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Legislative Assembly.



The President :

THE HONOURABLE SIR FREDERICK WHYTE, KT.

Deputy President :

DIWAN BAHADUR T. RANGACHARIAR, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

MR. K. C. NEOGY, M.L.A.,
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MR. DARCY LINDSAY, M.L.A.

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume V, Part II

(16th February to 6th March, 1925)

SECOND SESSION

OF THE

SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1925



DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1925

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume V, Part III

(7th March to 24th March, 1925)

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

VOLUME V

SECOND SESSION

OF THE

SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1925



DELHI
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1925

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SECOND
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

VOLUME V
FIRST VOLUME OF SESSION 1925.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 20th January, 1925.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, being the first day of the Second Session of the Second Legislative Assembly, pursuant to S. 63 D (2) of the Government of India Act.

**INAUGURATION OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF
STATE AND THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SECOND LEGIS-
LATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

His Excellency the Viceroy with the Presidents of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly having arrived in procession, His Excellency took his seat on the dais.

H. E. the Viceroy: Gentlemen of the Indian Legislature, it is my privilege again to extend a welcome to you who are about to enter upon the labours of the Delhi Session. Many questions of importance will come before you, and it is my earnest prayer that the results of your deliberations may prosper the best interests of India and the Empire.

I am glad to note that conditions in India and on her frontiers are at the moment favourable; our relations with our neighbours in foreign countries on our borders are most friendly; and I take this opportunity of welcoming the distinguished officers from the Kingdom of Afghanistan who are present here to witness the military manœuvres now being held in the vicinity of Delhi. Their visit is greatly appreciated in India and is a token of the friendly and neighbourly relations which exist between His Majesty's Government and the Government of His Majesty the Amir.

Happily I am able to say that our Waziristan policy appears to be justified by the greater security of our districts and the gradual pacification of the country, though not without the regrettable loss of some valuable lives. Although in South Waziristan various difficult questions still remain unsolved, yet progress is evident. In North Waziristan we have reached

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pre-war stability. And with this improvement in the general situation it is well to observe that there has been a progressive reduction up-to-date in the cost of our forces employed in Waziristan.

It is a satisfaction also to record a marked improvement in India in economic conditions and trade prospects. In the first six months of the present financial year Indian imports and exports in sea-borne trade reached a total of 292 crores, an advance of 18 crores on the corresponding period of last year and of 39 crores on the figures for the same period in 1922. There are likewise clear signs of returning prosperity in internal trade; and the marked increase in gross railway receipts places beyond doubt the general revival and growth of internal trade activity. Despite damage in some localities owing to floods in the last monsoon agricultural prospects are generally good. The cotton crop is above average and the outlook of wheat and other spring crops is at present eminently satisfactory.

You have already been made aware of important changes in my Government. I shall in future have the assistance of Sir Bhupenaranath Mitra and Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-Jah as Members of my Executive Council, and I am confident that I shall derive the advantage I anticipate from their advice and co-operation. But changes are not confined to my Government; they have occurred also in the Legislature, and especially in the Council of State, for Sir Montagu Butler who was the President of that honourable Chamber has left it to assume the post of Governor of the Central Provinces. Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith, whom I have appointed to succeed him, is well known to the Members of both Chambers. He has had long connection with the Indian Legislature and has won their esteem and respect, and I am sure that he will continue to enjoy the confidence of the Members of the Council of State in the higher place among them to which he has now been translated. There have also been a few changes among the Members of the Legislature to which I need not refer in detail; but I am convinced that the Members of both Houses will join me in deploring that ill-health has necessitated the resignation of the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri who has been a Member of the Council of State since its inception. I trust his absence from the Legislature will only be temporary and brief, and that he will soon be restored to health and enabled once more to add the distinction of his intellectual gifts to the Legislature and to devote his great capacities to public affairs.

I desire to embrace this opportunity of expressing my high appreciation of the labours of Lord Hardinge, the Maharaja of Bikaner and Sir Muhammad Rafique who represented India as delegates at the meetings of the Assembly of the League of Nations in September and October last. The meetings were of unusual importance and interest and from them have emerged the proposals for the Protocol which are now under the consideration of His Majesty's Government and the Governments of other nations concerned.

