



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

DEWAN NEGARA (SENATE)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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FEDERATION OF MALAYA
DEWAN NEGARA (SENATE)
Official Report

Vol. II

Second Session of the First Dewan Negara

No. 6

Monday, 15th August, 1960

The Senate met at Ten o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:

- The Honourable Mr. President, DATO' HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN BIN MOHAMED YASIN, S.P.M.J., P.I.S., J.P. (Johore).
- „ the Minister of Justice, TUN LEONG YEW KOH, S.M.N. (Appointed).
- „ TUAN HAJI ABBAS BIN HAJI MOHAMED (Trengganu).
- „ ENCHE' AHMAD BIN SAID, A.M.N. (Perak).
- „ ENCHE' A. M. ABU BAKAR, J.M.N. (Appointed).
- „ ENCHE' ABDUL WAHAB BIN IDUS, P.J.K. (Negri Sembilan).
- „ ENCHE' AMALUDDIN BIN DARUS (Kelantan).
- „ ENCHE' CHAN KWONG HON, A.M.N., J.P. (Selangor).
- „ ENCHE' CHEAH SENG KHIM, J.P. (Penang).
- „ DATO' DR. CHEAH TOON LOK, J.M.N., J.P., DATO' MAHA KURNIA (Appointed).
- „ ENCHE' CHOO KOK LEONG (Appointed).
- „ ENCHE' J. E. S. CRAWFORD, J.M.N., J.P. (Appointed).
- „ ENCHE' DA ABDUL JALIL BIN HAJI AWANG (Trengganu).
- „ ENCHE' HASHIM BIN AWANG, J.P. (Penang).
- „ ENCHE' KOH KIM LENG (Malacca).
- „ DATO' LEE FOONG YEE, J.M.N., P.P.T., J.P. (Negri Sembilan).
- „ ENCHE' LIM HEE HONG, A.M.N. (Appointed).
- „ ENCHE' MOHD. SALLEH BIN MOHAMED ARIFF (Malacca).
- „ ENSKU MUHSEIN BIN ABDUL KADIR, J.M.N., P.J.K. (Appointed).
- „ ENCHE' ATHI NAHAPPAN (Appointed).
- „ ENCHE' NIK HASSAN BIN HAJI NIK YAHYA, J.M.N. (Appointed).
- „ TUAN HAJI NIK MOHD. ADEEB BIN HAJI NIK MOHAMED (Kelantan).
- „ TOK PANGKU PANDAK HAMID BIN PUTEH JALI, P.J.K. (Appointed).
- „ RAJA RASTAM SHAHROME BIN RAJA SAID TAUPHY (Selangor).

The Honourable DATO' SHEIKH ABU BAKAR BIN YAHYA, D.P.M.J., P.I.S., J.P. (Johore).

„ DATO' G. SHELLEY, P.M.N., J.P. (Appointed).

„ TUAN SYED AHMAD BIN SYED MAHMUD SHAHABUDIN, J.M.N. (Kedah).

„ ENCHE' T. H. TAN, J.M.N. (Appointed).

„ DATO' E. E. C. THURASINGHAM, D.P.M.J., J.P. (Appointed).

„ ENCHE' S. O. K. UBAIDULLA (Appointed).

„ ENCHE' WAN AHMAD BIN WAN DAUD, P.J.K., J.P. (Perlis).

„ ENCHE' YAP KHEN VAN, A.M.N., J.P. (Pahang).

„ ENCHE' YEOH KIAN TEIK (Perak).

ABSENT:

The Honourable ENCHE' ABDUL HAMID BIN MAHMUD, J.M.N. (Appointed).

„ ENCHE' MOHD. ZAHIR BIN HAJI ISMAIL (Kedah).

„ ENCHE' S. P. S. NATHAN (Appointed).

„ DATO' WAN IBRAHIM BIN WAN TANJONG, J.M.N., P.J.K.,
Orang Kaya Indera Maharaja Purba Jelai (Pahang).

IN ATTENDANCE:

The Honourable the Prime Minister, Y.T.M. TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PUTRA AL-HAJ, K.O.M. (Kuala Kedah).

„ the Minister of Finance, ENCHE' TAN SIEW SIN, J.P. (Malacca Tengah).

„ the Minister of Works, Posts and Telecommunications, DATO' V. T. SAMBANTHAN, P.M.N. (Sungei Siput).

„ the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, DATO' ONG YOKE LIN, P.M.N. (Ulu Selangor).

„ the Minister of Commerce and Industry, ENCHE' MOHAMED KHIR BIN JOHARI (Kedah Tengah).

„ ENCHE' ABDUL HAMID KHAN BIN HAJI SAKHAWAT ALI KHAN, J.M.N., J.P., Assistant Minister (Batang Padang).

„ ENCHE' V. MANICKAVASAGAM, J.M.N., P.J.K., Assistant Minister (Klang).

PRAYERS

(Mr. President *in the Chair*)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR. PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. President: Ahli² Yang Berhormat, satu perutusan telah di-terima daripada Dewan Ra'ayat berkenaan dengan Rang Undang² yang telah diluluskan oleh Dewan itu. Setia-Usaha Dewan ini akan membachakan perutusan itu.

(Whereupon, the Clerk read the following message dated 10th August, 1960):

“Mr. President,

The House of Representatives has passed the following Bills—

- (1) Bill to make special provisions for the grant of a pension and allowance to Her Highness Tunku Puan Besar Kurshiah, the Consort of His late Majesty Tuanku Abdul Rahman ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Muhammad,

- (2) Bill to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund for additional expenditure for the service of the year 1960, to appropriate such a sum for certain purposes and to provide for the replacement of amounts advanced from the Contingencies Fund,
- (3) Bill to amend the Development Fund Ordinance, 1958,
- (4) Bill to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund for additional expenditure for the service of the year 1959, to appropriate such a sum for certain purposes and to provide for the replacement of amounts advanced from the Contingencies Fund,
- (5) to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund for additional expenditure for the service of the year 1958, and to appropriate such a sum for certain purposes,

and transmit them to the Senate for its concurrence.

(Sgd.) Speaker"

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Radio Malaya

1. Enche' Amaludin bin Darus bertanya kepada Perdana Menteri ia-itu ada-kah Kerajaan akan menjadikan Radio Malaya sa-buah Lembaga Penyiaran seperti B.B.C. di-England, bagaimana yang telah pernah di-janjikan di-dalam manifesto Perikatan? Jika Kerajaan akan melaksanakan, bila dan ada-kah Kerajaan bertujuan akan menyerahkan kepada modal luar negeri mengendalikan-nya? Jika tidak terangkan apa-kah sebab-nya.

