have all been reduced from 45 per cent. to 17½ per cent.

Canes and Rattans

Dr. Perera: The only point with regard to canes is this. I do not know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that we have not been able to get local cane adequately for ratanning purposes.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Sir, cane can be grown here.

Dr. Perera: They are not satisfactory.

The Chairman: There is no increase in that. It is the same rate.

Cement, Coloured and Ferrocrete

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: It has been reduced from 45 per cent. to 30 per cent.

Cheakai

Mr. Dahanayake: What is cheakai?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: It is a form of powder.

Hartal

Dr. Perera: What is hartal?

An Hon. Member: Is it the same as the Indian hartal?

The Chairman: He wants to know whether it is the same as the Indian hartal?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: It cannot be.

Cigar and Cigarette Boxes, etc.

Mr. Dahanayake: What is the position with regard to cigar cases and holders?

The Chairman: They are all increased.

Cups and Saucers, Dishes and Plates

Dr. Perera: What is the position with regard to that item?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: On aluminium, plastic and bakelite we have reduced the duty from 45 per cent to 35 per cent. It is on glass alone that we have increased the duty from 30 per cent. to 35 per cent.

Earthenware

Mr. Dahanayake: We want information about earthenware pots and pans. What is the position with regard to pots and pans?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: The Department of Industries has suggested a heavy protective tariff because pots and pans can be made in Ceylon. We have therefore increased the duty. We have changed from an *ad valorem* to a rated basis and we intend to raise it still more so that pots and pans may not come from other countries.

The Chairman: There is an increase of 50 per cent.

Fibre, &c.

Mr. Dahanayake: What about fibre?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: These are imported for use in local industries. These are the bases of certain local industries. They have been reduced from 45 per cent. to 17½ per cent.

Dr. Perera: Will they not compete with coir fibre?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Not aloe, flax, hemp, jute, palmyrah, and so on.

First Aid Outfits

Mr. N. H. Keerthiratne (Kegalla): What is the position with regard to that?

The Chairman: It has been reduced from 45 per cent. to 17½ per cent.

Mr. Keerthiratne: Cannot you bring it down?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: You cannot bring it down further.

Furniture Polish

Mr. Dahanayake: What is the position with regard to that?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: It has been increased from 45 per cent. to 50 per cent.

Mr. Dahanayake: Why?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Because we can make the polish in Ceylon.

Dr. Perera: Where?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I know my clerk makes polish.

Mr. Dahanayake: We object to this decrease in the rate of furniture polish.

The Chairman: It has not been decreased, it has been increased by 5 per cent.

Mr. Dahanayake: The position certainly is that even the Government has started certain carpentry workshops and our object should be to make furniture polish available as cheap as possible.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: That has been done for the purpose of uniformity. The 5 per cent. increase makes no difference. There is a certain uniformity required in the Customs schedule.

Mr. Dahanayake: Uniformity should not be achieved at the expense of what the people need; otherwise, the carpenters will not be able to dispose of their goods.

Honey

Mr. Dahanayake: What have you done with regard to that?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We have made it more expensive and therefore sweeter.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: We can get any amount of honey in our jungles.

Mr. Dahanayake: I challenge the Minister to give us as much honey as the country needs.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: It is quite easy.

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: I will be able to get gallons of honey from Cheddikulam and give the hon. Member.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Representations were made to us by a large number of people who cultivate bees that they find it difficult to sell their honey. So we have brought it into line with jams and marmalades.

Infants and Invalids' Foods other than Milk Foods

Dr. Perera: What is the position with regard to infants' foods?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We have reduced the duty from 40 to 17½ per cent.

Jewellery and Trinket Boxes, &c.

Mr. Dahanayake: What about jewellery?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We have increased the duty.

Joss Sticks

Dr. Perera: What are joss sticks?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: They are 'handun kuru'. We have reduced it from 45 per cent. to 17½ per cent. as we find religious festivals are growing in popularity.

Lamps and Lanterns

5.15 P.M.

The Chairman: The rates for lamps and lanterns have been increased from 35 per cent. to 45 per cent.

Oil—Iron and Steel

The Chairman: The rates for oil—iron and steel, have been reduced from 35 per cent. to 30 per cent.

Machinery

The Chairman: The rate for machinery has been reduced from 27½ per cent. to 25 per cent.

Marukkolunthu

An Hon. Member: What are Marukkolunthu?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Those are decorative leaves which are worn by ladies.

Mr. Dahanayake: What have you done with them?

Medicinal herbs and other ingredients

Dr. Perera: Have the rates for these herbs and other ingredients been increased?

The Chairman: They have been reduced. The previous figure was 17½ per cent. The rate for Asaphoetida has also been reduced.

Metals

The Chairman: The rate for Metals has been reduced from 45 per cent. to 22½ per cent.

Door and Window Fittings, &c.

Dr. Perera: What about the rates for door and window fittings, shoot runners and tin foil?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: They have all been reduced to 27½ per cent., 22½ per cent. and 17½ per cent. respectively.

Wire Netting

The Chairman: The rate for wire netting has been reduced from 40 per cent. to 27½ per cent.

Zinc Sheets

The Hon. Mr. Jayewrdane: The rate for zinc sheets has been reduced from 45 per cent. to 17½ per cent.

Mops

Mr. Dahanayake: What about mops?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewrdane: The rate has been increased for mops.

Motor Cars

Mr. Dahanayake: Have the rates on motor cars been increased or reduced?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: The rates are the same as they were last year.

Nickel Silverware

Mr. Dahanayake: I want to know the position with regard to nickel silverware.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: The rate has been increased to 100 per cent.

Night Lights

Dr. Perera: What about these night lights?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: There is a slight increase, from 45 per cent. to 50 per cent.

Oakum

Dr. Perera: What is oakum used for?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: It is a sort of gum and is used in ship-building. We have decreased the rate. It is used for stopping leaks.

Office and Factory furniture

The Chairman: The general and preferential rates have been reduced to 27½ per cent and 17½ per cent respectively.

Office requisities

The Chairman: Office requisites have been rated lower than on the last occasion. The duty has been reduced from 45 per cent to 17½ per cent.

Oils, fats and greases

The Chairman: In the case of oils, fats and greases the rate is the same, namely, 45 per cent.

Mr. Keerthiratne: What about gingelly oil and groundnut oil?

The Chairman: They too stand at the same rate.

Painters' materials

The Chairman: Spirits have been reduced in rate from 35 per cent. to 27½ per cent.

Paper and manufactures thereof

Dr. Perera: What about account books?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: In the case of account books I am moving an increase in the rate because certain representations have been made to me. The rate came down when you split up the omnibus item. Representations have been made to me that during the war there was a big industry in this line; so we are increasing the rate to protect the local industry.

The Chairman: To how much?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: At page 43 of the Order Paper you will see that the duty is to be increased from 27½ per cent. to 60 per cent.

The Chairman: There is an increase for diaries also.

Mr. Dahanayake: Have you increased the duty on copy books and drawing books?

The Chairman: No. The rate is to be increased on account books.

Dr. Perera: There is no reason for this increase. Why cannot these books be produced at a competitive price? Why should there be this extra protection? Why cannot the books be produced at a price at which they can meet competition? If the rate is increased, you will merely be protecting the local manufacturers.

The Chairman: The duty on account books is to be increased to 60 per cent. It is the same increase in the case of diaries.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: They are all made in Ceylon.

Dr. Perera: Then our local manufacturers should be in a position to sell these books at competitive prices. Why is there to be this big increase to 60 per cent.? It would mean, in point of fact, that the price will be increased to that extent.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We will have to fix the price.

Mr. Dahanayake: What about copy books, drawing books, and so on?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Those that are made use of in schools will be given special exemption where the Director can satisfy himself that they come at lower rates.

The Chairman: Account books, diaries, and match labels are the only items on which rates are being increased.

Dr. Perera: The increase proposed is so high that since we have no control of the actual selling prices it will mean that the prices of the articles will be increased to that extent irrespective of the real need to do so. There must be a limit to the protection.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We have considered that question very carefully, both with the Collector of Customs, the people who make those articles and the Cabinet, and we feel that this is the increase that we should recommend to the House. Making the rate lower by five or ten per cent. might upset the whole position.

The Chairman: Match labels were rated at 100 per cent. in December last. We are now seeking to reduce it from 100 per cent. to 60 per cent.

Mr. Pakeman: In the case of diaries, does the Hon. Minister of Finance consider that the local printing industry will be able to produce the extremely elaborate and useful diaries like the Letts's diaries that are imported from abroad? If that can be done so much the better, but there is a very considerable variety of diaries which are imported and which are very useful for office purposes. If there is a genuine attempt made by the local printing trade to compete with the imported diaries, I have no objection to the rate being increased. But I was wondering whether the local trade can produce diaries similar to the many varieties of diaries imported at present.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I can show the hon. Appointed Member the Dinamina, Daily News and other diaries produced in Ceylon, which are as good

[Hon. Mr. Jayewardene.]

as any we can get in the world. I think the hon. Member for Galle has a big diary which is produced in Ceylon and which he uses.

Dr. Perera: What about exercise books and paper covers?

The Chairman: The rates for them have all been reduced. With regard to the account books, diaries match labels and so on, the rates have been increased.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move, in page XVII., line 14, Column III., to leave out "27½ per cent." and insert "60 per cent."

Question, that the figures proposed to be left out, stand part of the Schedule, put, and *negatived*.

Question, that those figures be there inserted, put, and agreed to.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move, in page XVII., line 20, Column III., to leave out "27½ per cent." and insert "60 per cent."

Question, that the figures proposed to be left out, stand part of the Schedule, put, and *negatived*.

Question, that those figures be there inserted, put, and agreed to.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move, in page XVII., line 25, to leave out all words and figures.

Question, that the words and figures proposed to be left out, stand part of the Schedule, put, and *negatived*.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move, in page XVII., line 30, Column III., to leave out "27½ per cent." and insert "60 per cent."