When considering affairs outside India, attention naturally and inevitably turns to Indians overseas. When I addressed the Legislature in January last the position of Indians in Kenya was critical; and I foreshadowed the appointment of a Committee to make representations on behalf of the Government of India regarding the Immigration Ordinance in Kenya in particular and other questions relating to Indians in the Colonies. The personnel of the Committee was announced in March last and the Committee began their labours in London in April. They had a

number of interviews with the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the officials of the Colonial Office and made representations regarding many important matters affecting Indians in Kenya, Fiji and the mandated territories of Tanganyika.

I cannot too highly praise the thoroughness and ability with which they performed their delicate task, and I am grateful for the very patient hearing which the representatives of His Majesty's Government, Mr. Thomas and the officers of his department accorded to them.

As regards Kenya, the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Thomas were announced in the House of Commons on August, the 7th last. On the question of Franchise and the Highlands there was no change in the position; but as regards immigration, His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies after hearing our representatives was not satisfied with the data submitted from Kenya and was unable to agree with the Kenya authorities that a case had been made out to justify the Ordinance. He therefore gave an assurance that the Immigration Legislation would not be placed on the Statute-book. The further restrictions then on the point of being imposed upon the immigration of Indians were accordingly removed. As regards Indian Colonisation, Mr. Thomas announced that it was proposed to reserve an area in the lowlands for agricultural emigrants from India; but that before the scheme took final shape an officer with experience of the needs of Indian settlers and agricultural knowledge would be sent to report on the areas to be offered for colonisation. Reports in regard to the areas have now been received by my Government; and we are considering the question of deputing an officer to examine these areas from the aspect of their suitability for Indian settlement. These are substantial gains and our gratitude is due to the Committee for the clarity and earnestness of their representation of the Indian point of view to His Majesty's Government. Moreover these gains are not the only advantages which accrued from their visit. A better atmosphere has been created and that wider understanding of different points of view has grown up which is the outcome of personal discussion and free and frank interchange of views.

In June last His Majesty's Government announced the appointment of an East African Committee under the Chairmanship of Lord Southborough to consider and report on certain questions regarding the administration and economic development of the British East African Dependencies. Having regard to the importance of this inquiry to Indian interests my Government made representations to secure a hearing of the Indian point of view before the Committee came to conclusions. I am glad to inform the Legislature that our representations have been accepted and the Southborough Committee will hear the opinions of Indian representatives nominated by my Government upon all matters coming within their purview.

If the pendulum has swung in the direction desired by India on these questions, the position in South Africa, on the other hand, has been less favourable. Towards the end of December news was received that the Governor General of the Union of South Africa had given his assent to the Natal Borough Ordinance. This measure, while safeguarding the rights of Indians upon the electoral roll of boroughs, will prevent further enrolment of Indians as burgesses. The serious implications of the measure on the future of Indians, who have special vocational and trading connections with the towns in South Africa, will readily be realised. From the outset the Government of India had recognised the effect this measure might have upon the position of resident Indians in Natal both as regards

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their civic and economic status; and my Government made strong representations to the Union Government as soon as a copy of the Ordinance was received in August last. At that time there was reason to hope that since a similar but more drastic measure had been disallowed previously by the Governor General, this Ordinance would also share the same fate; to our regret however the Government of the Union advised the Governor General to give assent to the Bill; and accordingly the measure has now become law. The situation created is engaging the most earnest attention of myself and my Government; we have lost no time in making representations to His Majesty's Government and in placing before them in an emphatic manner the difficulties in which resident Indians are likely to be placed by the operation of this law. Every endeavour will be made to discover a remedy; but, in view of the powers of Dominion Governments in internal and domestic affairs, the position is one of delicacy and a solution will not be easy to find. Patience will again be necessary. I may remind you that when the position in Kenya seemed most unfavourable, temperate arguments and full and frank discussion resulted in a better understanding of the Indian point of view and in a measure of relief to the disabilities felt by Indians. I hope that as in the case of Kenya, so also in this case some remedy may be devised. I have promised to receive a deputation on this question and will discuss with them at a later date, in the light of further information which I hope to receive, the prospects of finding a solution to the present difficulties. For the present I say nothing more on the subject.