The Prime Minister: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, bagi menjawab soalan ini, saya suka sebutkan di-sini manifesto yang di-sebutkan oleh Ahli Yang Berhormat itu ia-lah manifesto yang di-keluarkan pada tahun 1955; yang sa-benar-nya manifesto tahun 1955 yang ada di-hadapan saya ini tidak menyebutkan perkara ini. Pada awal-nya, chadangan Perikatan sa-belum memegang teraju

Kerajaan ia-lah hendak menjadikan Radio Malaya sa-bagai Corporation. Apabila sudah memegang teraju Kerajaan, telah di-dapati tidak menasabah di-jalankan sa-bagai Corporation, kerana kebanyakan kaki-tangan Radio Malaya bukan semua-nya boleh di-katakan warga-negara Persekutuan Tanah Melayu dan juga dengan memandang keadaan negeri ini pada masa itu masa dharurat dan juga keadaan orang² kita yang ta'at setia-nya berbelah bahagi. Jadi tidak harus Radio Malaya itu di-jalankan sa-bagai Corporation kerana banyak merbahaya-nya, itu-lah sebab-nya manifesto tahun 1959, tidak di-sebut langsung berkenaan dengan Radio Malaya ini, chuma yang di-sebutkan—saya suka hendak bachakan dalam bahasa Inggeris:

"To build up Radio Malaya as a national service capable of serving the people to this end, increasing use will be made of Malayan Artists, etc., and the use of the National language encouraged and it is proposed to provide for better radio coverage in the East Coast and to improve facilities in the auxiliary stations in Penang and Malacca."

Itu-lah yang di-sebutkan dalam manifesto Pilehan Raya yang lepas.

Malayan Film Unit

2. Enche' Amaludin bin Darus bertanya kepada Perdana Menteri ia-itu apa-kah langkah yang telah di-ambil oleh Kerajaan bagi menunaikan janji manifesto Perikatan yang menjanjikan akan menjalankan Malayan Film Unit atas dasar perniagaan, supaya tidak lagi perbelanjaan-nya bergantung kepada Kerajaan; sila terangkan langkah² yang telah di-ambil, jika tidak sila nyatakan sebab²-nya.

The Prime Minister: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, Radio Malaya ini kita memandang sa-bagai nadi (pulse) bagi Kerajaan negeri ini. Jadi bukan-lah kita memandang di-atas perbelanjaan dan sa-bagai-nya. Chuma memandang di-atas keselamatan bagi Kerajaan kita ini, itu-lah sebab-nya Kerajaan Persekutuan tidak berchadang hendak menjadikan Radio Malaya sa-bagai Corporation . . .

Mr. President: Malayan Film Unit. Question No. 2.

The Prime Minister: I am so sorry, perkara ini pun dalam manifesto yang lepas tidak ada di-sebut hendak menjadikan Film Unit sa-bagai badan yang berasingan, itu-lah sebab-nya di-jalankan sa-bagaimana yang lazim-nya. Saya suka sebutkan Film Unit pada masa sekarang ini di-jalankan sa-bagai badan Kerajaan. Mithal-nya, dalam tahun 1958 Film Unit mendapat hasil \$328,000 dan dalam tahun 1959 \$304,000. Ini Kerajaan mengambil contract daripada saudagar² dan orang² yang hendak menggunakan Film Unit ini.

Risalat di-Kedutaan Tanah Melayu

3. Enche' Amaludin bin Darus bertanya kepada Menteri Luar ia-itu menurut siaran akhbar, sa-orang pelawat dari Tanah Melayu yang telah membuat lawatan ka-negeri Jepun telah menerangkan, bahawa di-Kedutaan Tanah Melayu di-sana tidak terdapat barang² dan risalah² mengenai Tanah Melayu, sa-balek-nya apa yang di-dapati di-kedutaan itu ia-lah barang² dan risalah² daayah mengenai Pulau Hawai dan Amerika Sharikat, sa-olah² Kedutaan Tanah Melayu di-Jepun sa-bagai wakil dari Jabatan Pelancong Amerika Sharikat; sila terangkan sebab²-nya mengapa-kah telah terjadi bagitu, dan mengapa-kah Kerajaan tidak membekalkan barang² dan risalah² dari Tanah Melayu bagaimana yang saperti-nya.

The Prime Minister: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, siaran akhbar yang di-sebutkan oleh Yang Berhormat itu ia-lah sa-bagaimana yang di-dapati dalam akhbar telah pun di-napikan oleh Kementerian Luar Negeri pada 25 haribulan July, 1960. Dan juga tujuan di-keluarkan oleh chakapan itu ia-itu Tuan Mansor bin Sanusi telah pun menapikan juga pada 1 haribulan August, 1960, sa-bagai apa yang di-keluarkan oleh-nya sendiri, tujuan-nya nampak-nya bertentangan dengan apa tujuan yang sa-benar-nya Duta Persekutuan Tanah Melayu di-Tokyo adakan risalah² daripada mana² Duta yang hendakkan kapada-nya, bagitu-lah juga Duta² lain pun—Persekutuan Tanah Melayu hantar juga risalah² yang di-keluarkan oleh Persekutuan Tanah

Melayu supaya di-bentangkan untuk pengetahuan yang di-gunakan oleh Duta itu. Yang sa-benar-nya Duta Tanah Melayu di-Jepun itu ada berbagai² risalah yang ada keluaran di-sini bahkan ada filem² yang ada di-situ serta lagu² Melayu yang di-rekodkan di-situ dari Tanah Melayu. Jadi, apa yang di-keluarkan-nya itu saya boleh menapikan di-sini tidak-lah benar.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE (NOTICE OF BILLS)

The Minister of Justice (Tun Leong Yew Koh): Sir, I beg to give notice that the following Money Bills—

Special Pension (Her Highness Tunku Puan Besar Kurshiah) Bill, 1960

The Supplementary Supply (No. 2) (1960) Bill

The Supplementary Supply (No. 5) (1959) Bill

The Supplementary Supply (No. 8) (1958) Bill

The Development Fund (Amendment) Bill

be read a second time forthwith.

Mr. President: Sa-bagai memberi peluang kesempatan kapada Ahli² Yang Berhormat bagi menimbang dan menyemak semula Rang Undang² yang akan di-bahathkan kelak, Majlis ini di-tangguhkan sahingga pukul 2.30 petang ini.

Sitting suspended at 10.15 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 2.45 p.m.

BILLS

THE SPECIAL PENSION (HER HIGHNESS TUNKU PUAN BESAR KURSHIAH) BILL

Second Reading

Tun Leong Yew Koh: Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill intituled "an Act to make special provisions for the grant of a pension and allowance to Her Highness Tunku Puan Besar Kurshiah, the Consort of His late Majesty Tuanku Abdul Rahman ibni

Al-Marhum Tuanku Muhammad" be read a second time.