Question, that the figures proposed to be left out, stand part of the Schedule, put, and *negatived*.

Question, that those figures be there inserted, put, and agreed to.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move, in page XVIII., line 5, Column III., to leave out "27½ per cent." and insert "60 per cent."

Question, that the figures proposed to be left out, stand part of the Schedule, put, and *negatived*.

Question, that those figures be there inserted, put, and agreed to.

Press Copy Books

The Chairman: Are there any comments on this item?

Mr. Thambiayah: I wish to ask the Hon. Minister whether it is not possible for him to avoid the requirement of consignees having to prove to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs that certain types of goods are imported for specific purposes in order to have the lower rate of duty charged. The consignees experience a lot of difficulty in trying to prove this to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector. Both the Government officers and the importers have a lot of difficulty in this matter. If this could be avoided, and it is specifically stated that the duty on such-and-such paper will be a certain rate, I think you will avoid a lot of unnecessary harassing by the Customs officers as well as trouble to the importers.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We are trying to give protection to certain industries. We wanted to have a lower rate for paper used by the tea and rubber industries. But, unless the Collector of Customs is satisfied that the paper is imported for that purpose, we cannot give that lower rate, because, all sorts of importers will get down articles and sell them at the lower rate.

Mr. Thambiayah: That is why, I say, classify that paper.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: But the same paper is used for all sorts of things. It is used even to wrap sugar.

Mr. Thambiayah: So they will import the paper for wrapping sugar and use it for packing rubber.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: That is why the Customs have the right to find out from the importer what exactly is the use to which the paper imported will be put.

Mr. Thambiayah: I will tell you something about this difficulty where the *ad valorem* duty is concerned.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We cannot make a change today. But we are appointing a Tariff Board which will consider the matter.

Mr. Thambiayah: I am glad that a Tariff Board is being appointed because the consignees are having a lot of difficulties about the market price of articles.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We are appointing a Tariff Board and all these schedules will come under review.

I move, in page XVIII., line 13, Column III., to leave out "27½ per cent. and insert "60 per cent."

Question, that the figures proposed to be left out, stand part of the Schedule, put, and *negatived*.

Question, that those figures be there inserted, put, and agreed to.

Pearls

Mr. Subasinghe: Are the rates on pearls to be increased or are they to be decreased?

The Chairman: They are to be decreased.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: There are very few pearls in Ceylon. So we thought there was no objection to reducing the duty on pearls.

Mr. Subasinghe: I do not think the rate on pearls should be reduced.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: The hon. Member was talking of art. This is also a part of art.

Mr. Pakeman: The last item we dealt with was with regard to paper used for the lining of tea chests and so forth. I think printed labels for use in packing Ceylon produce for export comes next.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: May I explain? Pearls were largely used in the Tourist trade. But because of the high import duty, very few pearls were coming through normal channels. Smuggling was going on. So, when we

reduce the price of pearls, they will come in through normal channels and tourists will buy pearls; besides that, our Exchange trouble will also be solved.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: May I inquire till what time we may go on today? It is 5.30 p.m. now.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: We cannot finish the Business today.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: We can decide to go on for another hour or an hour and a half with the idea of finishing the work today.

5.30 P.M.

The Chairman: We go on till we finish.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: Today?

The Chairman: Yes, instead of meeting tomorrow.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: We shall finish by about seven tonight.

IMPORT DUTIES

Mr. Pakeman: There is one particular case to which I want to draw the attention of the Minister. Tea labels——

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: We passed all that.

Mr. Pakeman: We jumped straight from paper to pearls——

Mr. Dahanayake: How long do you propose to go on, Sir?

The Chairman: Till we finish this work.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: We shall finish in a couple of hours.

Mr. Dahanayake: Not likely.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: After this item, there is very little other Business left.

The Chairman: We need sit for only about two hours more.

Mr. Pakeman: I would draw the attention particularly of the Minister of Commerce and Trade to these tea labels. There are certain types of tea which are sent out in tins of varying weights: 1 lb. tin, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tin and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tin. These have very special labels, and most of them are made by one particular firm. These packets of tea with these labels have a very large sale in markets all over the world. The firm in question tried to get these particular labels printed locally, but so far they have been unable to do it. Local printers say that they have not yet got the type of machinery needed for making these labels. The firm which exports this tea would be very glad to have these labels made locally because it will be cheaper to do so, but they are not satisfied with the quality of the labels turned out locally.

A very large number of these packets of tea are sold all over the world, and the effect of this duty (60 per cent.) would be to raise the cost by 3 cents per lb. in the case of the lb. packets by 4 cents per lb. in the case of the half lb. packets, and by 7 cents per lb. in the case of the quarter lb. packets.

This particular type of label should be considered as something brought in for re-export. [Interruption]. The firm is prepared to use local labels if they can possibly get labels of the required quality, but so far they have not been able to get them.

I would suggest to the Minister that this item be worded as follows,—

“Printed labels and printed wrappers for use in packing Ceylon produce for export, except labels in use on packets of tea.”

I expect that it will be a year or two before the local printing industry is able to produce the kind of labels which are desired. For the present, although the firms have tried very hard, they have not been able to secure from any of the printing firms in Ceylon that type of label. The only thing they can do is to put the extra cost on the packets sold, which means that Ceylon tea will be slightly handicapped, to the extent of about seven cents per lb., in the markets of the world.

I hope the Minister of Finance will give that point very serious consideration. If those words are added, the item “Labels for use in packing tea”

could be introduced into this schedule at the same rate, that is 17½ per cent. That would be a very good thing for the export trade.

I admit that the duty on these labels has been increased in the interest of the local printing trade, but I would submit that it is very important that no handicap of this type should be put on the export of tea in order to encourage the local printing trade to a very small degree indeed. As soon as the local printing trade is able to produce this class of label, I am aware that the exporting firms in question would be glad to use them.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I shall reply at once to the suggestion made by the hon. Appointed Member (Mr. Pakeman).

This matter was carefully investigated, and one of our representatives went round to all the printing firms as well as the merchants who export tea.

Messrs. Leechman and Company and most of the other tea exporting firms use tea labels printed here. Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield do their own printing.

I am strongly of opinion that if you make any alteration in this 60 per cent. rate, most of the printing will go out of the hands of the people of Ceylon. Mr. Thomas of Colombo Apothecaries is definitely of opinion that local printers, with the facilities they have now, could turn out as good labels as any that have been imported. The only difficulty was the poor quality of paper coming out now. We are making arrangements with the Controller of Exchange to get better paper—

Mr. Pakeman: What about colour printing?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: The local firms are doing a lot of colour printing for match labels, and so on. Mr. Thomas was strongly of opinion that any kind of printed paper should have a high protective duty placed on it. Messrs. Liptons obtain over 50 per cent. of their labels locally. Even the balance can be obtained in Ceylon.

After careful consideration we have lowered the duty from 100 per cent. to 60 per cent. We are not prepared to lower it any further.

The Chairman: There is an Amendment—

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: The reason why we lowered it was that there was an "omnibus" item, and when that was split up, the rate of duty on this item went down to 17½ per cent. On representations received, we made it 60 per cent.

The Chairman: Instead of 17½ per cent., you move that it be 60 per cent?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Yes. I move, in page XVIII., lines 14/15, Column III. to leave out "17½ per cent." and insert "60 per cent."

Question, that the figures proposed to be left out, stand part of the Schedule, put, and *negatived*.

Question, that those figures be there inserted, put, and agreed to.

Precious and semi-precious stones except Ceylon stones and diamonds

Dr. Perera: The duty on diamonds must be increased.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: The reason for this reduction is that we make money from the tourists who purchase these stones. The Minister of Commerce and Trade will confirm that. These are small articles which can easily be smuggled into the country. When we put a high protective duty, all sorts of smuggling goes on, no duty is paid, and tourists buy the smuggled stones without any benefit to this country.

Dr. Perera: Smuggling will go on in any case. The people who buy these diamonds can well afford to pay the higher duty—[*Interruption*—the ladies can afford to pay more.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: The Eksath Kantha Peramuna ladies will not pay!

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: These diamonds do not compete with local stones because we do not produce diamonds. Tourists buy the imported diamond. The duty has been reduced from 50 per cent. to 25 per cent.

Mr. Keerthiratne: It will help the traders also.

The Chairman: The duty on diamonds has not been increased, but reduced?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Reduced.

Dr. Perera: Our complaint is that the duty is not high enough.

Toy balloons

Mr. Dahanayake: What have you done in the case of toy balloons?

The Chairman: Increased the duty from 40 per cent. to 60 per cent.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Reduced?

The Chairman: The duty on toy balloons has been increased.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: On teats there is a reduction.

Mr. Dahanayake: I do not know why the Minister has increased the duty on toy balloons.

The Hon. Mr. C. Sittampalam (Minister of Posts and Telecommunication, and Industries, Industrial Research and Fisheries): We make toy balloons here.

Mr. Dahanayake: A firm here that makes toy balloons turns them out in such a wretched state that the children who blow them fall sick. You propose to encourage this industry in Ceylon at the expense of the children. When you raise the duty on imported balloons, wealthier people can still afford to buy the imported article for their children, but the poor child demands a cheap and good balloon—

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: It is not the fault of the toy balloons made locally—

Mr. Dahanayake: You should not increase the duty on imported toy balloons. By doing that you are merely helping the capitalist firm, Richard Pieris and Co., who are exploiting the people—

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: There are rubber balloon makers in my own electorate—"small" men, a number of whom gave evidence against me in the election inquiry. They cannot therefore be classed as my men.

[Hon. Mr. Jayewardene.]

If the children who blow these toy balloons fall ill, it is not the fault of the balloons: it is due to the way they blow the balloons. I used to blow balloons myself—

Mr. Dahanayake: Do you expect the child to use an inflator on the balloons? He has to blow it himself.

Dr. Perera: This bears out my contention that by giving protection without taking into account other considerations, you are encouraging the local people to produce inferior goods.

