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Maulavi HAFIZ NURUL HAQQ : Will the Inspector-General of Police kindly tell us how the work was going on there before the present man came.

Mr. W. SWAIN : Then I am afraid I shall have to go into detail. I shall have no difficulty in convincing the Council that the provision of an inspector to conduct the work at Dhanbad Court is really necessary. In 1918, the inadequacy of the court staff was first brought to notice. In 1919 when I was the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Cuttack, I inspected there and I realised that the complaint was justified. In 1920, the additional superintendent of police came up with a case backed by facts and figures which could not be denied. But we could not afford him at that time any relief, for, although it was our intention to take an inspector from the Cuttack Training School—in fact we did so—on the way he was deputed to Hazaribagh to deal with an outbreak of dacoities, so it was not until last year that the inspector taken from the Training School at Cuttack could reach Dhanbad to undertake the duties of the court inspector. Now I have got figures of cases up to date. The figures for 1922 for crime in the Dhanbad subdivision show that crime was nearly twice as much as in the whole of Balasore and Palamau districts. It was greater than the crime in Hazaribagh, Sambalpur, Puri and Singhbhum and it was nearly as great as Cuttack. The cases which were tried in Dhanbad were more than in four of those districts. There are at present, or were until the court inspector arrived, two court sub-inspectors.

Maulavi HAFIZ NURUL HAQQ : Sir, now that I have the explanation of the Inspector-General of Police, I am satisfied, and I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PATROL FORCE OF PATNA NEW CAPITAL.

Babu DEVAKI PRASHAD SINHA : Sir, I beg to move :

That the item of Rs. 5,300 for " Part provision for raising the Patrol Force of Patna New Capital " (page 86 of the Civil Budget) be omitted.

Sir, the Council will see that this is an entirely new item in the budget. My hon'ble friend the Inspector-General of Police while discussing the necessity for providing a patrol force

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for the new capital of Patna, has very cleverly introduced the names of two big men, perhaps with a view to induce the Council to agree to a grant of Rs. 5,300. But Sir, an analysis of the figures contained in the speech of my hon'ble friend, Mr. Swain,—figures showing the number of crimes within the last six years,—will clearly show that there are not enough materials before the Council which would justify it to sanction an increased expenditure of Rs. 5,300. My hon'ble friend, Mr. Swain, says that within the last six years there have been two cases of robbery, 178 cases of burglary, and 272 cases of theft. So far as theft is concerned I do not know what action, in his opinion, would amount to theft. Even if a small pin or a handkerchief or a four anna bit be stolen, the Inspector-General of Police can include such an act in his long list of cases of theft. The Council will see that there are only two serious cases that have taken place during the last six years in this area which is sought to be provided with a new patrol force. Is it, Sir, I ask, a sufficient justification for incurring this extra expenditure? The Council must not be led to think that if we do not vote this grant and if we reject it, the whole of new Patna would be without a single policeman. What I contend is that the administration of law and order in the New Capital area of Patna can be very well carried on in the way in which it has been carried on for during the last six years, that is to say, with the aid of the present police force at the command of Mr. Swain. For these reasons, I think that no case has been made out for providing an extra fund at the disposal of the Police Department so that a few more policemen may be employed to work in the New Capital area. I therefore propose that the item of Rs. 5,300 being "part provision for raising the Patrol Force of Patna New Capital" be omitted.

I would also draw the attention of the Council to the word "part" in this item. It means that this is not the whole amount that will be required for this purpose. Perhaps this is only the thin end of the wedge and next year Mr. Swain may come forward with a definite proposal for the establishment of a separate police outpost in the New Capital area. Realising this danger, I hope the Council will not fall into the trap of my friend, the Inspector-General of Police.

Mr. W. SWAIN : Sir, if my hon'ble friend who represents Palamau had read my speech aright, I think he would have understood that I propose to do exactly what he suggests I should

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de, namely, to patrol to the best of my ability the New Capital area of Patna with the force already at my disposal. However I will make it quite clear to him now. I do not desire to go on talking, and in order to save time, if my hon'ble friend will accept the necessity of an additional patrol force in Patna, I will leave that point and explain to him and the Council how I propose to provide it without incurring any additional cost.

Babu DEVAKI PRASHAD SINHA : What does my friend want me to do ?