Sir, as explained by the title of the Bill and the Explanatory Statement at the bottom of it, the purpose of this Bill is to provide for the payment of a pension of \$1,500 and a maintenance allowance of \$300, a month to Her Highness Tunku Puan Besar Kurshiah, the former Raja Permaisuri Agong and widow of His late Majesty. Although the Constitution of the Federation of Malaya does not make any provision for the payment of pension or allowance to a former Raja Permaisuri Agong, the Government feels that having regard to the circumstances in which Tunku Kurshiah has become a widow and to the important services which she had rendered to the Federation during her term of office as Raja Permaisuri Agong, it would be fitting if the Federation Government makes some provision for her future maintenance. This sum would be over and above any provision which may be made by the State of Negri Sembilan in her capacity as the Dowager Consort of the former Yam Tuan Besar of Negri Sembilan.

Honourable Members will no doubt agree with me that it is not only proper but also desirable that our former Raja Permaisuri Agong should be reasonably provided for to enable her to maintain her dignity and self-respect, which would in turn reflect on the dignity and self-respect of our State.

In this connection, Honourable Members will be aware that His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong has graciously been pleased to accord Tunku Kurshiah the title "Yang Maha Mulia Tunku Puan Besar Kurshiah" and the honorific, in English, is "Her Highness".

I am sure the House will not object to this small amount which is proposed to be made to the widow of the first Yang di-Pertuan Agong, whose loving memory is still fresh in our minds.

The pension and allowance paid under this Bill will be charged on the Consolidated Fund as is done with other pensions.

Sir, I beg to move.

Enche' Lim Hee Hong: Sir, I beg to second the motion.

Enche' Amaluddin bin Darus: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, Bill yang di-kemukakan ini ia-itu satu Bill yang meminta bayaran Special Pension pada bekas Duli Yang Maha Mulia Raja Permaisuri Agong bagi Persekutuan Tanah Melayu. Saya sangat-lah menyokong atas Bill ini, oleh kerana dengan ini membuktikan satu penghargaan kepada Duli Yang Maha Mulia atas khidmatnya yang telah di-tunjokan sa-lama ini sa-bagai Raja Permaisuri Agong di-samping Duli Yang Maha Mulia Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong yang telah meninggal baharu² ini. Maka pada pendapat saya bahawa Dewan ini sudah tentu-lah akan meluluskan Bill ini bukan sahaja kerana mengenangkan kepada jasa beliau sa-bagai Raja Permaisuri Agong pada masa yang lalu, akan tetapi sa-bagai penghargaan dan peringatan dalam sa-buah negeri yang beraja dengan ra'ayat-nya yang sentiasa ta'at setia yang tidak berbelah bagi, maka rasa yang ikhlas dari ra'ayat yang bersetuju memberi penchen ini, menjadi bukti bichara tanda keperchayaan ra'ayat kepada Duli Yang Maha Mulia Raja² dan khusus-nya kepada bekas Duli Yang Maha Mulia Raja Permaisuri Agong, maka saya sangat-lah sukachita bahawa Kerajaan telah sanggup mengambil berat di-atas perkara ini, dan saya menyokong dengan sekuat²-nya terhadap Bill ini. (*Tepok*).

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

House immediately resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill.

Bill considered in Committee.

(Mr. President in the Chair)

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedule ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported without amendment: read the third time and passed.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY (1960) (No. 2) BILL

Second Reading

Tun Leong Yew Koh: Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill intituled "an Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund for additional expenditure for the service of the year 1960, to appropriate such a sum for certain purposes and to provide for the replacement of amounts advanced from the Contingencies Fund" be read a second time.

Engku Muhsein: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya menyokong.

- Enche' Tan Siew Sin: Mr. President, Sir, it is not my intention at this stage to deal with the individual items of Expenditure in the Estimates as, in the ordinary course of events, my colleagues and I will deal with or answer questions on such items during the Committee stage of this Bill. I would, however, like to deal now with Head 33 in respect of "Contributions to Statutory Funds" which happens to fall within my portfolio and which intends to create three new Trust Funds. As these Funds are of some importance it would, perhaps, not be out of place for me to explain the purposes of these Funds briefly.

The object of the first Trust Fund is to provide a simple method of making ex-gratia payments of \$500 per month to Tunku Zaidah during the rest of her life or until she re-marries. As Honourable Members are aware, Tunku Zaidah, although not holding official office in the Federation, was the wife of our late and much beloved first Monarch of the independent Persekutuan Tanah Melayu, His Majesty Tuanku Abdul Rahman. Although the Government does not wish to set a precedent by creating a pension for this lady by law, it feels that the nation will wish to express in tangible form its sense of obligation to the wife of our late King. It is proposed, therefore, to set up this Trust Fund under the Control of the Minister of Finance who will arrange for the Fund to be suitably invested and to be disbursed to Tunku Zaidah at the rate of \$500 per month. If Tunku Zaidah should

die or should re-marry before the Fund is exhausted, the balance of the Fund will be returned to revenue. Thus it will be seen that neither Tunku Zaidah nor her successors will have any claim to the principal in the Fund at any time.

The proposed "Overseas Malaysians' Trust Fund" is a device which is proposed in order to keep track of recoverable advances which are made to Malaysians who find themselves in distress or financial embarrassment overseas. At present, such financial aid is paid from an expenditure vote "Contingencies for Malaysians Overseas" which can be found in Sub-head 4 of Head 29—Ministry of External Affairs—in the 1960 Estimates. It is the Government's policy to confine this form of financial aid, as far as possible to advances, as opposed to outright grants, and in the course of time the Government will expect the recipients or their families to repay the advances. Owing to the Government accounting system in which expenditure accounts are closed at the end of each financial year, it is difficult to keep track in the accounts of advances made but not yet recovered. In future it is proposed that such advances should be made in the first place, from the new Trust Fund, and in this way the amounts outstanding will remain as a debit in the books until the advances are either repaid or specific supply action is taken to write them off.