The Hon. Mr. Sittampalam: You want the local industries to close down, and create unemployment?

Dr. Perera: There are other aspects to be taken into consideration: we must see to it that the quality of the articles produced is improved.

The Hon. Mr. Sittampalam: We will do that.

Mr. Dahanayake: This is a very serious matter. You want to make the children of the poor sick. There is a very large sale of these toy balloons.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: What is the illness that the children suffer from?

Mr. Dahanayake: Wealthy people do not know anything about the illnesses of the poor children. Your children never fall sick.

Mr. Keerthiratne: The toy balloons made in Ceylon are so thick that the fathers and mothers of these children have to blow the balloons for their children!

Sago

Mr. Dahanayake: I want to speak on the duty on sago—

The Chairman: There is a large reduction in that.

Spectacles—mountings, frame parts and cases for

Mr. Dahanayake: I want to ask a question about the duty on spectacles.

The Chairman: There is a reduction from 45 per cent. to 17½ per cent.

Mr. Dahanayake: You have reduced the duty?

The Chairman: Yes.

Stencils, not elsewhere specified

Mr. Dahanayake: You are providing for stencils without the brushes.

5.45 P.M.

Propelling pencils and parts thereof

The Chairman: There is an increase from 45 to 50 per cent.

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: We do not want an increase on all pencils.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: There is a reduction.

The Chairman: Except silver and gold pencils.

Textiles and manufactures of textile materials

Mr. Keerthiratne: Has the duty on handloom towels and towelling been reduced?

The Chairman: From 100 to 50 per cent.

Mr. Keerthiratne: It should be increased. There is a local industry in handloom towels and towelling.

Silk Waste

The Chairman: There is an increase from 15 to 60 per cent.

Tortoise shells

Mr. Dahanayake: May I know the position about tortoise shells?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Tortoise shells come from the Maldives and Aden and invoices are never produced. Therefore, we have changed it from the *ad valorem* to a rated basis. We have not really changed the rate.

Mr. Dahanayake: I would like to make a plea for the reduction in the rate because there are at least 5,000 families in Galle who are engaged in the tortoise

shell trade and they want the raw material fairly cheap. I know that the people in this trade went in deputation to the Hon. Minister for Trade, and he gave them an assurance that he would do his utmost to foster this trade. The tortoise shell trade in Ceylon is an age-long one. I think the Hon. Minister will agree that the work turned out by these people is better, if not similar, to that turned out in any part of the world. So the industry today is not in a very sound position, and it needs to be protected. I hope the Hon. Minister will keep these points in mind when the Tariff Board begins to operate.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: All right.

Towels and towelling and Treated flax canvas

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move, in page XXIII, after line 5, to insert:

(Column I.)	(Column II.)	(Column III.)
" Towels and towelling (except Turkish towels and towelling) not elsewhere specified "	— ...	" 60% "
" Treated flax canvas " ...	— ...	" 17½% "

Question, that those words and figures be there inserted, put, and agreed to.

Typewriters and parts thereof, etc.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move, in page XXIII, after line 21, to insert:

(Column I.)	(Column II.)	(Column III.)
" Typewriters and parts thereof including ribbons "	" 17½% " ...	" 22½% "

Question, that those words and figures be there inserted, put, and agreed to.

Cotton towels

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move, in page XXIV, after line 12, to insert:

(Column I.)	(Column II.)	(Column III.)
" Cotton towels "	... — ...	" 15% "

Question, that those words and figures be there inserted, put, and agreed to.

Electroplated ware other than gold and silverplated ware

Major J. W. Oldfield (Appointed Member): Under this heading I like some information from the Hon. Minister. I am not quite certain as to what the difference is between electroplated ware and silverplated ware. I think it is one and the same thing.

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: No.

Major Oldfield: Plated ware is a result of something done by electrical process and a large quantity of material which is imported by hotels and rest-houses is no less than plated ware. It would be enough if you say "Except electroplated ware other than gold and silver". The bulk of the so-called silverware is nothing but electroplated material.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I will place this question before the Tariff Board when it is appointed. Leave it to them.

Major Oldfield: May I ask when the Tariff Board is to function?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Within two or three months.

Mr. Wilmot A. Perera: Silverplated ware is more expensive.

The Chairman: There is a difference between electroplated ware and silverplated ware.

Major Oldfield: I am asking whether anyone can give me information about the difference.

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: One is a chemical deposit, the other is a sheet which is fixed on to the basic metal.

Major Oldfield: That is silverplated ware.

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: Electroplated.

Major Oldfield: Silverplate is a chemical deposit.

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: Not necessarily. There can be silverplating without a deposit.

Mr. Pakeman: Why do you say "Electroplated ware other than silver"?

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: In the case of goldplated ware there can be deposits by electrolysis. In the other case you use a gold sheet on the top of the basic sheet.

Mr. Dahanayake: Are you sure what it is?

Mr. Pakeman: I ask the Hon. Minister of Finance whether the ordinary silverplated articles which arrive—this was referred to by the Appointed Member (Major Oldfield)—and which are called silverplated ware will be imported under this duty of 27½ per cent. It is really a matter of direction to the Principal Collector of Customs. If the Hon. Minister of Finance would see to that, he would rectify what is now a flat rate.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I will refer it to the Tariff Board.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move that the Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Schedule reported, with Amendments.

Motion, as amended, put, and agreed to.

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION: SALARIES, &c.

5.54 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move, "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Two hundred and eighty thousand five hundred and seventy-two be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 51, Provincial Administration.

Vote No. 1.—Salaries and expenses of the offices of the Government Agents and Assistant Government Agents	Rs.
	... 280,572."

The original estimate was for a sum of Rs. 9,966,050. There were two cuts of 17½ per cent. From returns received from the Revenue Officers it has been

found impracticable to give effect to the cuts. This sum of money is needed for the financial year, 1948-49.

Mr. K. V. D. Sugathadasa (Weli-mada): I should like to know whether there is an increase of salaries involved in this.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: It is really due to the rise in the cost of living.

Question put, and agreed to.

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION: SALARIES AND EXPENSES, &c.

5.55 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Fifty thousand be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 51, Provincial Administration.

Vote No. 1.—Salaries and expenses of the offices of the Government Agents and Assistant Government Agents	Rs.
	... 50,000."

This money is required for the celebrations in connexion with the restoration of Maiyangana Chaitiya to be held on the 17th and 18th September, 1948. About 100,000 pilgrims are expected to come, and there was no money under the Head to meet the necessary expenses. The sum of Rs. 50,000 is necessary for that purpose.

Mr. J. C. T. Kotalawela: For U.N.P. propaganda.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: The hon. Member says that this is for U.N.P. propaganda. I do not know that the Gautama Buddha was ever a member of the U.N.P.

An Hon. Member: You are trying to make him one!

Mr. J. C. T. Kotalawela: I may mention that this is an attempt to carry on propaganda. As it is, propaganda is being carried on.

Mr. Speaker: Those remarks are quite irrelevant.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: There is not a single Member of the U.N.P. there.

Mr. J. C. T. Kotalawela: The agents are there.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: This is useful propaganda. We can say the hon. Member opposed this Vote.

Question put, and agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF PRISONS AND PROBATION: SALARIES, &c.

5.57 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Eighty-five thousand be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning from the 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 54, Department of Prisons and Probation.

Rs.

Vote No. 1.—Salaries and expenses of the Department of Prisons and Probation including grants in aid ... 85,000."

This sum of money is required for the Prisons and Probation Department. There have been repeated breakdowns in the engines and other machines used in the industrial workshops. A certain amount of machinery has been ordered and is expected. That machinery will arrive before the end of the financial year. This money is required to pay for these machines.

Question put, and agreed to.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL: SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF DEPARTMENT

5.58 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Seventy-four thousand nine hundred and sixty-six be payable out of the Consolidated Fund, for the service of the financial year

beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 58, Registrar-General.

Rs.

Vote No. 1.—Salaries and expenses of the Department of the Registrar-General including cost of administering the Muslim Marriage Ordinance and Notarial Examination ... 74,966."

The Department of the Registrar-General tried its best by rigid economy to keep within the expenditure even after the cut was imposed. But finding it impossible to do so it is asking for supplementary provision.

Dr. Perera: This is for the restoration of the cut.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Partial restoration.

Dr. Perera: What is the other one?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: That is all.

Dr. Perera: Is there any fresh expenditure?

Gate Mudaliyar M. S. Kariapper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Home Affairs and Rural Development): No.

Question put, and agreed to.

ARRACK, PURCHASE, &c.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Eighty thousand be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 52, Excise Department.

Rs.

Vote No. 2.—Purchase, transport, storage and bottling of arrack ... 80,000."

Question put, and agreed to.

GOVERNMENT STORES DEPARTMENT: NEW BUILDINGS

5.59 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move,

"That in terms of section 6 of the Public Works Loan (1937) Ordinance (Cap. 285), it is hereby resolved that this House authorises

[Hon. Mr. Jayewardene.]

the expenditure, out of the moneys raised under the authority of that Ordinance, of a sum not exceeding Rs. 730,000 from the sum of Rs. 1,250,000 specified in the second column of the Schedule to that Ordinance and appropriated thereby for "New Buildings for the Government Stores Department", a purpose mentioned as item 3 in the first column of that Schedule."

Hon. Members made a point in the Budget Debate that the Government Stores employees were working under rather difficult conditions. We are now remedying that. This money is voted under Loan Fund Expenditure for putting up stores in McCallum road.

Dr. Perera: Can you finish the buildings within the time?

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: If there are no strikes, we can do so.

Dr. Perera: Are you going to make a start this year?

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: The P.W.D. is very active.

Dr. Perera: Tell me another story.

Question put, and agreed to.

PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

6.0 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Eleven thousand (Rs. 11,000) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 22, Pensions.

Vote No. 1.—Pensions and Gra-	Rs.
tuities	... 11,000."

