

CHAPTER - XVII
FINANCIAL BUSINESS
THE BUDGET

A statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure for every financial year, i.e., 'The Budget' is laid before the Houses of the Legislature on a date to be fixed by the Governor. The estimates of expenditure embodied in the statement show separately the sums required (1) to meet expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State and enumerated in Article 202 of the Constitution and (ii) the sums required to meet other expenditure proposed to be made from the Consolidated Fund of the State.

The estimates relating to expenditure Charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State are not submitted to the vote of the Legislative Assembly, but the Legislature may discuss those Estimates.

The Estimates relating to other expenditure are submitted in the form of Demands for Grants to the Legislative Assembly and the Assembly has power to assent, or refuse to assent, to any Demand, or to assent to any Demand subject to a reduction of the amount specified therein.

The Budget is dealt with by the Assembly in two stages, namely, a general discussion and the voting of Demands for Grants. The Speaker in consultation with the Leader of the House and the Business Advisory Committee fixes and appoints sufficient number of days for each of the two stages. On the last of the days allotted for the voting of demands for Grants, at 5.p.m or at the hour fixed for the rising of the House on days on which the House sits early in the morning, the Speaker forthwith puts every question necessary to dispose of all the outstanding matters in connection with the Demands for Grants, including the motion for the reduction of a Grant, if any, then under discussion.

No money can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of the State except under appropriation made by law as stated. As soon as may be after the Grants are made, a Bill is introduced in the Assembly, known as the Appropriation Bill, to provide for the appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of all moneys required to meet the Grants so made by the Assembly and the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State.

No amendment shall be proposed to any such Bill which will have the effect of varying the amount or altering the destination of any Grant so made or of varying the amount of any expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State. The Appropriation Bill is taken into consideration and passed in the same manner as other Bills.

Generally, the Budget and the Demands for Grants for the financial year commencing from the 1st of April are presented in the month of February and voted upon before 31st March of the preceding financial year.

Any member may move for reduction of the Demand by specified sum. The Statement given below gives the number of such cut motions received, actually moved in the House and pressed to a division:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of cut Motions received</i>	<i>Number of Cut Motions moved.</i>	<i>Number of Cut Motions pressed to a division.</i>
1952	1,277	20	2
1953	1,263	13	1
1954	1,102	26	3
1955	961	33	1
1956	659	43	--

Details showing the dates of presentation of the Budget, the days allotted for general discussion and voting of Demands are given in Section II-[Table XXI](#).

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE

If the amount authorized by the Legislature by law to be expended for a particular service for the current financial year is found to be insufficient for the purposes of that year or when a need has arisen during the current financial year for supplementary or additional expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the annual financial statement for that year, the Governor shall cause to be laid before the Houses of the Legislature a statement showing the estimated amount of that expenditure. The procedure relating to the Budget is followed in this case also and the necessary Appropriation Bills have also to be passed.

Details regarding the Supplementary Statements of Demands for Grants presented, days allotted for general discussion and for Voting of the Demands for Grants are given in Section II-[Table No.XXII](#).

EXCESS GRANTS

If any money had been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service and for that year, Article 205 (1) (b) of the Constitution of India prescribes that the Governor should cause to be presented to the Legislative Assembly a Demand for such excess.

The Public Accounts Committee examines the causes for incurring such excess expenditure and recommends that they may be placed before the Legislature.

During the term of this Assembly Demands for the Excess Expenditure in the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53 were presented and voted.

The procedure prescribed in regard to the presentation of the Annual Financial Statements and Demands for Grants apply to the Demands for Excess Grants also.

VOTE ON ACCOUNT

Under Article 206 of the Constitution, the Legislative Assembly of a State has power to make any Grant in advance in respect of the estimated expenditure for a part of any financial year pending the completion of the procedure prescribed in Article 203 for the Voting of such Grant and the passing of an Appropriation Bill under Article 204. Whenever a necessary arises, this provision is availed of to provide the necessary funds for the administration to be carried on during the first few months of the next financial year before the Budget is passed.