The "Industrial Site Development Trust Fund", to which it is proposed to appropriate \$2 million, will be operated under the authority of the Minister of Commerce and Industry and will be used to make loans to State Governments or other Authorities to facilitate the development of sites for industrial purposes. As Honourable Members are aware, this process has been tried with great success at Petaling Jaya, and the real degree of success which has been achieved at that new Town has raised problems of its own. Not only is the land available for industrial development at Petaling Jaya becoming limited, but also there is the danger that we shall get too many of our eggs in one basket, with the result that too much of our new industrial

development will be concentrated in one place. While raising local problems concerning labour and housing, this will react to the detriment of other areas in the country. The Government feels that it is its duty not only to encourage industrial development but also to ensure that such development is located in such a way as to provide a pattern of overall development of the country as a whole. The sum of money to be appropriated to the Trust Fund does not seem large compared with the purpose for which it is intended, but it must be remembered that this Trust Fund will revolve at a fair rate as new industrial sites are developed and sold. Thus the total of industrial site development which can be undertaken with the Fund will be considerably greater than is indicated by the amount to be appropriated to it.

Honourable Members will also note that under "Head 32—Treasury" there is an item for \$10 million, being the first instalment of the repayment of the \$30 million loan from the Singapore Government. In the Dewan Ra'ayat I explained the extremely generous nature of this loan which was made by the Government of Singapore to the Federation at the height of the Emergency in 1953. I know that this House will wish to associate itself with the expression of gratitude to Singapore which was made in the Dewan Ra'ayat.

Enche' Yeoh Kian Teik: Mr. President, Sir, when this Bill was read in the Lower House it was acrimoniously discussed by Members of the Opposition. I refer, in particular, to one statement by the Honourable Member for Ipoh wherein he said that in this country clerks and such like become Minister of Health and Minister of Finance.

Mr. President, Sir, in our new country every opportunity is given to every citizen of this country to rise to the highest position available, and I think it is a disgrace for Members of either House to make such criticisms of our Ministers. I do not—and I hope I will not—hear criticisms by this Honourable Member on leaders of other countries who have risen from the lowest rank in

society. I know of a painter who became a dictator; I know of a peasant also who became a leader of his country. But people like the Honourable Member for Ipoh have no criticisms of these leaders, whereas in our country we find such criticism.

I believe, Sir, in this House, as well as in the Lower House, there should be a certain standard of dignity and decorum; but whenever there is a Bill to be debated, we find certain Opposition Members making various personal attacks against Members of the Government or against Members of the ruling Party. If there are any constructive criticisms, Sir, then I say those criticisms are welcome, but to make any personal attack is criticism which, to say the least, is beneath the dignity of either House.

Enche' Nik Hassan bin Haji Nik Yahya: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya bangun kerana hendak bertanya kepada Yang Berhormat Menteri Buroh berkenaan dengan peruntukan yang berjumlah sa-banyak \$1,000 di-bawah Labour and Industrial Relations dan juga \$38,590 di-bawah Ministry of Labour. Saya mempunyai perasaan dan saya rasa ada baik-nya saya mengambil peluang ini menarek pandangan Yang Berhormat Menteri Buroh dalam perkara kerja²-nya bagi menguatkan kedudukan Pejabat Perhubungan Buroh ini, sebab dalam perkara menchari pekerjaan ini ada-lah satu perkara yang paling penting sekali. Pada masa ini manusia makin sa-hari makin bertambah dan makin sa-tahun makin bertambah, tetapi pekerjaan-nya tidak-lah begitu bertambah.

Dalam perkara perusahaan², pada hari ini kita boleh lihat ia-itu Petaling Jaya dan Kuala Lumpur telah menjadi tumpuan, tetapi bagaimana di-lain negeri, bagi penduduk² yang di-luar daripada Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur atau negeri Selangor? Mata pencharian mereka tentu-lah tidak begitu bertambah dengan chepat-nya, kerana tumpuan modal daripada luar itu ada-lah sa-mata² di-tumpukan di-tempat saperti Petaling Jaya sahaja. Jadi usaha yang baik bagi Kementerian Buroh ia-lah mengkaji semua kedudukan bagaimana chara-nya supaya membolehkan

Kerajaan membawa buroh daripada lain negeri ka-tempat yang boleh dan ada pekerjaan bagi mereka itu.

Pada suatu masa dahulu ia-itu sa-masa negeri ini belum merdeka, saya ada melihat satu penyiasatan telah dijalankan, kalau tidak salah saya, ada sa-orang pakar atau ahli berkenaan dengan buroh menyiasat bagaimana chara-nya supaya membolehkan Kerajaan memindahkan buroh² daripada pantai timor ka-pantai barat, tetapi penyiasatan ini sampai hari ini kita tidak mendengar bagaimana-ka² chara-nya pelaksanaan atas penyiasatan itu.

Jadi, saya rasa sa-telah kita merdeka, sa-telah kita memerintah sendiri maka masalah ini patut dan ada baik-nya sakira-nya di-bangkitkan balek oleh pehak Kerajaan hari ini dan mengadakan satu pakar yang betul² mahir dalam keadaan buroh ini dan mengadakan satu penyiasatan kedudukan buroh² di-seluruh negeri ini supaya ada mana² orang ramai yang berkehendakan kapada pekerjaan—yang tidak ada pekerjaan di-sebelah pantai timor di-pindahkan kapada pantai barat. Saya rasa ada baik-nya adakan satu penyiasatan yang teliti bagaimana-ka² kedudukan orang² ini di-pantai timor dan lain² negeri umpama-nya yang tidak begitu banyak mata pencharian di-tempat mereka boleh menchari pekerjaan atau pun tidak ada banyak perhubungan yang baik. Jadi, pindahkan mereka ini, berikan pekerjaan kapada mereka ini di-sebelah negeri² yang banyak mata pencharian.

Saya telah dapati banyak pekerja² daripada pantai timor yang datang bekerja di-Pejabat Keretapi, umpama-nya menjadi buroh keretapi di-sebelah pantai barat dan banyak daripada mereka bertambah, umpama-nya ka-negeri² saperti Negri Sembilan dan lain² tempat yang bekerja tetapi chara perpindahan mereka itu tidak-lah terator dan tidak di-ator oleh pehak yang berkenaan. Chuma mereka chuba melepaskan tempat mereka dan menuju kapada mana² yang boleh mereka menchari pekerjaan. Tetapi biasa-nya kalau mereka berpindah dengan suka hati mereka sendiri maka chara perpindahan

mereka itu kadang²-nya menimpa kerugian dan kesusahan kapada mereka. Mereka terpaksa melepaskan harta benda, umpama-nya rumah tangga mereka tetapi kadang² apabila tidak ada pekerjaan mereka terpaksa pulang ka-negeri-nya dengan keadaan yang paling burok daripada mereka pernah merasai di-masa mereka belum berpindah. Kalau tidak salah saya, di-Kedah pernah menjadi tumpuan bagi pekerja² daripada Kelantan, waktu menuai padi umpama-nya. Tetapi beribu² orang ini berpindah dengan keadaan bersendirian dan ada kala-nya mereka berpindah ini untuk menchari pekerjaan, kadang² mereka terpaksa balek dengan keadaan yang bukan menyenangkan. Jadi ada baik-nya, saya rasa pakar² dalam perkara ini, dalam perkara berhubung dengan buroh ini menyiasat dengan teliti keadaan chara memberi pekerjaan kapada ra'ayat negeri ini dan mengadakan satu penyata penoh tentang hal ini dan penyata itu kita akan timbangkan di-sini atau di-timbangkan oleh Dewan Ra'ayat supaya satu masa nanti keadaan chara memberi pekerjaan kapada ra'ayat negeri ini berjalan dengan baik-nya dan terator. Jadi, saya rasa itu-lah sahaja pendapat saya dalam perkara ini, saya rasa Kementerian yang berkenaan akan dapat mengemukakan pendapat-nya tentang hal ini dan juga apa-ka² keperluan perbelanjaan di-bawah pejabat-nya ini.