Of measures which will engage the attention of the Legislature an important section concerns Commerce, Industry and Finance. I will not dwell at length upon the Trades Union and Trades dispute legislation because I have recently explained the genesis and scope of these measures to the Associated Chambers in Calcutta. Both these measures mark a new step in the progress of labour legislation in India. I believe opinion has been expressed in some quarters that we are moving too fast along the line of labour legislation; but both these Bills only deal with essentials and are of a simple nature; and great weight must be given to the view that at a moment when labour has commenced organisation and is assuming prominence, recognition should be given by Statute to the fact and development on the right lines should be secured. I attach importance to the right preliminaries, though the future of Trades Unions in India will, I realise, largely depend not on enactments, but on the spirit shown by the employers and workers and on the attitude of the public. Let me also remind you that the views expressed by my Government in those Bills are tentative only; and when comments have been received they will be carefully considered and changes made as may appear desirable in the light of the criticisms expressed.

It is gratifying to observe the very keen interest taken by the Legislature in the working of the Tariff Board. During the past year, my Government have placed before you proposals based on two of the reports of the Board. The most important of these resulted in the passing of the Steel Industry (Protection) Act, which imposed heavy protective duties on a wide range of steel products covering most of those in ordinary consumption. The rates embodied in that Act were the result of careful investigation by the Tariff Board, but since they were brought into force, the Steel Industry has represented that further protection is required largely owing to a rapid and marked fall in the prices of Continental steel. This question was referred to the Tariff Board for inquiry, and during this Session a

Resolution based on their report will be brought forward for consideration by the Legislature. The fall in prices of Continental steel had been so heavy that an attempt to deal with the position by means of increased import duties would have resulted in practically doubling the existing duties, with the consequence that from 50 to 70 per cent. of the landed cost of imported steel would have been represented by the duties charged. Obviously my Government could not agree to duties on such a high scale on articles which are largely used in agriculture and many other important industries. They have, however, accepted the general conclusions of the Tariff Board, and the Legislature will be asked in this Session to agree to the grant of bounty on steel produced in India between October 1st, 1924, and September 30th, 1925. The total amount of bounty proposed is fifty lakhs, which is the sum that it is calculated the industry would receive under the Tariff Board's proposals, were the rates recommended by the Board to become fully effective. This is a very favourable interpretation of the recommendations of the Board, especially as it allows the industry to obtain the advantage of the protection accorded without waiting for sales. If the grant of this bounty is made, it should prove of material assistance to the steel industry of India in its difficulties.

You will have noticed that the policy advocated by the Fiscal Commission has been steadily pursued. The Tariff Board is now engaged in investigating the applications for protection from certain other industries, notably cement and paper. The principle has been maintained that it is right and proper that any industry which appeals to the State for assistance must prove its case in public before an impartial Board. It is only by this means that an opinion can be reached on the merits of the case and the implications and effects of a demand for protection envisaged.

It is evident from private Bills, Resolutions and questions that Members are taking a lively interest in the difficult questions of currency and exchange; and it may be of interest to the Legislature to hear from me an indication of the policy of my Government upon these problems. While internal prices in India have on the whole remained steady, there has been a considerable rise in the sterling value of the rupee during the past year, and an even more marked rise in its gold value owing to the simultaneous improvement in the gold value of sterling. Thus far during the present busy season there has not been a repetition of the exceptional stringency in the money-market which characterised this period a year ago, and I am hopeful that the assistance which my Government have been able and will be able to give in the matter of providing additional currency, combined with the improved conditions on which emergency currency can now be issued to the Imperial Bank, will enable all legitimate demands to be met without undue strain during the remainder of the season.

My Government proposes in the first place to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act so as to increase the permissible investment of securities in the Paper Currency Reserve from the present limit of 85 crores of rupees to 100 crores.

The object of this proposal is to give the Government of India increased powers to ensure the supply of currency upon an adequate scale to meet the requirements of trade and in particular to prevent undue monetary stringency in the busy season.

We have made announcements from time to time to Chambers of Commerce and in the Assembly that, if my Government found existing powers were likely to prove insufficient, it would not hesitate to ask for increased discretion.

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We began the present busy season with a margin of $13\frac{1}{2}$ crores of permissible investment; and we have up to date increased currency by six crores, British Securities to the amount of six million pounds having been placed in the reserve in England. There is still therefore a margin of $7\frac{1}{2}$ crores; but it is considered desirable to ask the Legislature for increased powers to meet possible contingencies.

The Members of the Legislature may rest assured that these provisions for increased discretion to meet demands for currency are a healthy development and offer no indications of a morbid tendency. The need is an outcome of the improvement of trade which is now definitely recovering from post-war depressions, and it is natural that increased trade should require increased currency facilities.

