

## QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT

### THE BRITISH SYSTEM

Members of the House of Commons ask the Government about 30,000 questions every year, or some 130 on the average for those parliamentary days—for a week—when questions are taken. When the summer adjournment lately ended there was a backlog of well over 300 questions. All this is a measure not of the idle curiosity of Members, but of their diligence in using one of the handiest and most useful methods of supervising the way the government goes about its business of administration.

As parliamentary devices go, it is a fairly modern invention. The first recorded question—outside debate—was in 1721 in the House of Lords, where they are still modest in their demands for information. For another hundred years the technique of putting questions

[By ERNEST ATKINSON]

to Ministers was not much used; it was thought to be a rather irregular form of debate, and not to be encouraged. Parliamentary records show that a question was first printed on the order of business in 1835. It was not until just over a hundred years ago, in 1849, that a special position was given to questions on the Order Paper. About that time they averaged one a day. Thirty years later they had come up to thirteen a day. By the turn of the century there were more than forty a day.

Soon Members had to be rationed in the number of questions they could put for oral answer by Ministers in the House of Commons, first to eight, then to four, and later, as now, to three in one day.

Question hour—in fact, it varies in length between 45 and 60 minutes—comes first in the day's business

on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the Commons, and there is a rota fixed by which Ministers must stand in turn to face such questions as Members choose to put down for them. Ministers have in fact discretion whether to answer questions. But it would do a Minister's reputation no good to refuse without good cause—it could only be justified by reference to the public interest.

#### Stimulating Part

From the spectator's point of view, question time is the most stimulating and interesting part of the normal day's business. The speech on a great occasion of a Churchill, or other outstanding parliamentary figure, may offer more sustained interest. But such do not happen every day. Questions do. And they offer the occasion for a brisk clash of wit, for lively challenges and counter challenge, between Ministers and the back benches. They have their statelier moments, moments, too, when the two front benches, the government and the presumably alternative government, clash in the restricted and conventional form of debate that parliamentary procedure allows for question and answer.

#### The Limit

The rule, that is most strictly enforced in fact is that the question and answer procedure must not be allowed to develop into debate. The object of a question is defined pretty clearly as 'to obtain information or to press for action. In putting his question, a Member must not make a speech. He must, as I once heard Mr. Churchill say—when he had been reproved by the Speaker for speech-making when he should have been doing no more than ask questions—'cast his observations in interrogatory

### Portrait of Navalar

#### Unveiling Ceremony

His Holiness Yogi Sudhanandha Barathi has kindly consented to unveil the portrait of Sri Sri Arumuga Navalar at the Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabhai Ashram and Navalar Hall on Wednesday 19 11 52 at 6.45 p. m.

All well wishers are cordially invited.

**A. Arulambalam,**  
Hony. Secretary,  
Saiva Paripalana Sabhai,  
Jaffna.

form". And he is rarely allowed much latitude over the observations.

Where a Member's ingenuity gets its play is in the supplementary questions he is allowed to put—and any Member may follow up anyone else's question, and the answer given by the Member of the Government concerned, with a supplementary Ministers have to be able to show under this quick fire and cross fire in the Commons that they know not only the principles but also reasonable amounts of the detail of the work of their departments.

The criticism is made from time to time that the system of allowing parliamentary questions on matters of such comparative detail and they can, in fact, probe the very minutiae of administration—keeps the bureaucracy larger than it ought to be. For if Ministers can be questioned about small matters, then obviously very full records must be kept.

But Members would be loath to do away with so valuable a means of keeping the governments "on their toes" and at the same time of satisfying their constituents that they are themselves mindful of their constituents' interests and alert to watch them. It is the

(Continued on page 4)

## SOUTH AFRICAN - RACIAL POLICY

### FACTS AND OPINION

The Government of South Africa has started a new phase of suppression of the rising spirit of Africans who are waging a non-violent struggle against the tyranny of discriminatory racial laws.

#### 'Shoot When Necessary' Order

Mr. J. G. Strydom, Minister of Land and a claimant to the leadership of the National Party after Dr. Malan, stated on November one that the patience of the Government was exhausted and that it would act as firmly as the British Government was acting in Kenya against the Mau Mau if the campaign for the defiance of unjust laws in South Africa was continued. Mr. C. R. Swart, Minister of Justice, announced the same day that Police had been given instructions to take drastic action whenever there was a threat of clash between Europeans and non-Europeans. He said: "They will use batons when necessary and they will shoot when necessary."