Pending the Constitution of the Legislative Assembly under the Constitution of India a Vote on Account was taken in March 1952 after the General Elections were over. A Bill entitled the Consolidated Fund (Withdrawal of Moneys) Bill, 1952, was introduced and passed authorizing the withdrawal of moneys from the Consolidated Fund of the State for the services of the first four months of the financial year commencing from the 1st April 1952. The Budget for the whole year 1952-53 was presented and voted upon in June 1952 after the Legislative Assembly was constituted.

In March 1953, a Vote on Account was taken to cover the anticipated expenditure for the first six months of the financial year 1953-54 pending the formation of the Andhra State from the 1st October 1953. The Consolidated Fund (Withdrawal of Moneys) Bill, 1953, was introduced and passed authorizing the withdrawal of the moneys voted on account from the Consolidated Fund of the State. The Andhra State Act, 1953, regularized the expenditure of the composite State for these six months without the procedure prescribed in Article 203 for the voting of the grants and the law in accordance with Article 204. Under section 43 of that Act the Governor authorized the expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State for a period of four months from the 1st October 1953 pending the sanction of such expenditure by the Legislature. The Budget for the second six months of 1953-54 was presented and passed in December 1953.

Again in December 1956, a Vote on Account was taken and Grants made by this Assembly for the amounts required on account to cover the expenditure for the first four months of the financial year 1957-58, pending the passing of the Budget for 1957-58 by the new Legislative Assembly to be constituted after the General Elections. The Madras Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1956 was introduced and passed as in 1953.

WHITE PAPER

In March 1952, when the Provisional Legislature sanctioned a Vote on Account pending the constitution of the Legislature under the New Constitution, in addition to the Usual Budget documents a White Paper was issued giving a brief review of the financial results of the year 1950-51, the revised estimate for the year 1951-52 and the basis on which the interim Budget for 1952-53 was framed. In December 1956, when the Assembly sanctioned a Vote on Account pending the constitution of the new Assembly after the General Elections, the Detailed Budget Estimates and the Budget Memorandum were not presented to the House as usual, but a White Paper was issued giving a review of the financial results of 1955-56, the Revised Estimates for 1956-57 and the basis on which the interim Budget for the year 1957-58 was framed.

CONTINGENCY FUND OF THE MADRAS STATE

Occasionally, the Government have to undertake new schemes which were not contemplated when the Budget was presented to the Legislature. Though these schemes have to come before the Legislature by way of Supplementary Demands, the Government have to incur some expenditure on the before the Legislature sanctions these schemes. By an Act of the Legislature a Contingency Fund in the nature of an imprest or what is known business circles as a 'suspense account' is established and is placed at the disposal of the Governor. The Governor is authorized to make advances there from for the purpose of meeting any unforeseen expenditure, pending authorization of such expenditure by the Legislature by law under Article 205 or Article 206 of the Constitution. Later on the Legislature approves the scheme. The money advanced is recouped when the Legislatures subsequently approves the expenditure.

Under the Madras Contingency Fund Act of 1950, a Contingency Fund was constituted for the State with a sum of rupees one crore. After the formation of the Andhra State this amount was reduced to Rs.75 lakhs by the Madras Contingency Fund Act of 1954.

CHAPTER XVIII**COMMITTEES OTHER THAN
SELECT AND JOINT SELECT COMMITTEES**

Before the coming into force of the revised rules from the 15th December 1954 the rules of procedure of the Madras Legislative Assembly provided for the constitution of a Committee on Public Accounts, a Committee of Privileges and a House Committee. But the revised rules provided for the constitution of four more Committees, viz., a Committee on Estimates, a Business Advisory Committee, a Committee on Subordinate Legislation and a Committee on Government Assurances.

(a) COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

This Committee is constituted for each financial year for the examination of accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by the House for the expenditure of the Government, the annual finance accounts of the Government and such other accounts laid before the House as the Committee thinks fit. The Committee consists of fourteen members in addition to the Finance Minister who is a member ex-officio.