Dr. Perera: I am very glad to accede to this request, only I would like it to be extended to a number of other labourers. This, I think, refers to the special gratuity to be given to the men of the Rubber Commissioner's Department. Might I urge that the same consideration be given to a number of other men. The Hon. Minister of Industries is not here—

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: This is for a special purpose.

Dr. Perera: I do not know why you should make this distinction between these people and other people whom you are retrenching. Surely, the other workers ought to be treated in the same way—the workers of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment and the Leather Factory who are being sent away after four or five years' service?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: The rubber industry has been carried on for the British Government, and this concession was given not only to these men, but even to the monthly-paid people. We are continuing this system.

Mr. Dahanayake: In the Rubber Commissioner's Department?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Yes.

Mr. Dahanayake: We ask you, "Why don't you apply the same principle to people of other Government Departments?"

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Because we give other concessions. [Interruption]. Is it that you do not want this to be given?

Dr. Perera: No, we want it extended.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: No. We have only got this particular matter before the House.

Dr. Perera: This attitude of the Hon. Prime Minister is very unreasonable.

Question put, and agreed to.

MOTOR REGULATIONS

6.03 P.M.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move,
"That the Regulations for the area comprised within the administrative limits of the Urban Council, Gampola, made by the Minister of Transport and Works under sections 82 and 174 of the Motor Car Ordinance, No. 45 of 1938, (as modified by the Proclamation under section 88 (1) of the Ceylon (Constitution) Order in Council, 1946, published in *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 9,773 of September 24, 1947) which was presented on September 2, 1948, be approved."

Dr. Perera: What do these Regulations cover?

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: These Regulations are for prohibiting lorries on the recreation grounds within the administrative limits of the Urban Council of Gampola.

Question put, and agreed to.

6.04 P.M.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move,

"That the Regulations for the area comprised within the administrative limits of the Municipal Council of Colombo, made by the Minister of Transport and Works under sections 82 and 174 of the Motor Car Ordinance, No. 45 of 1938, (as modified by the Proclamation under section 88 (1) of the Ceylon (Constitution) Order in Council, 1946, published in *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 9,773 of September 24, 1947) which were presented on September 2, 1948, be approved."

These Regulations are framed under the same sections of the Motor Car Ordinance for one-way traffic on the highways mentioned in the Regulations. These are framed at the instance of the Colombo Municipal Council.

Question put, and agreed to.

LOSS ON RAILWAY WORKING

6.05 P.M.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Eighteen million (Rs. 18,000,000) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

	Rs.
New Head 154—Loss on Railway Working, 1947-48.	
Vote No. 1	... 18,000,000."

Mr. Dahanayake: Will the Hon. Minister please explain the implications of this.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: It is useless shedding tears over this, Sir. These are things that happen.

Mr. Dahanayake: The subject of Railway losses has become a joke with the Ministers.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: Of course, it is.

Mr. Dahanayake: To us on this side of the House it is a very serious matter indeed. I will not go into the question of the general principles that an enlightened Government should pursue on the question of transport. I will not weary the House by reiterating the remarks that were made by several Members during the Committee stage of the Budget when it was urged that the best method of stemming the rot that was setting in was the unification of the transport system in this country.

Mr. Speaker: This matter was discussed fully then.

Mr. Dahanayake: I will not weary the House with those details.

Mr. Speaker: May I remind the hon. Member that this very deficit of Rs. 18,000,000—

Mr. Dahanayake: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Oh, yes. It was mentioned by the Hon. Minister, and in explaining it, he said that he would be coming before the House with a Supplementary Vote for the deficit of Rs. 18,000,000.

The Hon. Mr. A. Ratnayake (Minister of Food and Co-operative Undertakings): It was fully debated.

Dr. Perera: We are not going to debate it fully again.

Mr. Dahanayake: Are we prepared to give the Hon. Minister this money without any discussion?

Mr. Speaker: I say the matter was discussed.

Mr. Dahanayake: The entire field was not canvassed.

Mr. Speaker: This particular vote was canvassed. Rs. 18,000,000, he said, was the loss. He explained the position to the House.

An Hon. Member: That was at about 8 o'clock in the evening.

Mr. Dahanayake: I am not satisfied with the explanation which the Hon. Minister gave. It is a matter of the

[Mr. Dahanayake.]
 gravest concern to all of us. That concern turns to anxiety when we discern the fact that the estimated revenue of the Railway has been reduced. I understand that the original estimate of the income from the Railway was Rs. 55,000,000, and the revised estimate is Rs. 51,000,000.

Mr. Speaker: All this was discussed. I must bring to the hon. Member's notice that this very matter was discussed.

Mr. Dahanayake: But new material can be brought up.

Mr. Speaker: There is no new material. It was the same item that was discussed and accepted. Hon. Members criticized this very item.

Mr. Dahanayake: If you will pardon my saying so, we are called upon to pay Rs. 18,000,000, to give a supply of Rs. 18,000,000, on account of Railway losses. I hope, Sir, I am correct in saying that we are entitled to adduce new arguments and to raise new points.

Mr. Speaker: By all means.

Mr. Dahanayake: And help the Government to get over the present mess they find themselves in.

Mr. Speaker: If the arguments are new, I will allow them, but not if they are the same arguments that were adduced before.

Mr. Dahanayake: You can take it from me, Sir, that I will not repeat the same arguments.

Mr. Speaker: I will listen to the hon. Member, and if they are new arguments I will allow them, not if they are stale.

Mr. Dahanayake: I know, Sir, one of the most stale things in Ceylon is the Ceylon Government Railway. If you want to know how stale the Ceylon Government Railway is, you have only got to travel in one of the railway compartments.

The point that I was raising was that the original estimate of revenue has been reduced by Rs. 4,000,000, and I ask the

Hon. Minister to give us details, under what different Sub-heads the decrease has occurred. I ask the Hon. Minister to tell us what was the decrease, for instance, in the takings from the first and second class passengers. I believe I am correct in saying that when the Hon. Minister and his advisers increased the first and second class fares a couple of months ago—

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Not the third.

Mr. Dahanayake:—it was their intention to help the financial position of the railway. But what really happened I believe was that there was a very big drop in the takings from the first and second class passengers. Correspondingly, the Minister expected a rise in the takings from the third class passengers. That expectation was never realized. I know from personal knowledge that when the train fares were raised, a large number of those who travelled in the third class compartments gave up railway travelling altogether and took to bus travelling; just a few resorted to travelling in the third class. Now, the Hon. Minister and his advisers increased the train fares with a view to helping the financial position of the Railway, but what really happened was that the Minister and his advisers helped the busmen of this country. I suppose that is an illustration of the "efficient socialism", which the Hon. Minister is never weary of preaching to the people.

I say that if the Minister wants good management in the day-to-day working of the Railway, he must look at the question from the passenger's angle. But that is the one thing he is unable to do. I say, as one who is fond of travelling, fond of travelling in the crowded third class compartments, that the best plan for him under the present circumstances would be to abolish all classes in the railway altogether. Or, let us have an upper and lower class alone. If you have only two classes, you will be able to use up the space you have today to greater advantage than you are doing today. A third class compartment today is another name for a tin of sardines. Second class compartments, on the other hand, are sometimes as empty as vacant spaces. I say that you must convert all second and third class compartments

into a general class, and you must tidy up the compartments as quickly as possible. That would be the way to avert financial loss in the day-to-day working of the railway.

6.13 P.M.

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: There is one new aspect of this question which I would like to place before the Hon. Minister in the light of new developments. When we urged as an alternative, in the face of this developing loss, the nationalization of transport and the unification of the system of transport, the Hon. Minister, as an alternative, placed before this House, a plan of his own, a system whereby he said—

Mr. Speaker: That was also mentioned in the House before.

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: But I am coming on to a new argument.

Mr. Speaker: Then come to the new argument.

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: In the light of the new information we have, that alternative plan is this—

Mr. Speaker: That also has been mentioned in the House.

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: I am only asking the Minister, in view of the fact that that alternative plan—

Mr. Speaker: I must call the hon. Member to Order. All this is what took place in the House before, a repetition of what took place a few weeks ago. If the hon. Member will say something new, as the hon. Member for Galle did, I will allow it, but if the Member is going to repeat what was stated in the Budget Debate, I will not allow it.

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: I will only direct one question to the Hon. Minister. In view of the failure of his alternative plan, has he a new plan for the future?

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: Yes, Sir, I have.

6.14 P.M.

Dr. Perera: May I ask a question. You will find in the Observations provided to us the Hon. Minister says that the decrease in the revenue was due to two or three causes; that is, traffic dislocation due to damage by the last floods—

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: The cost of petrol, the cost of coal and everything else.

Dr. Perera: No, there were two or three specific causes given. Against this shortfall, he says he expects an increase in revenue. I want to know why the expected increase has not been included. Just as much as the expected loss has been calculated, why was not the expected increase, as a result of the increased fares and rates which came into effect in February 1948, not calculated? If the Department is capable of working out the loss, I cannot understand why it cannot work out for the same period the expected increase of revenue. Then the House will be in a better position to judge what the actual loss is. But here account has not been taken of the expected increase.

Mr. Wilmot A. Perera: At present very large sums of money are being paid out as overtime to Station Masters and others. Would it not be possible to have double shifts?

6.15 P.M.

Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: It will be rather difficult for me to reply without using the same arguments as I used in the past, although the hon. Member for Galle has been clever enough to use the same arguments in different words. For instance, he said that the third class compartments were more patronized than the others. That is perfectly true, because even though the hon. Member is given a first class ticket he prefers to travel third.

Mr. Dahanayake: Otherwise how would I know how your Railway is being run?

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: The result is that there is one more in a tin of sardines. If the hon. Member would

[Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala.]

only travel in the Railway in the class that is assigned to him, I am sure there will not be all this trouble with the Railway.