The first exhibition of such policy was given at Port Elizabeth when police, shooting at New Brighton railway station on October 18, created riot and resulted in the loss of seven Africans and four European lives and next in Kimberly on the 8th instant. Repeated public demand for a judicial inquiry to fix responsibility for the riot has been ignored. Even the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Strauss, called upon the Government to hold an inquiry but the Government has preferred to accept the police report only.

On November, 3rd, Police shot down in Johannesburg three Africans and wounded four of which two are not expected to live. Wanton loss of life occurred merely because the African residents of the Municipal Hostel

tried to prevent one among themselves from paying increased rent against which they have protested. The same day at Kimberly Police armed with stern guns raided the Green Point native location there.

#### India's Role

Police intimidations and provocations appear to be according to a set plan and more and more of them may be expected. The Government apparently is itching for an excuse to beat and shoot.

Shri Ramarao Deshmukh, a Member of the Council of States and a former High Commissioner for India in South Africa, said in a broadcast from Nagpur on November 6 that Europeans in South Africa in professing to hold up "White supremacy" were by their methods "digging the grave of the country".

He said that the Indian problem was part of the "tug-of-war" between forces trying to segregate Africans and humanity trying to escape from oppression.

Europeans wanted Indians as "labourers and serfs" but could not tolerate them as free men claiming political, economic or social equality. Basically, Shri Deshmukh said, this reason generated hostility to their making money out of trade or business and all European legislative and administrative ingenuity had the purpose of destroying it.

Tracing the history of Indian settlers, Shri Deshmukh said that the first Indians arrived in Natal in 1860, forty years after the Europeans, at "insistent importunities of the Europeans who prevailed upon the unwilling Government of India to

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**Hindu Organ**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, '52

Treasure These Thoughts

*A man is ignorant so long as he feels that God is far away. He has knowledge when he knows that God is here and everywhere.*

**EFFICIENT  
ENUMERATION**

THE systematic collecting of such numerical facts and information as are necessary for the administration of the affairs of a country is a moral responsibility of the Government and not merely an important part of its work. Hence the need for full efficiency in the compilation of statistics.

We do not say that any Government can claim to have made completely accurate statistical surveys. It may be that in this Island the collection and the classification of numerical facts have not reached even a reasonably required degree of perfection. This may be due to the fact that the public have not been sufficiently and systematically enlightened on the value and significance of statistical undertakings. On the other hand not all of the large number of officers detailed for this national duty could be said to have discharged their responsibility conscientiously. This does not mean that the Government will have to remain satisfied with the existing machinery for collecting statistics and be at the mercy of those engaged in the work.

Here is a responsibility in the discharge of which both the Government and the people will have to combine in cooperative spirit. Otherwise the register of voters and the lists of house holders will have the same significance attached to them as that assigned to the assessment of the numerical strength of gatherings at party meetings by enumerators of the opposite groups. Nor can the people continue to view complacently the question of finding food for those who are not entitled to it simply because the Government has not been able to correctly gauge the number

of those to whom rice ration books can be legitimately issued.

The Food Control authorities have discovered though late that the compilation of lists of householders had been open to abuse in the past and have now decided on a fresh enumeration of those who are entitled to rice ration books. In this national duty of paramount importance the people should take more than the usual interest; they should realise the gravity of the situation created by scheming persons who obtain extra rice ration books and should therefore submit correct lists of householders to the Government.

Here is an opportunity for genuine social workers to help the Government in eliminating the fictitious coupon-holders from the new lists. Social service is a religious duty and cannot therefore end with empty professions and elaborate celebrations. There cannot be anything more helpful to the common man than enabling him to get his legitimate share of rice. This cannot be made possible unless correct lists of members of each household are compiled. It is in this collection of numerical facts that social workers can make themselves useful by themselves preparing parallel lists and submitting them to the Government for comparison with those made officially or by pointing out to the authorities specific instances of house holders having more than the required number of coupons. This is a matter of national emergency, nay it is one of national self-respect. Sri Lanka expects every man to do his duty in this hour of economic crisis in order that he may contribute his mite to the collective effort of the country in liquidating the ghost population that is at present depriving the people of their legitimate ration of articles of food. The Twenty-eighth of November is a day for searching the conscience of the people of this land. They shall not fail.