In scrutinizing the appropriation accounts of the State and the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon, it is the duty of the Public Accounts Committee to satisfy itself that the moneys shown in the accounts as having been disbursed were legally available for and applicable to the service or purposes to which they had been applied or changed, that the expenditure conformed to the authority which governed it and that every reappropriation had been made in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed by the Governor or by the Finance Department.

The Committee has to bring to the notice of the Assembly every case in which it is not so satisfied and all expenditure which the Finance Department has requested that they should be brought to the notice of the Assembly.

It is also the duty of the Public Accounts Committee to examine such trading, manufacturing and profit and loss accounts and balance sheets as the Governor may have required to be prepared and the Comptroller and Auditor-General's report thereon and to consider the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General in cases where the Governor may have required him to conduct an audit of any receipts or to examine the accounts of stores and stock.

Up to the 15th November 1954, the work relating to this Committee was dealt with by the Finance Department and the Secretary of that Department was also the Secretary of this Committee. But, the revised Assembly Rules provide that the Secretary to the Legislature should be the Secretary of all Committees constituted under the Madras Assembly Rules. Accordingly, from March 1955 the work relating to this Committee is being attended to by the Legislature department.

The Committee for 1952-53 met on six days and considered the Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General relating to the Appropriation Accounts of the 'State for the year 1949-50 and made its report to the Assembly. The Committee for 1954-55, met on four days and considered the Appropriation Accounts for 1950-51, the Audit Report for 1952 and the Finance Accounts for the year 1950-51 of the composite Madras State and made its report to the Assembly. The personnel of the Committee for these two financial years are given in Section II-[Table XXIII \(items A and B\)](#).

After the work of this Committee was taken over by this Department, a Committee for 1955-56 was constituted on the 21st March 1955 and Dr.K.B. Menon was nominated as the Chairman. The first meeting of the Committee was held on the 1st April 1955, and Sri J. Sivashanmugam Pillai, the then Speaker of the Assembly, inaugurated the Committee with a short speech. The same Committee continued to function during the year 1956-57 also. The personnel of the Committee and the changes therein are given in Section II-[Table XXIII \(item C and D\)](#). During the period from March 1955 to October 1956 the Committee met on 28 days and considered the Appropriation Accounts and the Audit Reports and the Finance Accounts and the Audit Reports thereon for the year 1951-52,1952-53 and 1953-54. The Committee has presented its reports on the accounts for all these three years.

Since this Department took over the work, certain changes have been made in the procedure adopted for the consideration of the accounts. At the first meetings of the Committee informal discussions on the items included in the agenda are held between the members and the Accountant-General who elucidates any doubts which the members may have and also furnishes when with the necessary particulars on which information should be elicited from the Department concerned.

(b) COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

This Committee on Estimates was constituted for the first time under the revised Assembly Rules in March 1955. Dr. U.Krishna Rao was nominated as its Chairman. The same Committee continued to function for the year 1956-57 also. The names of members of the Committee and the changes which occurred now and then are all given in Section II-[Table No.XXIV](#).

The functions of the Committee are to examine such of the estimates as may seem fit to the Committee or are specifically referred to it by the Assembly and to report what economies, improvements in organizational efficiency or administrative reform, consistent with the policy underlying the estimates may be effected, to suggest alternative policies in order to bring about efficiency and economy in administration, to examine whether the money is well laid out within the limits of the policy implied in the estimates, and to suggest the form in which the estimates should be presented to the Legislature.

The Committee was inaugurated with a short speech by Sri J. Sivashanmugam Pillai, the then Speaker, on the 31st March 1955.

The Committee took up for scrutiny the estimates relating to (1) Hospital Supplies, Medicines, etc., (2) Public Works Department (Communications), (3) Sanitary Engineering, (4) Agricultural Machinery and (5) Public Works Department (Buildings). On the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee, the Committee took up the scrutiny of the estimates relating to the Cinchona Department also.