It should also be noted that this increase of currency represents an addition made by Government quite independent of the amount which the Imperial Bank is entitled to ask as a loan from the Paper Currency Reserve against the security of Internal Trade Bills. The Imperial Bank is entitled to ask for sums up to 12 crores. The conditions upon which the Bank can ask for this emergency currency have recently been modified by requiring that the first four crores may be taken when the bank rate is at six per cent., and any part of the remainder may be taken when the bank rate reaches seven per cent.

There has been a considerable feeling in some quarters that the time has come for the appointment of a Currency Committee to investigate the difficult question of exchange and to make recommendations. The suggestion has been carefully examined by me in consultation with my Finance Member, and has been for some time past the subject of discussion between my Government and the Secretary of State. The chief difficulty to be considered is the fluidity of economic and exchange factors in the world. The question is not affected only by features in India and England or even in the Empire; world conditions have also to be considered and powerfully affect the issues; and there is the danger that if a Committee sits at a time when factors are still unstable, its recommendations will be based on shifting data, and whatever may be the capacity and skill of the Committee, its conclusion will inevitably be of the nature of guess work rather than of expert findings based upon the examination of stable conditions and well-established tendencies. The result of discussion with the Secretary of State is that I am now authorised to make the following announcement which explains the conclusions of His Majesty's Government and my Government upon the proposal.

The Government of India have been in communication with the Secretary of State on the subject of the rupee exchange, and the intention of Government is to appoint an authoritative Committee to consider the question as soon as world economic factors appear sufficiently stable to justify formulation of a new policy. In their judgment there is much to be gained by postponing an inquiry till those factors on which any decision must rest are less fluid and obscure. But they anticipate that if the movement towards more stable conditions, which has lately manifested itself, continues the appointment of such a Committee should be possible not later than 12 months hence.

In view of the opinion expressed in the Assembly regarding the need of an economic inquiry, my Government has decided in consultation with the Secretary of State to appoint a small Committee to report on the

material which exists for holding an inquiry into the economic conditions of the people of India, the feasibility of instituting an inquiry of this character and the manner in which it could be carried out. Meanwhile the Taxation Committee have begun their labours.

It may also become necessary for my Government to introduce to the Legislature a measure to define the powers of the High Court in relation to tribunals and proceedings under the special Bengal Criminal Legislation. You are aware that His Excellency the Governor of Bengal has exercised the powers conferred upon him under the Government of India Act and has certified and signed the Bill. I take this opportunity of stating that His Excellency's action in this respect has my full approval, and that I shall support both him and his Government to the extent of my powers in meeting what I regard as a serious emergency. Inasmuch as I have decided to reserve the Act for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure, I do not now propose to discuss its detailed provisions or the Bill which my Government may eventually seek to introduce should His Majesty in Council signify assent to the Bengal Criminal Law (Amendment) Act. Nevertheless, as this legislation had its origin in the Ordinance, which I as Governor General in the exercise of the special responsibilities laid upon me promulgated, let me refer to certain aspects affecting the issue of the Ordinance.

Very full explanations have already been given to the public.

In spite however of the full ventilation which the question has received, some important aspects of it appear to be still clouded by the mists of misapprehension in the minds of some sections of the public; and the necessity both of my action and of the course adopted by the Government of Bengal has repeatedly been challenged.

I shall not travel again over the ground covered in my Calcutta speech. As the result of the public discussions it is now admitted on all sides, even by the most convinced opponents of special measures and special legislation, that a terrorist movement exists in Bengal, and that widespread conspiracies for violent crimes have been established. The objects which these conspiracies have in view as a result of their crimes are also not disputed. It has been proved by sad experience that the ordinary law, even when reinforced by the use of Regulation III in cases to which it can be applied, is ineffective to stop the movement or even to check its growth; and that the progress of the movement involves loss of life not only among officials, but among innocent citizens unconnected with Government or with the activities of any political party.

Yet in spite of this knowledge of these facts, there has been bitter criticism of the measures adopted to check and cure the evil. I find it hard to believe that those who indulge so freely in criticism have ever seriously attempted to think out the eventual implications of the movement or earnestly endeavoured to consider the responsibilities of Government or of the Governor General in the case.

It is hardly conceivable that any thinking man can approve of the spread of activities which seek to terrorise the population by breaking down established authority through a campaign of murder of officials and do not hesitate to destroy innocent victims who cross their path or to exact reprisals in form of the lives of those who give evidence or information of contemplated outrages. It is obvious that those activities can only end, if

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unchecked, in the paralysis of Government and of law and order and may place the lives and properties of helpless citizens at the mercy of a pitiless criminal organisation.