The shortfall of Rs. 4,000,000 between the estimated revenue of Rs. 55,000,000, as appearing in the printed Estimates, and the anticipated revenue of Rs. 51,000,000 was due to two reasons. One was, owing to traffic dislocation due to damage to the permanent way, we lost a lot of money by reason of the fact that a large number of people were deprived of the opportunity of going to Kandy and other places. The other was that there was a drop in the South Indian traffic due to import restrictions.

Then, there is an increase of Rs. 500,000 between the estimated expenditure as appearing in the printed Estimates and the revised expenditure which is due to the large amount that we have to pay, as hon. Members know, for the different services such as overtime and other expenditure.

Hon. Members asked me just now about overtime. As you know it takes a certain amount of time to train people to become guards, drivers, station masters, and so forth. If we employed one man to do the job of three men and also paid him overtime for the work he did, it will not be more expensive at the end. But we are not going to do that. We are going to employ more people because it will give more employment. It will be a little more expensive, but it is far better to have that system than the system that is now in force. At the moment people have been recruited and are being trained. We cannot recruit any more people because there is no place where we could train them. So, as people who are being trained now get absorbed into the service, others will be taken on in their places.

Now hon. Members spoke of a new plan by which the Railway could be made to pay, that is, to nationalize the bus service. My suggestion is that, instead of doing that, if we credit the bus licence fees to revenue we will be able to make the Railway a paying concern.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member for Dehiowita wants to know whether the Hon. Minister has any new scheme.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: Unfortunately, Sir, the papers call it a scheme of "window-dressing". At the moment we are getting all our trains re-conditioned and we are making a genuine effort to get back to the Railway its lost patrons. The hon. Member for Galle himself said the other day that when he got into a compartment of the train he found it to be in the most beautiful condition.

Mr. Dahanayake: One compartment was clean and 25 were dirty.

Dr. Perera: The Hon. Minister did not answer my question. The estimated income is supposed to be Rs. 51,000,000 but that does not include the anticipated increase in the revenue as a result of the increased fares and rates. So what is the actual increase that you expect on the anticipated increase in revenue? You have calculated the loss but you have not calculated the increase of revenue you hope to get from the increased fares and rates.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: When we raised our fares and rates we anticipated a certain increase, I believe, in the neighbourhood of Rs. 7,000,000 or Rs. 8,000,000. But that did not materialise at that time owing to the floods which damaged the permanent way at one place, and also owing to the import restrictions which brought about a drop in the South Indian traffic.

I admit that quite a large number of people travel third class while others travel second. But as everyone knows every man naturally looks after his pocket and we were thoughtful enough at that time not to raise the third class fares because we did not want to touch the pockets of those people who cannot help but travel third class. Season ticket holders too were given the opportunity of travelling third class instead of second.

Dr. Perera: Might I just point this out?

Mr. Speaker: We are not in Committee.

Dr. Perera: I am only trying to get a reply to a simple question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether the Minister could have foreseen what the losses and what the gains were going to be?

Dr. Perera: The actual revenue he expects to realise as a result of the increased fares and rates.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: Rs. 18,000,000 is the difference.

Dr. Perera: No, in addition to that.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: Sir, supplementary provision of Rs. 18,000,000 is required to meet the resulting loss on the working of the Railway this year.

Mr. Speaker: Even next year too the Hon. Minister anticipates a loss.

Question put, and agreed to.

WIDENING COLOMBO-GALLE ROAD

6.21 P.M.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees One hundred and fifty thousand (Rs. 150,000) be payable by way of advance out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head: Part IV.—Loan Fund Expenditure.

	Rs.
Item 123.—Widening Colombo-Galle Road	... 150,000."

This is for the purpose of employing a large number of people on the widening of the Colombo-Galle road.

Mr. Dahanayake: May I know how many unemployed people were put on to work on the widening of the Colombo-Galle road?

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: Over 200 people.

Mr. Dahanayake: Does the Hon. Minister think that that is going to solve the unemployment problem?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: That is not going to solve the unemployment problem. The solution is to get money from this House to pay these people.

Question put, and agreed to.

NEW BRIDGE OVER THE KELANI GANGA

6.22 P.M.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Two hundred and twenty five thousand (Rs. 225,000) be payable by way of advance out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head: Part IV.—Loan Fund Expenditure.

	Rs.
Item 125.—New Bridge over the Kelani Ganga	... 225,000."

This is also for the same purpose, that is, in other words, we want to engage more people.

Question put, and agreed to.

FISHERY HARBOUR, PASSAYOOR

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Fourteen thousand five hundred (Rs. 14,500) be payable by way of advance out of the Consolidated Fund, for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head: Part IV.—Loan Fund Expenditure.

	Rs.
New Item: Fishery Harbour, Passayoor	... 14,500."

This is also for a similar purpose. The work has to be carried out from Loan Funds as there are no savings available under any Vote.

Question put, and agreed to.

AKURESSA-DEDIYAGALA ROAD

6.24 P.M.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Eighteen thousand seven hundred and thirty-seven (Rs. 18,737) be payable by way of advance out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head: Part IV.—Loan Fund Expenditure.

	Rs.
New Item: Akuressa-Dediyagala Road	... 18,737."

[Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala.]

This is an advance from the Consolidated Fund pending charge to Loan to complete the work on the Akuressa-Dediyagala road.

Question put, and agreed to.

KANNELIYA SERVICE ROAD

6.24 P.M.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Five thousand (Rs. 5,000) be payable by way of advance out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head: Part IV.—Loan Fund Expenditure.

	Rs.
New Item: Kanneliya Service Road	5,000."

This is also similar to the previous one. It is an advance from revenue pending charge to Loan to continue work in connection with the construction of the Kanneliya Service road.

Dr. Perera: There is only one point I would like to mention. The Minister in his Observations says that the increase was mainly due to the following reasons. It is stated that it was then intended to provide only a culvert at this spot—

"The necessity of providing a bridge over Donchige ela for which no provision was made in the original estimate as it was then intended to provide only a culvert at this spot."

The Minister has now completely changed his plans and come before this House. He must justify the change of plan.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: We learn as we go on, Sir.

Question put, and agreed to.

RENEWAL OF LOCOMOTIVE BOILERS, &c.

6.25 P.M.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move,

"That this House authorizes, under section 3 (1) of the Financial Reserves Ordinance, No. 16 of 1944, the expenditure of a sum of Rs. 5,820,000 from the special reserve known

as the Railway Deferred Maintenance Reserve, on the following works:—

- (1) Arrears of Renewal of Locomotive Boilers.
- (2) Arrears of Renewal of Locomotives.
- (3) Arrears of Renewal of Rolling Stock.
- (4) Arrears of Maintenance (Permanent Way, Bridges, Signalling and Buildings)."

This is for the expenditure of a sum of Rs. 5,820,000 from the special reserve known as the Railway Deferred Maintenance Reserve on works such as renewal of locomotive boilers, locomotives, etc.

Dr. Perera: We are entitled to know something about this Railway Deferred Maintenance Reserve. What is the total amount left in this Reserve?

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: A sum of Rs. 23,000,000 was voted to this Railway Deferred Maintenance Reserve, and we keep on drawing from this Reserve as we require, because maintenance work was not done during the war.

Question put, and agreed to.

P.W.D.: MAINTENANCE OF ROADS, BRIDGES, WATERWAYS, &c.

6.26 P.M.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees One million five hundred thousand (Rs. 1,500,000) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 147, Public Works Department.

Vote No. 2.—Cost of maintenance of roads, bridges, waterways, watercraft, aerodromes, Government and rented buildings and other public works including cost of general charges, Government Factory, preliminary investigations, Transport and incidental and special services and grants in aid to local authorities, Road Committees for roads and other special grants ...	Rs. 1,500,000."
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This is for flood damages. At the time this amount was included in the Budget there was no idea as to what the total cost of the damage would be. We did not know, for a matter of that, when the floods would come.

Question put, and agreed to.

P.W.D.: COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE

6.27 P.M.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Seven hundred and fifty thousand (Rs. 750,000) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head 147, Public Works Department.

Rs.

Vote No. 2.—Cost of Maintenance of roads, bridges waterways, watercraft, aerodromes, Government and rented buildings, and other Public Works including cost of general charges, Government Factory, preliminary investigations, transport and incidental and special services and Grants-in-aid to Local Authorities, Road Committees for roads and other special grants 750,000."

This sum of Rs. 750,000 is required to meet the Cost of Living Allowance.

Dr. Perera: Is it only the Cost of Living Allowance?

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: Yes.

Question put, and agreed to.

WORKING EXPENSES OF ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

6.28 P.M.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees One million four hundred and seven thousand six hundred and twenty-eight (Rs. 1,407,628) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum

may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Part III.—Electrical Undertakings.

Rs.

Vote No. 1.—Working expenses of the Department ... 1,407,628."

This is to meet the working expenses of the Electrical Department. This amount of money is required as fuel, oil, and other things have gone up in price. Actually we have not lost any thing, because we have increased the charges for electricity.

Question put, and agreed to.

NEW COURT HOUSES AT KALUTARA, PANADURA, GAMPAHA AND MOUNT LAVINIA

6.29 P.M.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Eighty thousand and thirty (Rs. 80,030) be payable by way of advance out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head: Part IV.—Loan Fund Expenditure.

Rs.

Item 12.—New Court-houses at Kalutara, Panadura, Gampaha and Mount Lavinia ... 80,030."

This Supplementary Estimate is necessary for the construction of new Court-houses at Kalutara, Panadura, Gampaha and Mount Lavinia. A start has already been made with these buildings and it is necessary that the work should be expedited. It is for that purpose that this sum of money is required.

Question put, and agreed to.

REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS TO "SRAVASTI"

6.30 P.M.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Fifty thousand (Rs. 50,000) be payable by way of advance out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Head: Part IV.—Loan Fund Expenditure.

Rs.

Item 129.—Repairs and alterations to "Sravasti" ... 50,000."

[Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala.]