Enche' T. H. Tan: Mr. President, Sir, I would like to make a comment on an item under Head 29—Ministry of External Affairs for which there is a provision of \$419,895. I believe, Sir, this sum includes an item of \$91,000 to cover the travelling expenses incurred by our Prime Minister during his recent visit to Europe. Mr. President, Sir, I personally feel that we have been niggardly in our expenditure in regard to such travels. Our Prime Minister represents this country, and I say to this House that this nation, though small and young, has a tremendous reputation throughout the world. In the first place, we have achieved independence without bloodshed which is something unknown in history, and in the second place, we have championed

many causes both within the United Nations and without. I refer to the issue of Tibet; and I refer to South Africa. Such is the reputation, the dignity and the prestige of our nation that for our Prime Minister to travel like any other traveller in an ordinary aeroplane is something quite niggardly, and I do hope that as our finances build up and as our financial resources become greater, thanks to the prudence of the Treasury in other directions, our Prime Minister can in future travel in keeping with the dignity of our nation and in accordance with the funds available (*Applause*).

Enche' Da Abdul Jalil: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya juga mengambil peluang untuk berchakap sa-patah dua dalam Undang² ini. Saya rasa dalam soal Ministry of Transport, di-negeri Trengganu belum ada satu Jabatan Transport. Perkara ini ada-lah menjadi ka-susah kan kepada ra'ayat di-Trengganu untuk membuat satu² perhubungan dalam perkara transport. Saya rasa ada baiknya kalau-lah pihak Ministry yang disebutkan itu dapat mengadakan sa-buah pejabat bagi kemudahan ra'ayat Trengganu dalam soal transport.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya suka menarek perhatian berkenaan dengan hal masaalah kaki tangan dan juga dalam perkara kasehatan di-Jabatan Perubatan di-Trengganu. Di-Trengganu ada-lah sangat menghadapi kekurangan dalam soal pegawai² daripada pihak Pejabat Perubatan itu. Bagitu-lah juga berkenaan dengan kereta² untuk kegunaan oleh pejabat itu. Saya suka menarek perhatian kepada pihak Kementerian yang bersangkutan dalam perkara ini supaya dapat-lah di-beri perhatian dalam perkara itu. Itu-lah saja pandangan saya.

Enche' Yeoh Kian Teik: Mr. President, Sir, item No. 1, Parliament, there is provision for \$365,000. I understand part of this sum goes to pay for the allowances of Honourable Members of this House. Today, I notice a difference in the procedure, whereas, formerly, whenever we come to the first day of any session, it is automatically adjourned to a later date and Honourable Members are enriched by the magnificent sum of \$35 for attending a

seven-minute session of this House. Mr. President, Sir, but today's session is continuing and it is, in my opinion, a move in the right direction, as it will save the Government of the Federation of Malaya a considerable sum of money both in allowances and in transport allowances.

Mr. President: You have spoken once before!

Enche' Yeoh Kian Teik: The second item, with your permission, Sir, is Pensions, under Item 38, Retiring Allowances and Gratuities. There is also an extra sum of \$600,000 in this Bill. I request the Minister concerned to consider the plight of the old-aged pensioners in the country, and ask the Honourable Minister whether any provision has been made to increase their pensions or any action taken to assist them.

I thank you for your indulgence, Mr. President, Sir, for allowing me this opportunity to speak. (*Laughter*).

Enche' V. Manickavasagam: Mr. President, Sir, in reply to the question raised by the Honourable Member, I wish to state that the Government does not unnecessarily encourage the migration of labour from one State to another. We fully realise the increase in the number of people looking for jobs, and it is to meet this that land settlement schemes have been started in the various States and other local industries on a small scale, like cottage industries, have been initiated to help the local people.

Sir, we have set up an Employment Exchange in Kota Bharu recently, and I also wish to state that it is not the intention of the Government to concentrate just in and around Petaling Jaya. The Honourable Minister of Finance has just said, while moving this motion to the House, that a Trust Fund of \$2,000,000 is being set up to encourage State Governments to start industries in the various States. Sir, I think the Honourable Member could induce his State to make full use of that money so that people in that area could get employment.

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Dato' Ong Yoke Lin): Mr. President, in reply to the Honourable Member—I believe he mentioned the shortage of doctors and medical staff in the State of Trengganu—it is well-known that there is a general shortage of medical officers and ancillary staff which has been caused, as I think the Honourable Member will appreciate, by what happened over the past two decades or so: we had the period of the Japanese Occupation, then the 12 years of Emergency with all the money and man-power resources diverted to fighting the Communist terrorists, we have not been able to give much money to provide for more doctors, health officers and other staff to the various States throughout the country. But, Sir, energetic steps are being taken—positive measures are being taken—to increase the number of medical and health officers and ancillary staff. We are getting a better flow of doctors into the Government service, and to remedy the present shortage we are getting assistance with such medical officers from friendly countries. In addition to that, we are actively pursuing the plan to have our own medical school—a medical faculty in the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur. As regards the other staff, we have obtained authority now, after discussions with the Treasury, to start planning for a new hostel accommodation and school building in order to enable us to train more nursing staff. The plan is to step up the intake of student nurses from the present level of just over 3,000 in training to well over 7,000, and there is also to be an increase in the tempo in training of assistant nurses and midwives. Sir, as soon as we get more staff, we will consider distributing them to the various hospitals, and in particular we are concentrating on the expansion of our services to the rural areas.

Enche' Tan Siew Sin: Mr. President, Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. T. H. Tan referred to the provision of \$31,000 which was made in connection with the Prime Minister's recent visit to Europe. As Honourable Members may be aware, a considerable amount of debate and heat was generated in the

Lower House on this particular question, and I made the point there that, in fact, Malaya is probably the only country in the world which sends its Prime Minister abroad on official State Visits in an ordinary plane, and I agree with my Honourable friend Mr. T. H. Tan that we are really doing it on the cheap. Even other countries of comparable size and population send their Prime Ministers abroad in a chartered plane.