I cannot believe that any member of any political party in India, even if he is opposed, and vehemently opposed, to the Government as now constituted in India, would deny that it was the duty of Government to prevent the coming to pass of such a condition of affairs.

But it is urged that the Ordinance was not necessary. It is argued that these criminal activities could be adequately checked by the efforts of the police and the prosecution of the malefactors before Courts of justice. I whole-heartedly wish that I could subscribe to this argument, but I cannot accept it, because it is in complete disregard of the true facts. It is essential to remember that we were not dealing with criminals who could be arrested and tried for crimes on evidence freely given by persons with nothing to fear from their action in giving testimony. We were not dealing with the violent and open insurrection of a mob which could be fought with its own weapons. We were on the contrary dealing with widespread secret societies with many ramifications, which had taken the greatest care to conceal their insidious organisations and nefarious plans and were prepared to exact swiftly and secretly terrible reprisals upon members of their own society or members of the public giving information as to their actions.

You will doubtless remember that I addressed you on this subject at the opening of the proceedings of the Legislature in January of last year. Thereafter the Government of Bengal and my Government were for a long time in anxious consultation in regard to measures, and every effort was made to cope with the danger by the ordinary law, reinforced by such special action as lay within our power. Regulation III was used for reasons and in a manner I have previously explained to this Legislature. These measures however proved ineffective; and finally after exhausting all the weapons in their armoury, the Government of Bengal made a request to my Government. The members of that Government, Europeans and Indians, after careful consideration of the evidence and with full knowledge of the history and character of the local situation, were unanimous in applying to me to issue an Ordinance giving special powers to deal with this dangerous emergency. The investigation of the situation did not rest there; notwithstanding that it was for me to determine whether the Ordinance should issue, it is for the Executive to assist in administering its powers. Moreover, I have during my term of office learnt to value the advice of the Members of my Council, and I have always derived the greatest help from their considered opinions. I therefore consulted them. I am well aware that I am taking a wholly exceptional course in giving you this information, but I do it advisedly after careful thought. The whole question was then studied in all aspects by the members of my Government, both Europeans and Indians, who arrived at a unanimous conclusion that the Ordinance was the only remedy available. The situation was then laid before the Secretary of State including the proposals for the promulgation of the Ordinance. The whole matter was submitted to careful examination by Lord Olivier and His Majesty's Government as then constituted. They agreed with the course suggested as the only possible method of dealing with the dangers facing the peace of Bengal. You will thus observe that my action was not

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only due to my personal conviction of the necessity for it, but that the view taken by me, and also by His Excellency the Governor of Bengal, has the support and approval of high and experienced authorities, both European and Indian, and was approved by the then Secretary of State.

I have already explained elsewhere why the Members of the Legislature were not consulted in September last. It has since been urged that the Legislature should have been summoned again before I took the step of promulgation. In my judgment this course was neither in the circumstances desirable, nor indeed was it possible, if the means devised were to prove effective. The responsibility was of a nature which could not be shared, and it would not be right or proper for me to try to share it with you or to place it on your shoulders. Consultation with the Legislature would have meant publicity. The aim was to prevent crime and to paralyse the activities of the conspiracies. Past experience in the Government of India and the conclusions of the Rowlatt Committee point to the fact that to check conspiracies of this nature with success two features are essential. In the first place, the organisations must not know that general action of a special nature is under contemplation against them; and, in the second place, the method of working and the sources of information must not be endangered directly or indirectly. Any rashness or carelessness on these points may make future action entirely fruitless and completely nullify the object to be secured. If discussions in this Legislature had taken place, these conditions could not have been fulfilled and the Ordinance would have proved futile as a remedy for the disease.

There is, I regret to say, a tendency among some sections of public opinion in India to confuse all administrative acts with influences having reactions on desires for political progress. The repression of violent crime has, however, no affinity with the treatment of aspirations for advance. They have no resemblance in kind or degree and they are phenomena existing on entirely different planes.

Terrorism no doubt may sometimes batten on a section of political thought. It may expand like some foul parasite-growth deriving strength from living sources outside its own entity. It may flourish for a time in this conjunction if it can cajole or frighten a political party into acquiescence or into encouragement of its activities; but no political party can continue to live with terror for a friend. The parasite will kill the host. True political progress can have no lot or part with terrorism. Whatever differences of opinion may exist between me and my Government and sections of public opinion regarding the Ordinance, I trust that the Members of the Indian Legislature will realise that my action was taken only after the most careful examination of the whole situation and with the sole object of preventing violent crime.