The Committee held 38 sittings in Madras and two at Octacamund. The sub-committees constituted by the Committee held six sittings. Details regarding the sittings are given in Section II- [Table No. XXIV-B](#).

In connection with the scrutiny of these estimates, the Committee examined officials and non-officials and also visited some institutions, factories, plantations, etc. The details regarding the witnesses examined and the visits made by the Committee are given in Section

II-[Table No.XXIV-A](#). The Committee presented its reports on the following estimates to the Assembly on the dates noted against them:-

Hospitals and Dispensaries	29th November 1955.
Cinchona Department	22nd March 1956
Public Works (Communications)	23rd October 1956.
Sanitary Engineering Department	Do.
Agricultural Machinery	Do.

The estimates relating to the Public Works Department (Buildings) were still under scrutiny when the Assembly was dissolved.

(c) COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

This Committee was first constituted under the revised Assembly Rules on the 14th February 1955 with ten members. Sri S.S. Kolkebil was nominated as Chairman of the Committee. The same Committee was re-nominated for the year 1956-57. Consequent on the reorganisation of States with effect from the 1st November 1956, the Chairman and three members of the Committee belonging to Malabar and South Kanara districts ceased to be members. The vacancies were not filled up but as the Chairman also ceased to be a member, Sri V. Gopala Gounder was nominated as the Chairman. The personnel of the Committee and the changes therein are given in Section II-[Table No.XXV](#).

After each regulation, rule, sub-rule, by-law, etc., framed in pursuance of the legislative functions delegated by the Assembly to a subordinate authority is laid before the House the Committee is to consider.

(i) Whether it is in accord with the general objects of the Act pursuant to which it is made:

(ii) Whether it contains matter which in the opinion of the Committee should more properly be dealt with in an Act of the Assembly;

(iii) Whether it imposes taxation:

(iv) Whether it directly or indirectly bars the Jurisdiction of the Court.

(v) Whether it gives retrospective effect to any of the provisions in respect of which the Act does not expressly give any such power:

(vi) Whether it involves expenditure from the Consolidated Fund or the Public Revenues:

(vii) Whether it appears to make some unusual or unexpected use of the powers conferred by the Act pursuant to which it is made:

(viii) Whether there appears to have been unjustifiable delay in the publication or laying of it before the Legislature; and

(ix) Whether for any reason its form or purport calls for any elucidation.

The Committee was inaugurated on 28th March 1955 by the then Speaker Sri J. Sivashanmugam Pillai.

The Committee decided to scrutinize all rules, etc., made by Government from the 1st April 1954 under the powers delegated to them by the various enactments. The Committee held ten sittings (seven at Madras and three at Ootacamund) and presented two reports to the Assembly, the first on the 30th January 1956 and the second on the 24th October 1956.

The Committee made some important recommendations, viz., (1) the numbering of the notifications containing the rules, etc., serially before publication in the Fort. St. George Gazette, (2) uniformity in the clause delegating legislative powers in the Act and (3) printing of the rule as amended alongside the original rule whenever a rule made under the rule making powers delegated to Government is to be amended so as to facilitate scrutiny by the Committee. The Government have accepted some of the above recommendations of the Committee.

The Committee also recommended that it should be enabled to scrutinize the regulations, rules, etc., made by the State Government under the powers delegated by Act of Parliament or conferred by the Constitution and this is under consideration.

(d) COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

This Committee was first constituted on the 14th February 1955 under the revised Assembly Rules with seven members. Sri. C. Kandaswamy was nominated as the Chairman of the Committee.

The Committee was inaugurated on the 22nd March 1955 by the then Speaker, Sri. J. Sivashanmugam Pillai, with a short speech.

The same Committee was renominated for the year 1956-57 also. The personnel of the Committee and the changes therein are given in Section II-[Table No. XXVI](#).