**Initiation Ceremony**

Initiation ceremony (சமய சீடனா) was performed by Sri N. Vaithianatha Kurukkal of Neervely Madam on Friday the 14th instant under the auspices of the Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabha at its Navalar Hall.

**TAMIL CULTURAL SOCIETY**

**Memorandum On Official Languages**

The aims of the Tamil Cultural Society include the promotion of the Tamil language in all spheres of state and public activity. The Society believes that the study and promotion of the component parts of the composite culture of Ceylon will serve to foster unity and progress, both cultural and national. The observations contained in the introductory portion of our memorandum are such as will serve to some extent to give the reasons for the recommendations that we have made, and to explain the wider context of national culture and progress within which these recommendations have been framed, without reference to which context, no correct and balanced decisions concerning official languages may be made.

The cultural, educational and administrative undertaking in the Island should be based on the principle that the culture of Ceylon is a composite culture and that the development of its component parts is essential to the development of the country's culture itself. Hence any attempt to over-emphasize any single element or group of elements would jeopardize that national unity, solidarity, to erace, communal understanding and harmony that have been established in this Island and are the distinguishing qualities of our civilization and our polity. Our united purpose in this spheres should be such as will serve to build on what has been achieved from time immemorial by the joint efforts of the Tamil and Sinhalese races, and in later times of the Muslims and the Bothers, without forgetting however that the common good and the general welfare of the Ceylonese nation are of greater moment than the particular good and communal welfare of the Sinhalese speaking or Tamil speaking populations of this Island.

The pre eminence that Ceylon has gained among countries of Asia is not a little due to the cultural receptivity and open-mindedness of the Ceylonese people who have absorbed and wisely made their own elements worthy of absorption from the foreign nations and countries with which they have come into contact. Of these contacts the one with the English speaking world and through it with the rest of the world (though of comparatively recent date and of relatively short duration) has had great influence in shaping the cultural, social and economic progress of our country. To cut ourselves abruptly away from this stream of thought and influence would be to impede the growth of our culture and retard its progress.

Such an eventuality will be productive of violent changes which may alter the course of our history and relegate us to the list of backward and unprogressive nations. Further, such changes may also create a state of tension resulting in internal chaos to be followed inevitably by aggression from outside.

Of the major influences that have affected our composite culture, English is not the least important and therefore, to eradicate the influence of English or to prevent its influence in the future would be to retard the development and destroy one of the foundations of our present day culture.

Further, it should be the duty of Government and of education, to foster in every way the development of Ceylonese culture in the context of a world culture. And for that purpose every link and contact that tends to develop Ceylon as a member of the one world should be maintained.

A universality of outlook and a breadth of vision have been characteristic features of Tamil Culture and Tamil literature all through the ages. "Every country is my country. Every man is my kin man". "யாழ்ப்பாணம் என்னை" has been the foundation on which the Tamils have erected their cultural edifice. Hence it is in their traditions to live and let live, to absorb and to assimilate.

The function of language is to be a vehicle of communication between men; the purpose of culture is to unite, to ennoble social relationships, so that it would be a travesty of purposes if language and culture meant to unite men should be made the causes of division and of fissiparous movements.

It is because of this outlook and this assimilative power that Tamil which was contemporaneous with Greek and Latin and Sanscrit and produced a classical literature like these languages, has survived to this day and continues to be a flexible vehicle of modern thought.....

Further, the study of Tamil for the Sinhalese and of Sinhalese for the Tamils is quite a practicable and reasonable recommendation. Both languages are structurally related; both languages have drawn largely from the same sources and have lived and grown side by side in good neighbourly manner. While the study of Sinhalese would give to the Tamils the wealth of Sinhalese Culture, Bud

dhist thought and the riches of Pali and Sanskrit, the Tamil language for the Sinhalese would open the doors to one of the noblest literatures of mankind.

It may not be out of place here to refer to the opinion of Western scholars with regard to Tamil.

"It is not perhaps extravagant to say that in its poetic form the Tamil is more more polished and exact than the Greek, and in both dialects with its borrowed treasures, more copious than the Latin. In its fullness and power it more resembles English and German than any other living languages."  
DR. WINSLOW.