This Supplementary Estimate has been brought up at the special request of the hon. Member for Galle—

Mr. Dahanayake: Not at all.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala:—to make some of the Members more comfortable.

6.31 P.M.

Mr. Dahanayake: I rise to oppose this Supplementary Estimate. This was never initiated at the special request of the hon. Member for Galle, I can assure hon. Members.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: For the benefit of hon. Members.

Mr. Dahanayake: The Hon. Minister will remember that I originally proposed that "Sravasti" should be taken over by Government for a more useful purpose than as a hostel for Members of Parliament. I suggested that it should be used as a Children's Hospital, and I am still of that view.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: Old men's hospital.

Mr. Dahanayake: I will explain to hon. Members, if they will have a little patience at this late hour, why I oppose this Vote. The original estimate for repairs to "Sravasti" was a lakh of rupees.

Mr. Speaker: There was no estimate. The sum asked for was Rs. 137,000, and out of that Rs. 37,000 was cut out and only a lakh was given.

Mr. Dahanayake: Now they need another Rs. 50,000. I want to put a plain question before Government. The accommodation that is available at "Sravasti" is for about 50 guests.

Mr. Speaker: Thirty-seven.

Mr. Dahanayake: No, Sir. According to my judgment, it can house about 50 guests. The highest number that it had

housed last month—last month could have been considered the peak period—was only about 30 persons. I ask whether the Government is justified in maintaining an institution that can house just 30 or 40 guests. Is it not throwing away money on that venture? I do not say that you have thrown money away on the purchase and the re-modelling of "Sravasti", but I do say that, if you persist in using this building as a hostel for M.Ps, you ought to see that all the available space is used up.

When we adjourn Parliament today or tomorrow for two and a half months, you will probably have only two guests staying at "Sravasti". Therefore, I say that in view of the fact that we have spent such a large sum of money on the purchase of the building and also such large sums of money on re-modelling it, it should be used for a better and more profitable purpose. It should be used for a worthier purpose, particularly, at a time when there is congestion in our hospitals, in our slums and so on, and when the value of space and rooms has risen up very much indeed. For those reasons I am sorry that I am unable to support this Motion.

Dr. Perera: We have consistently opposed the use of "Sravasti" as a hostel for M.Ps.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: You are not occupying the building?

Dr. Perera: No.

Mr. Dahanayake: The Government is exploiting the position.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: What about you?

Dr. Perera: I do not think it was mentioned even in the last Budget Debate that it was going to cost the Government about two lakhs of rupees for this purpose. Does this not amount to an extra two lakhs for the full repairs?

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: No, it only amounts to Rs. 50,000.

Dr. Perera: The total cost is Rs. 150,000. I am, on principle, opposed to this vote.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: There is one point which I should like to stress. That is that "Sravasti" is not a place out of which we can make money. It is a convenience for hon. Members who have been sent to represent the country in this House. If we are to make money on every venture, or on every undertaking, we might as well sell tickets for our galleries here. We do not do that because money is not the only consideration. We must have a place which is sufficiently worthy of the representatives of this country; we cannot force people to go and stay at "Sravasti"; we know that the hon. Member for Ruwanwella, on principle, does not wish to associate himself with anybody else except himself.

Dr. Perera: That is not what I stated.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: Perhaps the hon. Member has a better place to stay in than "Sravasti". He is one of those lucky persons.

The hon. Member for Galle, if I remember right, made a speech at "Sravasti" the other day and said that the amenities there were not sufficient. I may say, in fairness to him, that that was an after-dinner speech that he made. But, he also wanted a lift in the building to take him upstairs.

Mr. Dahanayake: The one thing that was needed you have not provided.

Question put.

Mr. Dahanayake: Divide.

Mr. Speaker: Are you serious?

Mr. Dahanayake: The Government Benches are rather depleted, and I think we may secure a victory.

Mr. Speaker: The Members are all in this building.

Question put, and agreed to.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME, STAGE I.

6.35 P.M.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: I move, "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Nine million four hundred and nineteen thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine (Rs. 9,419,889) be payable by way of advance out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Rs.

Head: Part IV.—Loan Fund Ex-
diture.

New Item: Hydro-Electric Scheme,
Stage I.

... 9,419,889."

This sum of money is required from Loan Fund Expenditure. It is to meet this year's expenditure on the Hydro-electric scheme. I do not want to give the details because I am expecting all hon. Members to see it for themselves on the 1st of October. They will then be able to see how well the money has been spent.

Dr. Perera: If you do not mind, may I ask one question? The hon Minister, in his observations, has stated that the final revised estimate has gone up to Rs. 50,000,000. That is an increase on the original Estimates. I do not know whether he can give us some explanation for the increase.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: The original estimate was for Rs. 20,000,000. That is divided into different sections. Now, hon. Members know that articles have gone up in price. The rupee has gone up by three times its value. Therefore, if they will multiply Rs. 20,000,000 by 3 they will get Rs. 60,000,000. In this way they will see that we have not lost but saved Rs. 10,000,000. I shall give the hon. Member details. The expansion works were estimated at Rs. 3,000,000; it is the same as the original figure. The cost of expansion of the Watawala works too remains the same. The Civil Engineering

[Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala.]

section was estimated to cost Rs. 7,000,000. Now it is to be finished at Rs. 26,000,000. The pipe was estimated to be done for Rs. 1,200,000. Now it is to be done for Rs. 2,700,000. The cost of iron, steel, and so on, has risen. Section C of the electrical plant was to cost Rs. 2,600,000; it is now to cost Rs. 5,700,000. In section D the copper has gone up in price. Then, there is departmental expenditure which we never anticipated because we were giving out work to contractors. What we spent on contracts we saved by the Department doing the work now which comes to Rs. 4,000,000. The total in this way comes to Rs. 50,000,000. If we want to start the work today it would cost us Rs. 90,000,000. So, we have saved Rs. 50,000,000.

Dr. Perera: I have one question more.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: Is it possible to answer questions as the hon. Member asks?

Dr. Perera: In view of this increased cost, could the Hon. Minister work out the new cost to the consumer? I remember that at our original discussion we had a certain rough idea of the cost. The country would like to know what the position is today.

The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala: When the tariff comes, we will have to do that.

Question put, and agreed.

CROWN LANDS ORDINANCE REGULATIONS

6.39 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake: I move,

"That the Regulations made by the Minister of Agriculture and Lands under Sections 94 and 95 of the Crown Lands Ordinance, No. 8 of 1947, as modified by the Proclamation under Section 88 (1) of the Ceylon (Constitution) Order in Council, 1946, published in *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 9,773 of September 24, 1947, which were presented on August 24, 1948, be approved."

Certain regulations had to be made under the Crown Lands Ordinance, and a portion of the Ordinance was held up till the regulations were passed. There are a number of these Regulations. I do not think it is necessary for me to go through all of them.

6.40 P.M.

Major Oldfield: I should like to refer the Hon. Minister to Regulation No. 14 which deals with the foreshore and to ask him whether he can give us some information as to what is meant by "foreshore" under these Regulations.

I have raised the question because that Regulation is intended to work in such a way as to counteract erosion. The matter to which I particularly refer is erosion not entirely caused by the sea. It is caused, as hon. Members know, to a very great extent by wind. In some of the biggest deserts of South Africa and in the prairies of America this is caused by the grazing of cattle. Very close to where I live, the erosion at the moment is about 1 to 1½ feet per week. During the last two months 10 feet have gone. I would submit that that is not entirely due to the action of the sea. It is due to the action of wind and that erosion is due to a large number of stray cattle which graze on what I call the waters. There is nothing to grow on that foreshore, with the result that the stray cattle roam about in search of food and there is nothing to protect the land from the wind. I should like to know whether the foreshore would cover a case of that sort.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: With regard to Negombo itself, the trouble about the place is not quite the winds as the wall that has been put to protect the portion of land. The further you extend that wall the worse will it be for the land towards Katunayake and the other places. I believe such a situation has arisen more because of the action of the authorities there. The foreshore certainly includes the portion of land which the hon. Member mentioned. That is the shore that is on the other side.

Major Oldfield: If the Hon. Minister can send his experts to that particular part of the land, they will be able to see

whether there is vegetation and whether with it the land will hold up better. It is a very serious problem and a matter for experts to deal with.

Mr. Dahanayake: What is the acreage involved?

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake: That matter can be looked into. As a matter of fact, the Ministry is considering legislation as regards soil erosion all over the Island. We are getting out a Motion to have legislation specially prepared for the whole of the Island in regard to soil erosion.

Question put, and agreed to.

GIRLS' FARM SCHOOL, KUNDASALE

6.44 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake:
I move,—

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Ten (Rs. 10) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Rs.

Head 71, Department of Agriculture.

Vote No. 1.—Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Agriculture including the cost of Agricultural education, Experiment, &c. ... 10
(Token Vote).”

This money is required for the Kundasale Farm School. The token vote is asked for because the money is there. It was necessary to bring this particular token vote for this extra sum of money because the original salary scales which were advertised were not sufficient to get the proper type of person we wanted. Therefore, we had to increase the salary scales. The money is available.

Mr. Wilmot A. Perera: I wish to raise a question on this matter. The Hon. Minister has brought this Estimate before the House because the salary scales previously advertised were not adequate. I do not know the reason why he has not received applications for these posts.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake:
It is provided in this year's Budget.

Mr. Wilmot A. Perera: There is a serious anomaly in the salary for the demonstrators. The commencing salary of Rs. 150 is really much more than what a Senior Supervisor in the Department of Industries, having twenty years' experience, gets. The maximum salary of a senior supervisor, after 20 years' service is only Rs. 140.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake:
My hon. Friend should realise that these teachers work with children who do not attend ordinary schools. These children have already gone to school and learnt from other instructors. It is after that that they go to this particular school. If my hon. Friend comes to this school, he will not start at the very beginning. He will have to start somewhere higher up.

Mr. Wilmot A. Perera: That is just the point I was making.