The Committee scrutinizes the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers from time to time on the floor of the House and reports to the House the extent to which such assurances were implemented and where implemented, whether such implementation had taken place within the minimum time, necessary for the purpose.

A standard list of forms of assurances given on the floor of the House, though not exhaustive, was approved by the committee. The assurances given by the Ministers are called out from the proceedings with this list as a guide and forwarded to the Departments of the Secretariat. The replies received from the Departments regarding the implementation of these assurances are tabulated in the form of a statement and placed on the table of the House. The Committees considers that statement, examines, if necessary, the officers of the Department concerned, and makes its report at least once in six months.

The Committee took up for scrutiny the assurances given from the 26th February 1955. 1,270 assurances were communicated to the Department of which only 491 were fully implemented. Interim replies were received in respect of 746 assurances.

The Committee held 20 sittings, four in 1955 and 16 in 1956 and presented three reports, the first in August 1955, the second in April 1956 and the third in September 1956.

Statistical information.-The details, department wise in respect of the number of assurances communicated, number implemented, number for which interim replies were received and the number for which replies have not yet been received are furnished in Section II-Table No. [XXVI-A](#).

(e) COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

Article 194 of the Constitution deals with the powers, privileges and immunities of State Legislatures and their Members.

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and to the rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of the Legislature, there is freedom of speech in the Legislature. No Member of the Legislature is liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in the Legislature or any committee thereof, and no person is so liable in respect of the publication by or under the authority of a House of a Legislature of any report, paper, votes or proceedings. In other respects, the powers, privileges and immunities of a House of the Legislature and the Members and the Committees of the House shall be such as may from time to time be defined by the Legislature by law, and until so defined shall be those of the House of Commons of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and of its Members and Committees, at the commencement of the Constitution. The Assembly has not yet passed any legislation in this regard. For each financial year a Committee of Privileges is constituted which consists of the Deputy Speaker and fifteen other Members elected by the Assembly. The Chairman of the Committee is nominated by the Speaker. The Committee generally follows the same procedure as a Select Committee of the House.

The personnel of the Committees constituted from 1952 is given in Section II-[Table No. XXVII](#).

PRIVILEGE ISSUES RAISED

During the term of this Assembly, a number of questions of privilege were raised on the floor of the Assembly but none of them was referred to the Committee of Privileges.

In regard to the questions of Privilege raised on the following dates, the Speaker held that no prima facie case had been made out.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject-matter</i>
30th June 1952	That certain newspapers published some of the taxation proposals contained in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister more than a week before they were made available to the House, that Ordinance III of 1952 recited in its preamble that the intention of the Government to increase the retail sales tax on petrol had been given wide publicity in an unauthorized way.
27 th November 1952	That the answer to a supplementary question to a starred question given by the Chief Minister on the 24 th November did not correspond to truth.
30th March 1953	That the non-official resolution regarding the postponement of elections to the District Boards on the Agenda for that day was against the Madras District Boards (Amendment) Act, 1952, passed by the Legislature in November 1952 and that the Government were trying to sabotage that Act by supporting the resolution.
6th April 1953	That the Malayalam speech of a member had been very badly reported by a substitute Reporter and that there were no facilities for the only Malayalam Reporter.
18th July 1953	That the Government by issuing general orders prevented representatives of associations from entering into the Government Estate and making representations to the Assembly through a member on the elementary education scheme.
20th July 1953.	That Sri N.K. Palaniswami, M.L.A., was arrested and detained when he was leading a deputation to meet the Chief Minister when he was touring Coimbatore district on the 17th May 1953.
22nd July 1953	Remarks of the Chief Minister of Mysore on the proceedings of the Madras Legislative Assembly made by him in the Mysore Legislative Council on the 20th July 1953 and reported in the 'Hindu' dated the 21st July 1953 viz., 'the decision taken by the Madras Assembly was not a real test or final opinion of the Madras Assembly. In the view of the Speaker (Chief Minister of Mysore) the Resolution adopted by the Madras Assembly by a snap vote carried no weight or sanction with either the Government of India or the Government of Mysore.'
19th December 1953	Publications of the speech of a member in 'Dinamani' of the 17th December 1953 with the caption 'Maranavasthai Prasangam and Veriyattam' constituted breach of privileges.
24th February 1954	Supply of the Annual Report of the Public Services Commission to the Consul for the United States of America, Madras, and Chief of the Exchange and Gift Division of the Library of the Congress; Washington, before it was laid on the table of the House.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject-matter</i>
9th December 1954	Interception by the Special Branch Police of the letters addressed by a member to some of the people in his constituency and also the letters which were received from the people of the constituency of the member.
10th February 1955	Arrest of Sri T.C. Narayanan Nambiar, M.L.A., when he attempted to address the meeting at Kodoth, a village in Hosdrug sub-taluk, South Kanara district.
22nd February 1955	Circulation of the draft copy of the South Kanara Cultivating Tenants Protection Bill, 1955, only among certain members of the House.
20th August 1955	Proposed action of the government against a teacher for his contact with a member of the Assembly belonging to the Communist Party.
29th November 1955	Refusal of the Speaker to give the member concerned an opportunity to speak on the States Re-organization Commission Report on the 24th November 1955.
27th December 1956	Non-implementation of an assurance given by the Minister for agriculture to bring in legislation regarding beedi workers.