My Honourable friend Mr. Yeoh Kian Teik referred to old-age pensions. I assume that he is not suggesting old-age pensions for everybody but that he is only referring to the pensions given to members of the Public Service when they retire. Government is not contemplating any increases or revision of the present pension scales, and unless the Honourable Member can think of some good reason why they should be revised upwards and not, I take it, downwards, I have nothing more to say.

Enche' S. O. K. Ubaidulla: Mr. President, my Honourable friend Mr. Yeoh Kian Teik touched on a very good point that has been for very long in my mind. Taking about Council Allowance, he touched upon the fact that the Senate often meets for seven minutes and then disperses. Sir, then he went on to say that we have made a move in the right direction by sitting through today. First of all, it is not so, because according to Standing Order 66 (2), we are allowed to take Money Bills through. But to come to the very point of sitting for seven minutes every time we meet—this has brought us a very, very bad name in the country (*Laughter*).

Indeed, the working and the function of the Senate is being grossly misunderstood. And, as a matter of fact, today a friend of mine who belongs to the journalist profession asked me—of course it is a private one—“Have you done the warming-up of the seat this morning?” Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to make it widely known, and to erase the misunderstanding, that we come and sit here to mention the Bills for seven or ten minutes because it is written in the Constitution that we should come and

sit and disperse, giving a week or so to meet again.

I would like to take this opportunity to request the Government to amend the Constitution at the earliest opportunity so that we can mention the Bills and resume the next day if possible. I have considered it as a very important matter because, apart from enriching some of the Members by \$35, as Mr. Yeoh Kian Teik puts it, it is a loss of a working day to many Honourable Members, and it means a lot of travelling from long distances. If there is some way, and if the legal pandits of the Legal Department could find the way, we should have this amended and we take the Bills through by sitting once instead of mentioning it, disperse and then come again.

Sir, I would like to reiterate again that the Senate is not a silent body, and, if it is necessary, it would like to prolong and, if it is not necessary, it would not like to go over the same argument that was made in the Lower House.

Tun Leong Yew Koh: Mr. President, Sir, in future, in order to avoid postponement of the discussion of the Bills, I think there are two ways of doing it: one way is to move the suspension of Standing Order 66 (2) so that we can discuss any non-money Bills; and the other is that we are also taking steps to amend the Standing Orders to this effect.

Dato' Dr. Cheah Toon Lok: Mr. President, Sir, I would like to say a few words regarding the debate on this Bill in the Lower House. I am very grateful to my Honourable friend Mr. Yeoh Kian Teik for undertaking on my behalf to protect the Ministers of the M.C.A. Party. I think to cast reflections on our Ministers, not because of their ability but because of their qualifications, is not justifiable and I agree entirely with the Honourable Member that we have lowered the prestige, the tone and the decorum of the Lower House by those remarks made by the Honourable Member for Ipoh. I know, and I have sat with, a Secretary for Colonial Affairs of a very great power, who was a railway

porter, and he was appointed not because of his qualification but because of his ability to administer the Department. I hope that in future no such remarks would be made against any of our Ministers in the Lower House. Thank you, Sir.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

House immediately resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House.

Bill considered in Committee.

(Mr. President *in the Chair*)

Clauses 1 and 2 inclusive ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedule ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported without amendment: read the third time and passed.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY (1959) (No. 5) BILL, 1960

Second Reading

Tun Leong Yew Koh: Sir, I beg to move that a Bill intituled "an Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund for additional expenditure for the service of the year 1959, to appropriate such a sum for certain purposes and to provide for the replacement of amounts advanced from the Contingencies Fund" be read a second time.

Engku Muhsein: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya menyokong.

Enche' Tan Siew Sin: Mr. President, Sir, I do not propose to make any speech on the Second Reading of this Bill. However, my colleagues and I will be prepared to answer any questions on individual items of expenditure either now or during the Committee stage, i.e., when the proceedings reach the Schedule stage. I might add a word or two, however, about the reason for these Supplementary Estimates. In the Lower House, one Honourable Member asked why it was necessary to bring in so many Supplementary Estimates. He suggested that the Government had failed in its duty

by not providing for contingencies such as these. The explanation, of course, is fairly obvious. As I pointed out in the Lower House, the Estimates are normally discussed between the Ministries and Departments concerned on the one hand and the Treasury on the other hand round about the middle of the year preceding the year to which such Estimates relate. In such a case it will obviously not be possible to anticipate increases in expenditure or unforeseen developments six, twelve or sometimes eighteen months ahead, and the only way to ensure that Supplementary Estimates are not brought in is to inflate individual items of expenditure to such an extent that except in the most exceptional cases they would not be likely to arise; and I think Honourable Members will agree that that would really be an encouragement to extravagance, because it will mean that Estimates will have to be increased far beyond what the Treasury considers as the normal need. The only way, therefore, to get out of this difficulty is to prune the Expenditure Estimates as much as possible and if there is a case in the coming year for increases, then those increases could be considered. I think this explanation will serve to satisfy this House that very often it will be necessary to bring Supplementary Estimates in respect of either the current year or the years which have gone by.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

House immediately resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill.

Bill considered in Committee.

(Mr. President *in the Chair*)

Clauses 1 and 2 inclusive ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedule

Enche' J. E. S. Crawford: Mr. President, Sir, may I ask a question before this Bill is passed? Under the Schedule, Head 3, Legislative Council, \$830, I thought that body had been defunct a long while ago!

Enche' Tan Siew Sin: Mr. President, Sir, this refers to the year 1959 and my Honourable friend Mr. Crawford will probably recall that it was in existence until about August of that year.

Schedule ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported without amendment: read the third time and passed.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY (1958) (No. 8) BILL

Second Reading

Tun Leong Yew Koh: Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill intituled "an Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund for additional expenditure for the service of the year 1958, and to appropriate such a sum for certain purposes" be read a second time.

Enche' T. H. Tan: Sir, I beg to second the motion.

Enche' Tan Siew Sin: Mr. President, Sir, the main item in this Bill is the provision of \$411,134 with regard to the cost of Pensions, Retiring Allowances and Gratuities. I must admit that this vote has often been under-estimated by the Treasury, and we hope to do better next time. In the year 1958 this was aggravated by the late receipt of accounts from the Governments of India and Pakistan in respect of pensions which they paid on our behalf in 1957.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

House immediately resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill.

Bill considered in Committee.

(Mr. President *in the Chair*)

Clauses 1 and 2 inclusive ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedule ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported without amendment: read the third time and passed.