Dr. Perera: Were these people appointed by the Department or by the Public Service Commission?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake:
In consultation with the Public Service Commission.

Dr. Perera: Appointed by the Department itself?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake:
Yes.

Question put, and agreed to.

IDALLAWELA ANICUT AND CHANNELS, ATTANAGALAOYA SCHEME

6.47 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake:
I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Sixty thousand (Rs. 60,000) be payable by way of advance out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Rs.

Head: Part IV.—Loan Fund Expenditure.

Item 18.—Idallawela Anicut and Channels, Attanagala-oya Scheme ... 60,000 "

This extra sum is needed for continuing the Attanagala-oya scheme.

Mr. Kanagaratnam: This is a loan to the Coconut Research Scheme.

Dr. Perera: That is the next Estimate. Question put, and agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (LOAN TO COCONUT RESEARCH BOARD)

6.48 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake:
I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Fifty Thousand (Rs. 50,000) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Rs.

Head 71, Department of Agriculture.

Voté No. 1.—Salaries and expenses of the Department of Agriculture including cost of Agricultural Education, Experiment, &c. ... 50,000 "

The Board of Management of the Coconut Research Board has under consideration the acquisition of a block of land for the essential development of the Board's experimental work.

Section 5 (1) of the Coconut Research Ordinance, Chapter 303, provides for a loan of Rs. 200,000. So far the Board has been granted two loans,—Rs. 100,000 in September, 1932, and Rs. 50,000 in October, 1937. These loans have been repaid and this vote is to provide for a further loan of Rs. 50,000.

Mr. Kanagaratnam: This being a loan, why should it not be debited to an Advance Account, instead of to a Vote? There is no necessity to create a Vote in order to grant this loan. It should properly be debited to an Advance Account.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake:
They have to repay it by a certain time.

Mr. Kanagaratnam: When you debit the loan to a Vote it becomes outright expenditure. If you give the loan out of an Advance Account, when repayment is made, the debit to the Advance Account will be liquidated. There is no necessity for a Vote.

Dr. Perera: The Coconut Board has enough money. It does not know what to do with it—

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake:
No.

Dr. Perera: Yes. The complaint of some people is that the Coconut Board—

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake:
This is a loan to the Coconut Research Board. The Coconut Board is a different body.

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam: This is under a separate Ordinance.

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake:
The Coconut Board and the Coconut Research Scheme are two different institutions.

Dr. Perera: The complaint is that the Coconut Board is sitting on its haunches doing nothing.

Question put, and agreed to.

RUBBER THEFTS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

6.50 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake:
I move, "That the Bill be now read a Second time."

This is a formal Bill. In terms of Section 7 (1) of the Rubber Thefts Ordinance it is unlawful for any licensed dealer to purchase or to take delivery of wet rubber. There is at present a demand for latex for making sole crepe rubber goods. Section 7 (1) (c) of the Rubber Thefts Ordinance is amended to permit the purchase of wet rubber by manufacturers of sole crepe rubber goods made for purposes of export.

The opportunity has also been taken to make some necessary amendments in the Rubber Thefts Ordinance.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time.

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake:
I move that the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole House.

Question put, and agreed to.

Considered in Committee.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

Clauses 1 to 6 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Enacting Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Title ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake:
I move, "That the Bill be now read the Third time."

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

ELECTRIFICATION OF PALAVI SALTEN

6.53 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Sittampalam: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Ten (Rs. 10) (Token Vote) be payable by way of advance out of the Consolidated Fund for the Service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Rs.

Head Part IV.—Loan Fund Expenditure.

Item 89.—Electrification of Elephant Pass
Saltren ... 10
(Token Vote)."

This is to provide for the electrification of the Palavi saltren.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake:
We have to put in the words "token vote" here.

Mr. Speaker: They are here.

Question put, and agreed to.

POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE (COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE)

6.54 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Sittampalam: I move,

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rupees Fifty Thousand only (Rs. 50,000) be payable out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year beginning on 1st October, 1947, and ending on 30th September, 1948, and that the said sum may be expended as specified in the Schedule hereto:—

Schedule.

Rs.

Head 140.

Vote No. 1.—Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Postal and Telecommunication Services, including cost of working, maintenance, &c. ... 50,000 "

The cost of living allowance has caused an excess of Rs. 1,700,000. There are savings anticipated on other sub-heads, amounting to Rs. 1,650,000, and with this supplementary vote of Rs. 50,000 we hope to meet the extra expenditure.

Question put, and agreed to.

COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

6.55 P.M.

Mr. G. R. de Silva (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice):
I move, that the Bill "to enable the appointment of Commissions of Inquiry, to prescribe their powers and procedure,

[Mr. G. R. de Silva.]

to facilitate the performance of their functions, and to make provision for matters connected with or incidental to the aforesaid matters", be now read a Second time.

This Bill is considered necessary as the Commissions of Inquiry Ordinance of 1872 has been found wanting in certain respects. In fact, a Special Bill had to be passed to help the Bribery Commission to carry on its work. The Bill now before the House makes it possible for proper Commissions of Inquiry to be appointed. This Bill enlarges the powers of Commissions of Inquiry.

I do not want to go into details, but would refer hon. Members to certain clauses of this Bill.

Clause 7 gives additional powers to Commissions of Inquiry. At present these Commissions have very limited powers. Sub-clause (e) gives a Commission power to admit or exclude members of the public from an inquiry.

Clause 8 makes members of a Commission of Inquiry public servants within the meaning of the Penal Code, and provides that,— —

"... every inquiry under this Act shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of that Code."

Clause 9 is important. It provides that every offence of contempt committed against or in disrespect of the authority of a Commission appointed under this Act shall be punishable by the Supreme Court or any Judge thereof.

Clause 12 is also important. It gives to witnesses certain privileges which they do not have under the existing Ordinance. A witness will be entitled—

"... to all the privileges to which a witness giving evidence before a court of law is entitled in respect of evidence given by him before such court."

Clause 15 provides that on the conclusion of any inquiry under this Bill, and on the recommendation of the Commission, the Minister may award to any person whose conduct has been the subject of such inquiry or who has been in any way implicated or concerned in the matter under inquiry such sum of money as the Minister may specify to meet the costs and expenses incurred by such person in connexion with the inquiry.

Clause 20 empowers the Governor-General to vest in members of any Committee appointed to investigate charges framed against an officer in the Public Service, the powers of a Commission of Inquiry.

This Bill, as I said earlier, enlarges the powers of Commissions of Inquiry.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time.

Mr. G. R. de Silva: This is a Bill sent up by the Senate.

Dr. Perera: It will have to go before a Standing Committee.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: This Bill has been passed by the Senate.

Mr. Speaker: We have to go into Committee to pass it.

Mr. G. R. de Silva: I move that the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole House.

Question put, and agreed to.

Considered in Committee.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

7.01 P.M.

Dr. Perera: Some of us did not get copies of this Bill. I only saw the Bill just now.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: It was circulated.

The Chairman: This Bill is in keeping with what we passed a short time ago.

Clauses 1 to 21 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Enacting Clause ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Title ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

Mr. G. R. de Silva: I move, "That the Bill be now read the Third time."

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made, and Question proposed,
“That this House do now adjourn.”—
[Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]

7.03 P.M.

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister of Health and Local Government a letter addressed by one of his departmental Heads to a young doctor who has applied to enter the Government Service. I will read the relevant paragraph of that letter—it is a very short paragraph:

“If you decline to accept this offer to join the preventive side of the Department, I regret to inform you that you will be discontinued from your present acting appointment in the Department, and no appointment under Government can be given in the future. If no reply is received in this office on or before the 17th August it will be presumed that you decline to accept the offer, and action will be taken in terms of paragraph 3.”

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is the letter that has been written by the Head of the Department to a young doctor who has applied to enter Government Service.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: Quite right.

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: I think this is because a young doctor asked for the conditions of service. I think this is a very insolent document. You cannot recruit doctors at the point of the knife. This young man wanted information regarding his chances in the Department, and this is the type of reply sent.

Mr. Speaker: Is this the original letter?

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: Copy of the letter.

The Hon. Mr. Jayewardene: Is the hon. Member Tabling it?

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: Yes, I will Table it. This is a letter which the Hon. Minister is aware of.

7.05 P.M.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: That letter has been sent on my explicit instructions, and I will explain why

The difficulty has arisen in the past of recruiting doctors, Medical Officers of Health, and so on, to serve on the preventive side with the result that on the preventive side the Department has continued for many years with not much more than 50 per cent. of the fixed cadre appearing in the Estimates. I therefore, in order to deal with that situation, directed the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services to take this action when doctors are passing out—a certain number, let us say 40—from the Faculty of Medicine. We decide at that stage the proportion that we want on the curative side and the proportion we want on the preventive side. If we want 30 doctors on the curative side and 10 on the preventive side, we inform them of that fact and ask them to apply. What happens is that hardly anyone applies generally on the preventive side. Then, at that stage, we choose and make an offer to ten applicants that we want to recruit—

Mr. Dahanayake: How do you choose?

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: Generally, this is the basis. Those at the top are taken for the curative side and the ten at the bottom are offered posts on the preventive side. And we tell them—according to the terms of the letter read—“We are offering you this post. Here, accept it. If you do not accept we are very sorry we cannot then recruit you into the Department on the curative side”. If that is not done, at any time will it ever be possible to have the necessary cadre on the preventive side? That is the only step possible, and I am trying to increase the salaries of Medical Officers of Health to make the posts more attractive so that we can get the necessary cadre.

Dr. Perera: The plan the Hon. Minister imposes is this.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Dr. Perera: With your permission can I ask a question?

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: May I say this? That letter was issued on my instructions.

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: But not your language.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: The hon. Member says it is insolent. I do not think there is anything particularly insolent. The conditions are merely stated—"You are offered this post. If you do not want it we cannot take you on to Government". That is the situation that has arisen. There is no other suitable way in which the situation could have been met.