"The mode of collocating its words follows the logical or intellectual order more so than even Latin or Greek."  
DR. SCHMID.

"Perhaps no language combines greater force with equal brevity; and it may be asserted that no human speech is more close and philosophic in its expression as an exponent of the mind. The sequence of things, of thought, action and its results is always maintained inviolate."  
REV. P. PERCIVAL.

"The Dravidian peoples possess one of the noblest literature from a moral point of view, the world has seen",  
CHARLES E. GOYER.

"It is one of the most copious, refined and polished languages spoken by man." It is desirable that the polish of the Telugu and Tamil poetry should be better known in Europe; that no competent judges might determine whether the high distinction accorded to Greek and Latin poetry, and if there were nothing like it in the world is perfectly just."

"I have felt sometime as if there must be a blessing in store for a people that delight so utterly in compositions thus remarkably expressive of a hunger and thirst after righteousness."  
Dr. POPE.

**Some of the  
Recommendations**

In consideration of the above preamble we recommend.

In the interests of the Ceylonese nation steps should be taken to make the people bilingual (Sinhalese and Tamil) and education trilingual (Tamil, Sinhalese and English). There is hardly a province where one of the two major communities is completely absent. To maintain the unity and solidarity of the island, the South African model offers great opportunity — "both languages shall be treated on a footing of equality, and possess and enjoy equal freedom, rights and privileges". (South Africa Act, 1909, Section 37.)

The study of Sinhalese and  
(Continued on page 3)

## S. A. SUPREME COURT DECISION

### High Court of Parliament Act Held Invalid

Five judges of the South African Supreme Court's appellate Division who unanimously held the High Court of Parliament Act invalid in their separate judgments declared Dr. Malan's enactment violated the Union Constitution.

Chief Justice Centlivre's announcement was heard by the crowd in the court and nearby corridors in complete silence. In his judgment the Chief Justice said the entrenched clauses of the South Africa Act—the Constitution—made it clear that certain rights were conferred on individuals and these rights could not be restricted unless the procedure of a two-thirds majority vote at a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament was followed.

The sections contained constitutional guarantees and it was the duty of the courts to ensure that protection of the guarantees was made effective, unless it was modified by constitutionally valid legislation.

The Chief Justice said the contention by the counsel for the Government that no court should have jurisdiction to decide whether any Act that had been passed by Parliament was in conformity with the entrenched clauses was "a startling proposition." This would reduce the safeguards in the entrenched clauses to nothing. The Chief Justice said the High Court of Parliament was not a court

of law, but simply Parliament functioning under another name.

The Chief Justice said that if the High Court of Parliament could be described as a court of law it was one which differed materially from the courts envisaged in the entrenched clauses of the Constitution. Individuals who complained that their rights were affected had access to all courts of law but not to the High Court of Parliament. The only person who had access to that court was a Cabinet Minister.

If the High Court of Parliament declared that the Statute of Westminster had repealed the entrenched clauses, the practical effect would be the same as legislation repealing the safeguards contained in the Constitution. This was sufficient to justify the view that the High Court of Parliament Act had been passed in contravention of Section 152 of the Constitution—the section which lays down the requirement of a two-thirds majority of a joint sitting of both Houses of the Legislature for certain legislation.

"All that the High Court of Parliament Act provided was that Parliament, sitting unicamerally, might by a bare majority confirm, vary or set aside any judgment of the Appeal Court," said the Chief Justice. He held that the order made by the Cape Division of the the Supreme Court was correct.

## TAMIL CULTURAL SOCIETY

(Continued from page 2)

Tamil should receive such encouragement and watchful care from the state as will be productive of great creative thought and activity in the field of literature, the arts and the sciences. Such creativity as Ceylon needs at this transitional and critical period of her history, will not be possible if access is not had, particularly to the stream of thought represented by such a world language as English. Hence the study of English should be encouraged as in the past without setting any date for its elimination.

Further, the translations of standard works in which we shall have to rely for instruction in the Secondary stage will have to be made from English, and teachers for a long time will have to have recourse to reference books in English. Hence the Island's standard of English may be maintained without any prejudice to the development of the mother-tongues. In fact, the gradual change into instruction in the mother-tongue demands a good standard of English on the part of every teacher in the country, if standards of education achieved by slow and different processes are not to be lowered by a stroke of the governmental pen, and generations of children yet unborn are not to be sacrificed to a questionable experiment.