Posting of policemen in the precincts of the Assembly, etc.-

On the 9th May 1952, Sri T. Viswanatham made a complaint of breach of privilege arising out of the promulgation of an order on the 6th May 1952, under section 144. Criminal Procedure Code, the posting of policemen and police officers within the precincts of the Assembly and the obstruction and annoyance caused to the Members. The Speaker held that a prima facie case had been made out and a motion for referring the matter to the Committee of Privileges was moved by Sri. T. Viswanatham. After discussion the motion was put to the vote of the House and declared lost. A poll was demanded and the House divided, Ayes 148, Noes 175 and Neutrals 6. The motion was lost.

Editorial comment.-On the 30th July 1953, a Member drew the attention of the Speaker to the editorial comment in the 'Indian Express' of the same date, in regard to the proceedings of the Assembly on an amendment to stay and refer the Scheme of Modified Education to an Expert Committee, and stated that it should be referred to a Committee of Privileges as it constituted an attempt to bring the House into contempt. The Speaker stated that he would contact the Editor of the paper concerned and do the needful and the matter was not proceeded with.

Refusal to answer questions.-On the 8th December 1954, a question of privilege in regard to the refusal of the Government to disclose to the Members of the Assembly, in answers to questions, its opinions relating to certain amendments to the Constitution which were conveyed to the Central Government by the Finance Minister and to the General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee by the Chief Minister in his private capacity was ruled out by the Speaker as the refusal to answer questions would not constitute a breach of privilege.

Precincts of the House.-On the 14th March 1955, the Speaker referred suo motu to the Committee of Privileges the question of the construction that should be put on the expression 'precincts of the House' as regards the Legislative Assembly. In referring the question the Speaker stated that, as certain instances had come to his notice where a Magistrate had in one case, issued a bailable warrant against a Member of the Assembly when the House was actually in session and in another case a constable had tried to serve a summons on a Member within the Assembly building when the House was actually sitting, and as there was a chance, of legal process being served within the precincts of the house when the House was actually sitting, which would certainly be a breach of privilege of the House, it was necessary to definite the extent of the precincts, more so in view of the location in different places of the library, the Canteen and Committee Room.

The Committee arrived at the following decisions:-

(1) 'Precincts of the House' shall mean and include the entire Assembly buildings, the Ministers' rooms, the Library, the Canteen and the Committee Room together with the verandas and steps to these buildings and the pathways leading from the Assembly Chamber to the other aforesaid buildings in respect of members and, as far as strangers are concerned, 'precincts' means the Assembly Chamber including its verandas and steps.