THE DEVELOPMENT FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL

Second Reading

Tun Leong Yew Koh: I beg to move that a Bill intituled "an Act to amend the Development Fund Ordinance, 1958" be read a second time.

Enche' T. H. Tan: I beg to second the motion.

Enche' Tan Siew Sin: Mr. President, Sir, this Bill is of somewhat technical nature, and is designed to facilitate the orderly provision of funds for approved projects in our Development Plans; in particular, the proviso to the new section 4 (5) of the principal Ordinance, which will be inserted by clause 3 (c) of the Bill, will tend to speed up the progress on projects for which funds have already been provided, as it will be unnecessary to seek a revote of those funds if for any reason they could not be spent in the year for which they were approved. Quite incidentally this proviso will also save much time and patience in the Dewan Ra'ayat as Honourable Members of that House will not be asked to consider a debate for re-vote of development funds for projects which have already been approved.

Honourable Members of this House will, I am sure, be glad to note the new section 4 (6) of the principal Ordinance which will also be inserted by clause 3 (c) of the Bill. In future estimates of development expenditure which have been approved by the House of Representatives will be laid before this House

for information. In view of the large sums of money which are represented in the Development Estimates, it is clear that Honourable Members of this House should be kept closely informed of the progress of our plans for capital development.

The other provisions of the Bill are comparatively unimportant and I do not intend to discuss them, but I shall, of course, be prepared to answer any questions which Honourable Members may wish to ask.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

House immediately resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill.

Bill considered in Committee.

(Mr. President *in the Chair*)

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported without amendment: read the third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Tun Leong Yew Koh: I beg to move that the meeting be now adjourned.

Enche' T. H. Tan: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Adjourned to tomorrow at 3.56 o'clock p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATIVES

Assistance to Farmers and Fishermen

1. Enche' Da Abdul Jalil bin Haji Awang asks the Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives to state the nature of assistance given to the padi-planters and fishermen in the East Coast, particularly Trengganu.

The Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives (Enche' Abdul Aziz): Assistance given to padi planters on the East Coast in the current season consists of the following:

- (a) Extension services provided for in State Budgets.
- (b) Research services organised by Federal Government.
- (c) Provision of low cost fertiliser to Kelantan through the Department of Co-operative Development.

Assistance to fishermen includes loans made through the Apex Bank for purchase of motor boats and fishing gear, loan for the purchase of an ice factory at Kota Bharu, and the setting up of automatic flashing lights at river mouths at Kuala Setiu, Kuala Paka and Kuala Kerteh, in Trengganu and the building of halting bungalows. A jetty has been built at Kuala Besut to enable fishing boats to discharge their fish expeditiously for distribution in Kelantan. In Kuala Trengganu a wholesale fish marketing centre is being built this year for the handling of fish for export out of the State. In addition to this selected fishermen from the East Coast, particularly from Trengganu are given training in simple navigation and engine maintenance and repairs at the Fisheries School at Glugor, Penang.

2. Enche' Da Abdul Jalil bin Haji Awang asks the Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives to state the types of assistance, both in cash or in kind, and the amount given under each type of assistance.

Enche' Abdul Aziz:

- (a) Extension services comprise in principle the provision of

advisory staff together with funds sufficient to organise demonstrations, meetings and lectures. The allocation of funds for extension is a matter for the respective State Governments.

- (b) Research services are provided to evolve improved husbandry techniques and to provide high-yielding padi varieties suitable to each locality. The results of these investigations are conveyed to the padi planters by the Extension Services. The following is the anticipated expenditure on research in 1960:

Kelantan ...	\$44,000
Trengganu ...	5,000
Pahang ...	6,000
Total ...	\$55,000

- (c) The provision of low cost fertiliser is designed to provide the padi farmer with fertiliser on credit at prices lower than those offered previously by commercial agents.
- (d) It is also gratifying to mention that the Asia Foundation donated \$6,000 towards the cost of purchasing padi seeds for double-cropping in Kelantan last season.

The amounts granted in the form of loan and other forms of assistance to fishermen are as follows:

- (1) A sum of \$1,143,514.83 has been released up to June, 1960 to fishermen through their Co-operative Societies for the purchase of engines (\$572,480.43), boats and accessories (\$533,207.07), and nets (\$37,827.32).
- (2) Loan to fishermen for purchase of ice-plant at Kota Bharu.
- (3) Cost of building of halting bungalow at Pulau Redang \$25,872.
- (4) Estimated cost of building halting bungalow at Pulau Tioman to be completed in 1960 \$25,000.

- (5) Cost of building of jetty at Kuala Besut complete with winch for unloading fish from fishing boats \$33,000.
- (6) Estimated cost of building navigation lights at Kuala Setiu, Kuala Paka and Kuala Kerteh \$9,108. Construction of the steel structure for all three lights has been completed, and the lights are expected to go into operation in August, 1960.
- (7) Cost of maintenance of these three lights at \$600 per light per year \$1,800.
- (8) Cost of building wholesale marketing centre at Kuala Trengganu \$30,000.
- (9) Cost of building and equipping a new Fisheries School at Sebrang Takir, Kuala Trengganu \$150,000.
- (10) Of 77 fishermen who received training in navigation and engine maintenance in 1959 at the Marine Fisheries School at Glugor, Penang, 53 were from the East Coast. A sum of \$14,699.22 was expended on them in the form of subsistence allowance and travelling expenses.

Ice Plants

3. Enche' Da Abdul Jalil bin Haji Awang asks the Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives to state the progress on the proposal to establish ice plants for the benefit of the fishermen in the State of Trengganu.

Enche' Abdul Aziz: Eight refrigeration plants for the storage of bulk ice and fish will be established at several centres in the East Coast out of grants received from Canada under the Colombo Plan Technical Assistance. Five of these plants will be built in the State of Trengganu, namely; at Kuala Besut, Kuala Trengganu, Dungun, Kijal and Kemaman. It is estimated that the building material will arrive in Malaya by the end of this year, whereas the refrigeration equipment and machinery are expected to be delivered in this country in early March next year.

Fishing Industry—East Coast

4. Enche' Da Abdul Jalil bin Haji Awang asks the Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives to state whether the Government is going to provide teaching and other facilities to the thousands of fishermen in the East Coast, particularly in Trengganu, in the art of deep-sea fishing as this method of fishing will undoubtedly increase their income potentiality and thereby improve their living standard; and if the answer is in the affirmative to describe the schemes which are now in progress or about to be implemented; and if so such project is being undertaken to state the reasons.