Among our leaders in every field of thought and activity will be men trained abroad. They will also set the tone and the standards for the entire island. Unless there is a fair standard of English maintained in the Island, the many students we shall send abroad will not be the successes such students have been in the past and will be only a drain on the island's purse. Other Asian countries have confessed that students sent abroad for training have not been the successes they should have been because of their insufficient knowledge of English.

The Educational system of the Island should be so modified as to make it possible for every student to learn Sinhalese and Tamil and English or any one or more of them. As to how that should be done would be for qualified educationists to decide.

An experimental period of 15 to 20 years may be fixed to examine how the new system has worked, and whether and how further changes may be effected towards the change over to Swabasha without sacrificing efficiency in the education and in the administration of the Government of the country.

Appointments to the Public Services should continue to be made under the system now prevailing, except that new entrants besides knowing English should possess a working knowledge of both Sinhalese and Tamil or either. Where an entrant is ignorant of the national languages, a time limit should be fixed for the entrant to acquire the

necessary proficiency in the other language as well. This arrangement would make it possible for all citizens to transact business with Government Departments in their own language.

In order to make the above state of affairs possible, we think it urgently necessary that all secondary schools should be required to provide Sinhalese and Tamil courses. We also think that both secondary schools and teacher training colleges, including primary training colleges should provide courses in English. We are particularly keen that where possible, especially in urban areas, Sinhalese speaking pupils and Tamil speaking pupils should be educated in the same institution and steps taken to teach them the other's language.

We further recommend that English trained teachers and English Graduates be given special courses in one of the national languages so that they may continue to teach in Sinhalese or Tamil without having to retire earlier. This will ensure a better standard in the education through the mother-tongue in the transitional period.

In order to provide for a large number of persons competent in the official languages, and capable of managing the various departments, preference in appointments should be given *caeteris paribus* to Honours Graduates in Sinhalese and Tamil. For this purpose the oriental languages Honours Course in the University should draw as many students as possible. Under graduates should be attracted to the oriental language Honours Courses in the University because of good prospects of future employment. A large number of Honours Graduates in the various public services will ensure success in making Sinhalese and Tamil the medium in public life.

The University of Ceylon may make both Sinhalese and Tamil compulsory subjects for the entrance and degree examinations so that graduates will be qualified to teach or carry on the administration of the country in the national languages.

Those who speak Tamil and those who speak Sinhalese should learn to look upon the two streams of the national traditions as complementary.

The medium of instruction in the University and the official language of the Courts may continue in English until such time as a Committee of Educational experts and a Parliamentary Committee report on the subject, a final decision to be reached subsequently.

We recommend that the Official Languages Commis-

## PERSONAL

Dr. K. Kasinathan, Lecturer, College of Indian Medicine, Madras is on a four month holiday in Jaffna.

## ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
POINT PEDRO

Testamentary Jurisdiction  
No. 480

In the matter of the Joint Last Will and Testament of the late Valliapper Velupillai and wife Parupathipillai of Udupiddy North.

Deceased,

Velupillai Venkadasalam of Udupiddy North,

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Cheethavan widow of Valliapper Nagamuttoo 2. Kanther Swaminather & wife, 3. Sinnapillai, 4. Arunasalam Rajadurai & wife, 5. Manickam, 6. Velupillai Mailvaganam, 7. Vaitilingam Visuvalingam, 8. Nagar Kiddiner & wife, 9. Thankamuttoo, 10. Kanapathipillai Sinniah & wife, 11. Ponnukkandoo all of Do, Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before A. W. Nadaraja Esquire on the 29th day of October 1952 in the presence of Mr. S. Appadurai Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the said petitioner and the affidavits of the attesting Notary and the subscribing witnesses having been read,

It is ordered that the Last Will of the late Valliapper Velupillai and his wife the late Parupathipillai dated 7th July 1947 and attested by K. Sinnatamby N. P. under No 2022 copy of which is deposited in the above case (the Original having been deposited in case No. 371/T of this Court) be and the same is hereby declared proved and that the petitioner as executor named in the said will be entitled to have probate of the same issued to him accordingly unless the respondents or any other person shall on or before the 27th day of November 1952 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 29th day of October 1952.