(2) In so far as the persons summoned by a Committee of the House for any purpose whatsoever, they shall be deemed to be within the precincts of the House so long as they are within the Committee Room, its verandas and its steps.

The Report of the Committee containing the decisions regarding the definition of "Precincts of the House" was presented on the 30th September 1955. The Report was considered by the Assembly on the 20th December 1956 and approved.

Prosecution of the surety of a member.-On the 28th March 1955, a question of privilege regarding the prosecution of the surety of Sri T.C. Natrayanan Nambiar, M.L.A., for not producing him in the court was raised but the question was not pressed.

Alleged insulting remarks about the Assembly.- On the 2nd April 1955 a question of privilege was raised regarding the alleged manhandling of workers on satyagraha in front of Nagjee Purushothan Co., Kozhikode, and the conduct of a Sub-Inspector of Police who was alleged to have made insulting remarks about the Assembly, but was not pressed.

(f) BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The necessity for a Committee to co-ordinate the programme of the House in consultation with the Opposition party leaders has been a long felt one. Therefore, when the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules were revised in 1954, provision was made therein for the constitution of a Business Advisory Committee.

At the commencement of the House or from time to time as may be necessary, the Speaker nominates not more than fifteen members including himself to the Business Advisory Committee. The Speaker is the Chairman of the Committee. The members of the Committee hold office for one year or until a new Committee is nominated. In nominating the members due representation is given to all parties in the Assembly.

The main function of the Committee is to assist the Speaker and the Leader of the House in drawing up the programme of the House. The Speaker has to consult the Business Advisory Committee in regard to fixing of the time necessary for the discussion of the matters referred to in the Governor's Address and the number of days to be allotted for the general discussion on the Budget and the voting of demands for grants. The order in which the Demands are to be discussed and the time allotted for discussion of each Demand are also determined by the Speaker in consultation with the Committee.

The Committee can also fix the time-table for the various stages of such Government Bills as may be referred to it by the Speaker. It is also consulted in regard to the priority to be given to the items of business then on hand.

The programme as settled by the Committee is reported by the Speaker to the House. After the report is made to the House, the Leader of the House who is also a member of the Business Advisory Committee moves that the House agrees with the allocation of time proposed by the Business Advisory Committee and on the motion being accepted by the House, it takes effect as if it were an Order of the House. This Committee was for the first time nominated by the Speaker on the 14th February 1955 and continued to function till December 1956. The personnel of the Committee are given in Section II-[Table No. XXVIII](#).

The Committee met on 29 occasions since it was constituted.

(g) HOUSE COMMITTEE

This Committee is constituted every financial year to consider and advice upon all matters connected with the comfort and convenience of members. The Deputy Speaker is the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee. Eleven members are to be elected by the Assembly, on a date to be fixed by the Speaker, according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and in accordance with the regulations framed in this behalf by the Speaker. In addition, the Speaker may, at his discretion, nominated four members to the Committee. Fresh elections and nominations have to be made before the end of each financial year for constituting the Committee for the next financial year.

The personnel of the Committee for each year is given in Section II-[Table No. XXIX](#).

During the term of this Assembly, the House Committee met on 17 occasions.

A camp dispensary with a Medical Officer, a Compounder and a Dresser is functioning in the new hostel premises during meeting days to render medical assistance to members free of charge.

For the first time in March 1955, the House Committee decided that that Legislators' Hostel Day should be celebrated. The first Hostel Day was celebrated on the 25th March 1955 and the second Hostel Day on the 1st April 1956. Various items of sports like tug-of-war, relay race, etc., were held on these days in which the legislators including Ministers took part. A noteworthy feature of the second Hostel Day was that the Governor also took part in the events.

Proceedings of the Committee:- These Committees met on 287 days during this period. Summary reports of the day to day proceedings were issued to all the Members of the Committee. The proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee only were reported verbatim.