Mr. W. SWAIN : I wish to know whether my hon'ble friend accepts the necessity of strengthening the patrol force of Patna New Capital. If he does that I will drop that point and explain to him how I propose to do it without incurring the additional cost.

Babu DEVAKI PRASHAD SINHA : If it is by means of adding to the number, I would not concede that.

Mr. W. SWAIN : Very good. The area brought under the Patna Administration Committee is roughly six square miles and the number of additional inhabitants six thousand. We have brought this area within the charge of the Patna Police, an area extending from the Allahabad Bank on the one side to Sir Ali Imam's house on the other, and roughly from Sir Basanta Kumar Mallik's house on the north to a mile south of the Khagole road. Within that area you have established the headquarters of a Government, and you have erected a town with all the numerous adjuncts of a highly developed civilization. Now, Sir, what would the Council have said if the Government had not provided any roads ? What would they have said if the Government had provided no street lamps ? I ask you, Sir, what can they say of a Government which has not provided a single additional policeman to protect that area. Is it any wonder that the inhabitants of Amlatola and Gardanibagh,—where my hon'ble friend would not be popular just now,—or Chitkora, have been preyed upon by burglars and thieves ? Is it any wonder that they have submitted petitions to me and to my predecessor and memorials to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and to His Excellency the Governor applying for adequate police protection ?

My hon'ble friend has said that there have been only two serious cases in that area in the last six years. Does he not think it a serious matter to have his house broken into ? He may

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not, he may like it, but I assure him that the inhabitants of Amalatola strongly object to it, and I do consider it a most serious offence. There have been two cases of robbery only but he is prepared to ignore 178 cases of burglary and 272 cases of theft and 43 cases of other descriptions making a total of 499 cases. Now, what the Superintendent of Police had done in the past has been to borrow from other thanas, which could ill spare them at all times, and on occasions could not spare them at all, he has also borrowed men from his leave reserve which means that he cannot allow the full sanctioned number of men to go on leave. That is a process which cannot go on indefinitely without creating great discontent and in times of marriages, as my hon'ble friend from Palamau, even at his time of life must know, it would create practically a mutiny if leave were refused. So that it does happen on occasions, when other duties call them or when it is necessary to grant leave, that the New Capital does go unpoliced. The unfortunate inhabitants have complained on many occasions and I submit that they have full justification for their complaint. The head-quarters of Government have been placed there and they are not being protected. They have complained to me: they have complained to my predecessor: they have submitted memorials to His Honour and to His Excellency and all the answer I could give them has been, "I am sorry, I will do my best for you, but Government have not sanctioned any police and you must look after yourselves as best as you can". And in fact at one time after a serious burglary when an inmate of the house was severely wounded by a *sendmari*, they actually set about patrolling the suburbs on the other side of the railway line. But it was obviously impossible for them to continue doing that. They had their work in the day-time and they could not do both. If the Council agree that it is necessary to provide some police, I will explain to them how I propose to provide them. I propose to provide them by reducing the staff of the training schools at Nathnagar and Cuttack. I ask for sanction to increase the force at Patna by one head-constable and 16 constables. I was wrong, Sir, in stating that not a single constable had been added: I forgot there are one head-constable and 4 constables transferred from Cuttack; when the guard supplied to the Commissioner who was Political Agent of certain Feudatory States was abolished, when he ceased to be Political Agent, his guard was brought to the New Capital. That was the first instalment of the force required to patrol the New Capital.

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My hon'ble friend is quite right: it is my intention in future to apply for a further increase and I will endeavour to do it in accordance with the wishes of this House, without incurring any extra expenditure, just as I propose to do in the present case. It is, as he rightly says, the thin end of the wedge and I will do it with my present force, if possible. I undertake that if the Council sanctions this proposal, I will reduce the force elsewhere in order that no extra expenditure may be incurred; and I think it is an entirely reasonable proposal and one to which the Council cannot well take exception.

Babu DEVAKI PRASHAD SINHA: Sir, my hon'ble friend has said that it would be a great hardship to the people of Chitkora and Gardanibagh if this amount is not sanctioned because it would be as good as asking them to be without any public roads and without any lamps on such roads. This is an argument which ought not to delude any member of this Council, because I hope everybody is aware that that area of Patna,—which has at present merited the special affection of my hon'ble friend the Inspector-General of Police,—is neither without any road nor without lamps nor without any policemen to guard such roads and houses,.....