Dr. Perera: This man asked for the conditions of service.

Mr. A. Reginald Perera: And this is the letter he received.

Question put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 7.10 P.M., until 2 P.M., on Tuesday, November 23, 1948, pursuant to the Resolution of the House this Day.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Allotment of land given to Mr. Banda, Registrar of Inamaluwa

224/48. Mr. Tenne: Will the Minister of Agriculture and Lands state: (a) Whether he is aware that the allotment of land given to Mr. Banda, Registrar of Inamaluwa, under the Land Development Ordinance has been damaged by pits being cut to provide earth for the channel at Ehetullawewa? (b) Whether he will take action to have the pits filled so that Mr. Banda may make use of the land?

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake:

(a) No pits have been cut out in the allotment referred to. It is correct that earth was taken from this allotment but it was done *with the owner's consent*.

(b) Does not arise.

Communal Chenas at Digampathaha

225/48. Mr. Tenne: Will the Minister of Agriculture and Lands state: (a) Whether he is aware that the communal chenas of the people of Digampathaha were taken by

Government and included in a Forest Reserve and that the land given in lieu of those chenas is not suitable for chenaing for a number of years to come? (b) Whether he will take immediate steps to release the communal chenas included in the Forest Reserve or allocate a suitable alternate block of land for chena cultivation from July this year?

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake:

(a) Certain villagers of Digampathaha claimed paraveni chenas in lot 1 in F. S. P. P. 44. They withdrew their claims and the lot was declared the property of the Crown. The land set apart for use as chenas in lieu of these claims is not now suitable for chenaing owing to clearings effected by the Military in connexion with the construction of an Aerodrome.

(b) The Assistant Government Agent has been asked to consider the possibility of meeting the demand for chena by alienating land mapped out for village expansion under the Land Development Ordinance.

Minor Village Irrigation Works

341/48. Mr. Tenne: Will the Minister of Agriculture and Lands state: (a) What minor village irrigation works for which the Assistant Government Agent is authorised to spend without reference to the Irrigation Department have been put in hand by the Assistant Government Agent, Matale, during 1945-1948? (b) How much has been put on each of such works? (c) What works are proposed to be put in hand in 1949?

The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake:

(a) & (b).

	NAME OF WORK.	Amount Spent.	
		Rs. o.	
1945-46.	Nil (no funds provided).		
1946-47.	Allocation Rs. 5,000.		
	Warakamure channel, clearing earthslip and repairing	...	421 80
	Koskanuyaya Amuna, repairing breach	...	359 60
	Pallewela Tank, earth work in repairing bund	...	1,717 84
	Dissawage Kudawewa, earth work in repairing bund	...	1,230 00
	Padiwita Channel, clearing slit	...	245 00
	Thalamure Anicut, repairing breach	...	146 00
	Thimburiattawela Tank, repairs to bund	...	631 00
			4,751 24

Name of Work.

Amount Spent.
Rs. c.

1947-48.

Allocation Rs. 26,000.

Thalamure Anicut, repairs to Channel and Bund ...	...	...	634 50
Pahala-oya breach repair ...	...	...	86 25
Akarahaduwa Channel, clearing and desilting ...	...	...	175 00
Koskandapola breach repair ...	...	...	387 00
Medapihilla Amuna trough ...	...	...	150 00
Walliwela Amuna breach repair ...	...	...	625 00
Hiruwela Anicut breach repair ...	...	...	600 00
Mellagolla Channel, repairing breaches and clearing ...	...	...	1,508 30
Malhewa Amuna breach repair ...	...	...	282 72
Nadeniya Channel repairing breaches ...	...	...	1,050 00
Dorakumbura Pathaha, clearing and repairing ...	...	...	290 95
Dewalekumbura Halangodakotuwa breach repair ...	...	...	300 00
Walakumbura Channel clearing and repairing breaches ...	...	...	477 50
Diggala Anicut, provision of planks ...	...	...	255 00
Ithekumbura Amuna breach repair ...	...	...	760 00
Kumbualoluwa-Kosgolla Amuna, repairs to breaches, &c. ...	...	...	2,300 00*
Oggaamuwa Tank, repairs to breaches in bund ...	...	...	2,290 00*
Bogambara Channel repairs ...	...	...	1,125 00*
Kalugala Channel, desilting and repairs ...	...	...	1,500 00*
Audella Pahala Amuna, desilting and repairs ...	...	...	1,740 00*
Helambagahawatta and Radawela Anicuts, provision of planks ...	...	...	356 00*
Naranliyadda breach repairs ...	...	...	150 00*
Hulangamuwa Amuna, repairs ...	...	...	225 00*
Rattotawelyaya Amuna and Channel repairs ...	...	...	750 00*
Rajjammaana-Leenipitiya Anicut planks ...	...	...	320 00*
Aranchchiwela Ela repairs ...	...	...	575 00*
Ihalakumbura Flood Bund ...	...	...	738 50*
Paravane Amuna and Channel repairs ...	...	...	2,498 00*
Naddeniya Amuna L. B. Channel repairs ...	...	...	775 00†
Rajjammaana Channel repairs ...	...	...	935 00†
Pallegedara Amuna repairs ...	...	...	1,110 00†
Gamawela Amuna, Puwakpitiya, repairs ...	...	...	2,500 00†
Wehigala Trough ...	...	...	1,850 00†

(c)

PROPOSALS FOR 1948-49.

Name of Scheme.

Estimated Cost.

Matale South.

	Rs. c.
1. Rajjammaha Anicut repairs ...	1,937 00
2. Ralapathwela Irrigation Channel retaining wall ...	715 00
3. Thalamure Anicut Flood protection bund ...	1,062 00

Matale North.

1. Mukalana Anicut, closing leaks ...	82 00
2. Kauagala Tank repairing breach ...	330 00
3. Gamewewa Embulambe retaining wall at spill ...	310 00
4. Bellanoya Tank, spill planks ...	720 00
5. Galapitawewa Embulambe, rubble walls to prevent scouring and leaks ...	730 00
6. Mahawewa Embulambe, desilting channel ...	800 00

Name of Scheme.	Estimated Cost. Rs. c.
7. Gamewewa Embulambe, desilting channel ...	1,028 50
8. Kalugala Anicut retaining wall ...	1,308.00
9. Pahalaamuna Channel, Nalanda, retaining wall ...	1,343 00
10. Illukwelawewa Channel ...	1,550 00
11. Siyambalawewa, Digampathaha Inlet Channel ...	2,486 00
12. Koragahagollawewa, Alutwewa channel cutting ...	2,376 00
13. Aswedduma Amuna, Kandalama retaining wall ...	340 56

Matale East.

1. Bambaragahawatta Ela Potawa ...	390 00
2. Udawela Potawa ...	440 00
3. Millagahawela Potawa ...	1,200 00
4. Karamane Anicut ...	1,002 00
5. Gammadu-oya-Kumbaloluwa Anicut ...	1,530 00
6. Pubbarawela Ela breach ...	590 00

* Work in hand, not completed.

† Advertised for tenders.

Works will be taken up from those marked '+' up to available balance in the allocation.

Tea Seed Exports

385/48. Mr. V. G. W. Ratnayaka: Will the Minister of Commerce and Trade state: What quantity of Tea Seed was exported on licences during the years 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, and 1948 to the end of July (a) for experimental purposes? (b) for any other purposes?

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam:
1943 (a) and (b) ... Nil.
1944 (a) and (b) ... Nil.
1945 (a) ... Nil.
(b) ... 800
1946 (a) ... 3 lb.
(b) ... Nil.
1947 (a) ... Nil.
(b) ... 80 lb.
*1948 (a) and (b) ... Nil.

* Up to July.

Coconut Poonac Exports

386/48. Mr. V. G. W. Ratnayaka: Will the Minister of Commerce and Trade state: What quantity of coconut poonac was exported from Ceylon in 1946, 1947 and 1948 to the end of July?

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam:
1946 — Nil.
1947 — 27,785 cwt.
1948 — 96,728 cwt. end of July

Permits for Export of Coconut Poonac

387/48. Mr. V. G. W. Ratnayaka: Will the Minister of Commerce and Trade state: (a) How many export permits were issued for 1,000 tons and over of coconut poonac? (b) How many export permits were issued for quantities of 500 tons to 1,000 tons? (c) How many export permits were issued for quantities under 200 tons?

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam:
(a) Five (5).
(b) Two (2).
(c) Nil.

Tea Exports

388/48. Mr. V. G. W. Ratnayaka: Will the Minister of Commerce and Trade state: (a) What quantity of Tea was exported during the years 1946, 1947 and 1948 to the end of July? (b) How much of these was exported by Ceylonese in each year? (c) How much was exported by foreigners?

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam:
(a) 1946 — 291,775,051 lb.
1947 — 287,259,020 lb.
*1948 — 185,724,466 lb.
(b) 1946 — 595,270 lb.
1947 — 553,025 lb.
*1948 — 583,064 lb.
(c) 1946 — 291,179,781 lb.
1947 — 286,705,995 lb.
*1948 — 185,141,402 lb.

* Up to July.

Tea Exporters in Ceylon**Tea Tasters in Ceylon****389/48. Mr. V. G. W. Ratnayaka:**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Trade state: (a) How many exporters of Tea are now trading in tea in Ceylon? (b) How many of them are foreigners? (c) How many of them are Ceylonese?

390/48. Mr. V. G. W. Ratnayaka:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Trade state: (a) How many Ceylonese tea tasters are employed by all firms in Ceylon? (b) How many non-Ceylonese tea tasters are employed by all firms and the number of such firms?

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam:

(a) 113.

(b) 95.

(c) 18.

The Hon. Mr. Suntharalingam:

(a) 16 Ceylonese of whom 2 are in training.

(b) 72 non-Ceylonese of whom 1 is in training. This total includes 3 Europeans who have claimed to be Ceylonese.

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