CHAPTER - XIX

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

The Common wealth Parliamentary Association is an organization which aims to promote understanding and co-operation, for common purposes between those engaged in the Parliamentary Government of the countries of the Commonwealth by the establishment of a machinery for the exchange of information and of individual visits and for the organization of conferences between members of the Legislatures of the Common wealth and also to promote understanding and co-operation by similar means between those members and the members of the Legislatures outside the Commonwealth having close political and parliamentary associations with them. The headquarters of the Association is at London.

A Branch of this Association was formed at Madras on a resolution to that effect passed by the Assembly on 28th September 1955 and by the Council on 30th September 1955.

The annual subscription for ordinary Members or Associates has been fixed at Rs.5 and the life subscription at Rs.50 Any member of this Branch upon ceasing to be a Member of the Madras Legislature or an ex-Member of any Branch of the Association permanently residing in Madras may become an Associate Member of the Branch, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

Every Member is entitled to receive the Journal of the Parliament of the Common wealth and "the Summary of the Congressional Proceedings, U.S.A." and the "Report on Foreign Affairs" will also be supplied to them on requisition on payment of the annual subscription.

OFFICE-BEARERS

The Speaker of the Assembly and the Chairman of the Council are its Joint President. The Leaders of the Assembly and Council and the Leaders of the Opposition in the Assembly and Council are the Vice-Presidents of the Branch. A Treasurer and an Executive Committee consisting of six Members from the Assembly and two Members from the Council are also elected. The Secretary, to the Legislature is the Honorary Secretary of the Branch. The names of the office-bearers are given in Section II-[Table XXX](#).

ACTIVITIES

The inaugural meeting of the Branch was held on the 27th March 1956. Sri A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, Member of the Parliament, spoke on "Economic Progress in India". The Governor of Madras, Shri Sri Prakasa, presided.

In April-May 1956, the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly, Sri N. Gopala Menon, attended the course on Parliamentary practice and procedure conducted by the General Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in London and Belfast.

During August 1956, two meetings were arranged under the auspices of the Madras Branch. On the 7th August 1956 Dr. Carl Bridenmaugh, Professor of History, University of California, Spoke on "The American Constitution and the two party system". Sri C. Subramaniam presided over the meeting.

On the 16th August 1956, the Speaker Sri. N. Gopala Menon, spoke on "Parliament and its functions" with special reference to the lectures he had attended during his visit to the U.K. and Ireland. This meeting was also presided over by Sri C. Subramaniam.

On the 3rd December 1956, Judge William H. Hastie of the Supreme Court of America addressed the members of the Branch on "Liberty and Security in a free Society." Sri M. Bhakkavatsalam presided.

Dean Stracy E. Strevey of the University of Southern California, U.S.A., gave a lecture on "The Powers and responsibilities of the American Presidency" on the 8th January 1957. Dr. P.V. Cherian, Chairman, Madras Legislative Council and President of the Branch presided.

VISIT OF EARL ATTLEE

Earl Attlee and Countess Attlee visited India in October 1956 and the Members of the Madras Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association got up a party in their honour on the 16th October 1956.

VISIT OF SIR HOWARD D'EGVILLE

Sir Howard d' Egville, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, London, was in Madras from the 30th January 1957 to the 5th February 1957. The Madras Commonwealth Parliamentary Association gave an 'At home' to him on the 1st

February 1957 at the Winter Garden Hall, Legislators' Hostel, Government Estate. Sir Howard D'Egville addressed the members of the Branch and recommended the formation of Study Groups under the auspices of the Branch to conduct researches into particular problems connected with the State. Dr. P.V. Cherian, Chairman, Legislative Council, presided.

Film shows:- Under the auspices of the Branch, two film shows were held, one on 26th September 1956 and the other on 20th December 1956. The films were shown by the United States Information Service.

The Branch has elected the Hon. Dr. P.V. Cherian, Chairman, Madras Legislative Council, as a delegate to represent the Madras Branch at the Course on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure to be held during May-June 1957 in the United Kingdom.