Sgd. A. W. Nadaraja,  
District Judge

(O. 720 18 & 21)

## FOR SALE

Building Land about 17 lachchams close to JAFFNA Hindu Ladies' and Boys' Colleges. Rs. 2000/- a lachcham.

For Particulars write to:

T. Nadarajah

Proctor

31, Ferry Street

COLOMBO 12

(M. 168, 14 & 18)

tion continue to function for a further provisional period of fifteen to twenty years. We also recommend that a Joint Parliamentary Select Committee be appointed to consider and report on the position of the National Languages and English.

We also recommend that an advisory body of educationalists be formed to advise Government concerning language policy.

## TRAVEL AIR CEYLON

TEMPTING REDUCTION  
OF FARES

With effect from 1st November, 1952

★

Jaffna/Colombo & Vice Versa.

Single Ticket Rs. 42-00

Return Ticket Rs. 70-00 only

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the under-mentioned Railway footpaths and footbridges will be closed to the public for the 24 hours from 12 midnight on Monday, December 1, to 12 midnight on Tuesday, December 2, 1952

**Colombo**

(1) Floor's Lane footbridge and the path to the labourers quarters at Maligawatta leading from School Lane.

(2) All Railway roads at Mount Mary except the main central avenue now maintained by the Colombo Municipal Council.

**Main Line**

(3) Footpath over Kelani Bridge.

(4) Road from level crossing to Commercial Company's Mills between Sidings at Hunupitiya.

(5) Footpath leading from Mabola-Averwatta Road to Hunupitiya Station.

(6) Footpath leading from Bujjumuwa Halt to Pallemorugama.

(7) Footpath leading from Bujjumuwa Halt to Kandahena

(8) Footbridge over the Railway at Gampaha Station

(9) Footpath between 22 miles 30 chains and 22 miles 45 chains Veyangoda.

(10) Footpath on south of Railway to bridge at Rambukkana.

(11) Footbridge over the Railway at Kadugannawa Station between Alagalla Road and platform stairway.

(12) Footbridge at south-end of Nawalapitiya Station

(13) Footbridge at south-end of Hatton Station.

(14) The two short cuts to Talawakelle Station from near the Police Station and near the Engineering Works Road.

(15) Short cut steps from Main road to Talawakelle Station

(16) Sub-way between Badulla road and Panagala Road at Bandarawela Station.

**Coast Line**

(17) Path on the north of Bambalapitiya Station running alongside the Railway on the landward side from 6th Lane to Bambalapitiya Station approach road.

(18) Path on the south of Bambalapitiya Station running alongside the Railway on the landward side from 12th Lane to Bambalapitiya Station approach road.

proach road.

(19) Path on the South of Wellawatta Station running alongside the Railway from the 6th mile (Railway mileage) to Wellawatte Station approach road.

(20) Footpath between Ridgeway Place and Charlemont Road, including the footbridge over the Wellawatte Canal.

(21) Footpath running alongside the Railway boundary North of Dehiwela Station, excepting between station approach road and entrance to "Oxenbourne".

(22) Footpath south of Dehiwela Station running alongside Railway boundary to the Station approach road.

(23) Footpath leading from Ratmalana to New Level Crossing at south-end of station of land side.

(24) The path on the north and south side of Angulana Station on sea side of the Railway

(25) Footpath at 15 m. 40c., south side of Egoda Uyana Station leading to sea beach.

(26) Footpath in front of Station Master's bungalow at Egoda Uyana Station leading to station approach road.

(27) Footpath over Panadura Bridge.

(28) Footpath under south-end of Panadura Railway Bridge.

(29) The Good Shed roads between level crossings at north and south ends of Panadura Station.

(30) Footpath from Sea Beach Road, Panadura, to Panadura Railway Station.

(31) Footpath at south end of Balapitiya Station.

(32) All private roads at New Railway Workshops, Ratmalana.

(33) Footpath at the north end of Ambalangoda Station Yard crossing the tracks and leading to Wiligoda Village.

**Kelani Valley Line**

(34) Footpath at west end on south side of Nugegoda Station omitting the path leased to the Urban Council under Bond No. 3435.

**Northern Line**

(35) All Railway roads at Anuradhapura.

(36) Overhead Bridge, Jaffna Station.