Mr. W. SWAIN: Sir, I never said that it was without roads or without lamps.

Babu DEVAKI PRASHAD SINHA: But my hon'ble friend said that it would be as good as asking them to do without roads or without lamps. My friend said some such thing. My point is that even without this Council sanctioning extra expenditure, that area of Patna is provided with policemen just as it is provided with roads and lamps.

Mr. W. SWAIN: I am sorry to interrupt my hon'ble friend but I am not asking for sanction to extra expenditure.

Babu DEVAKI PRASHAD SINHA: That is a different thing. I shall explain that that also is a trick.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT: Order, order. That word "trick" is objectionable. The hon'ble member should withdraw it.

Babu DEVAKI PRASHAD SINHA: I will withdraw it. I never meant it to use an unparliamentary expression.

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My hon'ble friend has said that he has so far been carrying on the work by borrowing police from certain other thanas. Well, what he calls borrowing is only another name for re-arrangement of the police force. If a certain number of constables is not required in one particular area or is more required at another area it is only right and proper that this number should be transferred to the area where it is more required.

Mr. W. SWAIN : Well, I have already been doing that.

Babu DEVAKI PRASHAD SINHA : My hon'ble friend has so far been doing without any extra cost.

Mr. W. SWAIN : Yes, but without the sanction of the Council.

Babu DEVAKI PRASHAD SINHA : Then what is the necessity for asking for more money in order to make this arrangement. My hon'ble friend has said that he will abolish a certain number of constables, and one head-constable at the training school at Bhagalpur. Well, I do not think my hon'ble friend will remove either a head-constable or a number of constables from Bhagalpur because the necessity of Patna is greater, but because they are not required at Bhagalpur. If a head-constable or a certain number of constables are not required there, then my submission is, whether the corresponding number of such posts is sanctioned for the New Capital area of Patna or not, it is the duty of the Inspector-General of Police to disband those men who would no longer be required at Bhagalpur. The arrangement so far has been to take policemen from other outposts in the City of Patna itself, and this is a thing that does not cost much. Why does he want then that the Council should sanction this demand at the present time. Well, if this has been done so far, then I would like to ask has this arrangement caused any inconvenience to the other police outposts in the Patna City? If no inconvenience has been caused it is not necessary to re-appoint a number of constables and a head-constable to make up for the number of such constables and head-constables that will be discharged from Bhagalpur. For these reasons, Sir, I do not think that the Council would be justified in incurring extra expenditure which is bound to increase year after year, as my hon'ble friend has admitted very frankly.

Mr. W. SWAIN : Sir, there is very little to add. I am sorry I did not make myself quite clear although I thought I was

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doing so. I am asking for money in the budget and it is a new charge in the budget, but I have undertaken that if this amount of Rs. 5,300 be sanctioned by the Council, I will reduce my force elsewhere by a corresponding amount so that there will be no increase in the total cost.

Babu DEVAKI PRASHAD SINHA : In case this amount is not sanctioned, then would he not discharge those policemen at Bhagalpur ?

Mr. W. SWAIN : No, Sir, I will not (laughter).

Babu DEVAKI PRASHAD SINHA : It is only in a spirit of bargain that he wants us to sanction this amount ?

Mr. W. SWAIN : Sir, that is not a fair way of putting it. I am endeavouring to re-arrange my force to the best advantage in my effort to meet the police requirements of the public of the province. It does not mean that I am refusing to dispense with the services of officers and men at the constables' training school the conduct of which my hon'ble friend will shortly criticize. It is not that I can spare them readily, but I am choosing the lesser of two evils. I have a certain number of men at my disposal and I propose to re-arrange them to the best advantage. I think that for the present the needs of the New Capital are greater than the needs of other places including the Constables' Training Schools at Cuttack and Nathnagar, and hence my proposal.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : The question is :

That the item of Rs. 5,300 for "Part provision for raising the patrol Force Patna New Capital" be omitted.

The motion was negatived.

INCREASE OF ARMED POLICE.

Rai Bahadur DVARIKA NATH : Sir, I beg to move :

That the item of Rs. 9,114 for "Lump provision for increase of Armed Police" (pags.86 of the Civil Budget) be omitted.

Now, Sir, here is another item where my esteemed friend Mr. Swain is trying to increase the police force. There is a provision for addition in the armed police and my motion is that we should cut down this provision. I see no necessity for an