Enche' Abdul Aziz: Government is fully alive to the need to train East Coast fishermen in the art of deep-sea fishing. East Coast fishermen, especially those from Trengganu have been sent for training at the Fisheries School, Glugor, Penang, since 1953.

A new School for the training of the East Coast Fishermen particularly those of Trengganu in simple navigation and engine maintenance and repairs has been built at Sebrang Takir. This School together with the one at Glugor, Penang, will provide the necessary facilities for our fishermen to improve themselves. It is also proposed that selected fishermen from these two Fisheries Schools should be sent further afield, for example to Japan to familiarise themselves with the more advanced techniques employed in metropolitan countries. In this connection, active consideration is being given to the question of utilising Colombo Plan Aid Scholarships for the training of selected fishermen and sons of fishermen overseas.

5. Enche' Da Abdul Jalil bin Haji Awang asks the Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives to state whether there is any research being carried out by the Government in connection with marine life in the fishing ground within the East Coast Malayan Territorial Waters; and if there is no such a research when the Government intends to start.

Enche' Abdul Aziz: Research on marine life is being carried out from

the Fisheries Marine Research Laboratory at Penang. The research staff is limited and at present they are fully occupied with studying the important ikan kembong fishery off the coast of Pangkor, Perak. It is the intention of the Ministry to increase the research staff of the Fisheries Department in order that they could cover research studies on fisheries in the East Coast of Malaya. This increased staff is provided for in the 1961 proposed Estimates of the Fisheries Department. Exploratory fishing by Japanese Colombo Plan Expert using Japanese techniques such as the Japanese tuna-long-line and light-fishing with Japanese lift-nets have been conducted on both the East Coast and West Coast of Malaya.

6. Enche' Da Abdul Jalil bin Haji Awang asks the Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives to state the steps taken by the Government to alleviate the hardships of the East Coast fishermen who are being deprived of their only livelihood during the monsoon which lasts about four months in a year.

Enche' Abdul Aziz: Whilst there is still a certain amount of hardship during the monsoon months the position has improved considerably during the last few years as a direct result of mechanisation. Fishermen are now able to take advantage of lulls in the monsoon months to go out fishing and they have been helped considerably by broadcasts of weather conditions by Radio Malaya and the building of the halting bungalow at Pulau Redang, one of their main bases of operation during the monsoon months. In certain areas, particularly in parts of Pahang land has been made available to fishermen to enable them to obtain additional sources of income.

Apex Bank

7. Enche' Da Abdul Jalil bin Haji Awang asks the Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives to state whether any Co-operatives Apex Bank, which has been established in the West Coast States, has been formed in the State of Trengganu in order to provide financial

assistance or otherwise to the fishermen, the farmers and people in the kampong who indulge in small industries in that state; and if no such facility is available to state when it will be formed.

Enche' Abdul Aziz: The Federation of Malaya Rural Co-operatives Apex Bank is at the very apex of the Co-operative Credit set-up in the rural areas. There is therefore only one Apex Bank serving the whole of the Federation of Malaya, and this Bank has its Headquarters in Penang.

The Apex Bank has for membership regional co-operative banking unions which in their turn have the primary co-operative credit societies as members. Membership of these primary societies comprises the thousands of agriculturists and fishermen throughout the Federation of Malaya.

Two unions have been registered and are functioning in the State of Trengganu. The Bank Persatuan Sharikat² Bekerjasama² Trengganu Dengan Tanggongan Berhad (The Trengganu Co-operative Banking Union, Ltd.) serves the State of Trengganu and has 16 rural co-operative credit societies as members. The Persatuan Sharikat² Nelayan Bekerjasama² Pantai Timor Bagi Pengangkutan Dan Pasaran Dengan Tanggongan Berhad (The East Coast Fishermen's Co-operative Transport and Marketing Union Limited) has its Headquarters at Kuala Trengganu. This Union however serves the whole of the East Coast area, from Kampong Kuala Tabal, Kelantan, in the North right down to Kuantan, Pahang, in the South. 20 Fishermen's Co-operative Credit and marketing societies registered and functioning in the State of Trengganu are now members of this Union.

Both the Unions through their primary society members, are providing financial assistance by way of loans, in addition to providing necessary facilities for the processing and marketing of the rural produce, of the fishermen, and the farmers in the kampong who comprise their membership. The organisation and supervision of small industries however are being undertaken by RIDA.

The formation of more societies and the expansion of the activities of those already registered, are being vigorously undertaken.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Rice Import Trade

8. Enche' Da Abdul Jalil bin Haji Awang asks the Minister of Commerce and Industry to state the policy of the Government in order to help thousands of Malay sailors and owners of boats in the East Coast who have been rendered jobless and suffer from loss of capital and income respectively as the result of the restriction imposed by the Government in the import and export of rice.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Enche' Mohd. Khir bin Johari): There are no restrictions on rice imports which can render Malay sailors and owners of boats on the East Coast jobless or cause them to lose capital and income. Rice may be imported by any one in possession of a wholesale licence, provided the licence holder enters into a contract with Government to buy one ton of rice from the Government Reserve Stock for every two tons imported. This measure is necessary to enable the Government to ensure regular sales of rice from its Stock which at present consists entirely of rice grown by Malayan padi growers and bought under the Government's guaranteed price. Without this measure of control the Government could not keep in force its guaranteed minimum price to padi growers.

Export of rice is not generally allowed because the Federation is not self-sufficient in rice.

At no time since the War have restrictions on any dealing in rice been

less than they are now. Therefore the statement that sailors and boat owners on the East Coast have been rendered jobless and have lost capital and income by Government's restrictions must be made as a result of comparing pre-war with existing conditions. Pre-war conditions in the rice trade both inside and outside Malaya were totally different from which they are today and whatever effect this change may have had on the East Coast employment cannot therefore be attributed to Government's restrictions.

9. Enche' Da Abdul Jalil bin Haji Awang asks the Minister of Commerce and Industry to state whether the Government will consider in re-issuing Rice Importing and Exporting Licences to them in view of the declared policy of the Government to give more opportunity to Malays to participate in business; and to state the required conditions before a licence could be issued for import and export of rice.

Enche' Mohd. Khir bin Johari: Licences to import rice are issued monthly to holders of rice wholesale licences on their application, provided they enter into contracts to buy one ton of rice from the Government Reserve Stock for every two tons of rice allowed on import permits. Any person may apply for a rice wholesale licence, and, provided there is evidence that the applicant is able to carry on trade as wholesaler it is likely to be granted. Government would greatly welcome more applications for wholesale rice licences from Malays who are equipped to trade as wholesalers and importers. Wholesale and retail rice licensing has been and is specifically directed towards encouraging the entering of Malays into trade.

As already stated, the export of rice is not generally allowed.