M. KANAGASABAY,  
General Manager, C.G.R.

P. O. Box No 355,  
Colombo, 13 Nov. 1952.  
(G. 38 18)

**Questions In Parliament**

(Continued from page 1)

fact that where the administration may be sluggish in some particular, a parliamentary question which the Minister responsible is bound to answer in the House or find exceptional reason for not answering, is a first-class means of stimulating action.

**Valuable Element**

Once a question is down, departments have a special procedure for getting an answer quickly. A Member who is dissatisfied with the answer he gets may give notice to raise the matter again, and this is done by allowing Members, who have given such notice, the opportunity in turn to debate it, and have an answer from a Minister, in the last half-hour of any day's parliamentary business.

Both governments and private Members indeed recognise the parliamentary question procedure one of the most valuable elements in democratic control of the executive. Ministers must be present to be questioned. They must defend their administration in person. Before they have come to the House they will have satisfied themselves that the answer they have to give is sound—or know the reason why. There are few occasions, if any, on which a Minister can reveal his incapacity sooner than over his answers to questions. And there are few things a Minister finds it more difficult to forgive than inadequate briefing on his answers to questions from the civil servants under him.

Governments use the procedure too. It is a common thing for a Minister to ask a back-bencher, whether of the Government party or of the "other side", to put down a question so that information, that Parliament and the public ought to have, can be published in this most authoritative way. Normally questions are written down. For emergencies, questions may be asked and answered at very short notice. There is a long list of rules of constitutional usage and parliamentary etiquette which guide the Member asking questions; they are mainly negative. But the positive thing about it all is that the Ministers can be challenged from day to day about the way they do their work and that they must answer.

**South African Racial Policy**

(Continued from Page 1)

satisfy their need for reliable and efficient labour."

In 1872 India stopped emigration in retaliation for the ill-treatment of Indians. By 1874, when emigration was resumed, Indians had by their industry fully justified the expectations. After the indenture period, many Indians accepted lands and by their industry and skill applied in other directions built Natal into a "Garden Colony". In view of this history, Shri Deshmukh said, Dr. Malan's contention that Indians were always intended to be sent back was a "piece of arrogant nonsense".

Shri Deshmukh explained how the arrival of Indian traders in South Africa created "envy" among the Europeans leading to the cry of "white civilization in danger" and a spate of anti-Indian legislation to destroy the economic position of Indians. It was important to remember that more than seventy such anti-Indian enactments existed, he said.

Shri Deshmukh then referred to the struggles launched by Mahatma Gandhi to achieve full civic rights to the resident Indian population and said: "This tug-of-war still [continues each day bringing fresh evils for the Indians". As a result of these events, he said, General Smuts acquired a firm belief in the efficacy of soul force and throughout his life entertained very high regard for the personality and doctrine of Mahatma Gandhi. "I discovered this to be so even in the critical year of 1946 which had induced me as the last High Commissioner for India to make one last effort at compromise by an offer of bringing about a meeting between these outstanding world personalities, Smuts and Gandhiji", Shri Deshmukh said.

He added: "If this had taken place, some solution might have been found. But history had a different design in view and history must now take its relentless course".

(Indian Information Services)

**Social Play—Super Attraction**

in aid of the

**SAIYA PARIPALANA SABAI  
NAVALAR ASHRAMAM**

ON

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 1952

at the

JAFFNA TOWN HALL

The Co-operative Officers' Recreation Club  
will stage their latest hit

**"Susilavin ★  
★ Kathal"**

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**THE JAFFNA MUTUAL  
BENEFIT FUND Ltd.**

(Established 1918)

**BANKERS.**

Authorised Capital Rs. 800,000.00  
Amount of Calls made Rs. 134,367.00

SHARES: 8000 shares of Rs. 100/- each. 75 monthly instalments of Re. 1/- per share will earn Rs. 100/- for each at the end of the period. Shares issued all times.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and interest allowed at 1% per annum on the average monthly balance when it does not fall below Rs. 500/-.

FIXED DEPOSITS received for periods of 3, 6, 9 and 12 months and interest allowed at 1, 2, 4 and 6 % respectively.

DRAFTS issued on the National and Imperial Banks to Colombo and the Principal cities of India. Remittances to and from F. M. S. by special arrangements.

INDIAN MONEY bought and sold

LOANS on the security of Jewels a speciality. Interest charged at 12% per annum (Part payments accepted.)

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS APPLY TO:

S. KANAGASABAI,  
Shroff.