You will not be surprised that I refrain to-day from discussing the important constitutional questions referred to the Reforms Inquiry Committee which have formed the subject of important public discussion. You are aware that the Report of the Committee is now under the consideration of myself and the members of my Government. The weighty nature of the problems and of the investigation by the Committee demands our most careful attention and study, and I think it right to avoid observations upon any of the various questions involved until there has been adequate opportunity for thorough examination and deliberation by me and my Government. I desire however to take advantage of this opportunity to express

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to Sir Alexander Muddiman, the Chairman, and all the members of the Committee, my deep gratitude for the valuable services they have rendered. They have had a difficult task; they have not spared themselves either in time or labour, and I cannot too highly commend the care and expedition with which they have completed their task. They have devoted themselves whole-heartedly and to the best of their well known capacities to the duties entrusted to them. Whatever opinions may be expressed hereafter upon the results of their efforts, I feel sure that you, the Members of the Indian Legislature, and the Indian public generally, will agree with me in this tribute of appreciation of their services.

I have been deeply gratified to learn that the leaders of the two communities in Kohat have reached agreement, and that there are now good prospects of the return of the Hindus and of the resumption of past friendly and neighbourly relations. I was grievously distressed by the wound which communal tension had inflicted upon Kohat. I shall not refer to the painful events at the riots or their causes, as these have already been dealt with in the Resolution of my Government, and I shall serve no useful purpose by re-discussing them; but leaving these aside, the question which caused me the most acute anxiety and thought was the problem of reconciliation and of the future relations of the two communities. From the outset I have done all in my power to try to heal the wound and to bring the parties together. At one moment reconciliation seemed imminent, but the negotiations proved abortive; nevertheless, I and those associated with me were unwilling to regard the collapse as final. I have always been ready to take any official measures which may assist to restore the harmony and unity formerly traditional between the communities in this Frontier town; but I have recognised that these efforts were of the nature of an auxiliary to settlement and not the actual foundation of settlement. Any system of peace imposed from above or from outside would have neither been real nor lasting. The peace must be the peace of Kohat; and until each party could itself testify that the heart had been cleansed from rancour, there could be no basis for permanent good-will in the future. I understand that the settlement has been well received by the two communities at large, and I trust that I may now hear that active steps are being taken towards the end which I and my Government have so much at heart—a restoration of that harmony and neighbourly relations between Hindu and Moslem which had long been in existence at Kohat. I know that I shall carry the Members of the Indian Legislature with me when I express the most earnest hope that this settlement may prove an enduring restoration of peace and good-will between the two communities at Kohat. I trust I may not be taking too optimistic a view when I express the further hope that the present high state of tension in the relations between the Hindu and Moslem communities in different parts of India may be relieved, and that more friendly relations between them may ensue. I need not assure you that I and my Government have observed with the deepest concern the lamentable series of riots and disturbances which have resulted in so much loss of life and property and, what is perhaps even more deplorable, so much exacerbation of old animosities. We are profoundly impressed by the necessity of taking all possible action to relieve this atmosphere of tension and to avert or mitigate the disorders which it unfortunately generates. I know that these views

are shared to the full by all Local Governments. Nevertheless, I deemed it proper some time ago to invite their close and earnest attention to these matters, and I have every assurance that no effort will be spared by them or by their officers not only to avert temporary or local causes of trouble or to minimise its results, but steadfastly to promote permanent mutual relations of harmony and good-will. I am equally confident that all enlightened members of the communities affected equally deplore and are equally concerned in reconciling these unhappy communal dissensions. They will recognise with me that on a solution of these difficulties depend not only the present peace and prosperity of India, but also her future progress. I readily acknowledge that strenuous efforts have already been made, and are still being made, by leaders of Indian public opinion to establish more harmonious relations between these communities. I cannot too strongly affirm that this object is constantly and sincerely sought after by all responsible public authorities in India; but no measures, legislative or executive, however ingeniously devised, can be expected to produce immediate effect on the ancient and deep-rooted cause of these troubles. They can only be removed by the growth of a spirit of toleration and enlightenment. It cannot be denied that these animosities are a serious hindrance to the promotion of unity of aim in India, and that these quarrels and disturbances must inevitably retard political progress. Whatever differences may divide us in India, we must all agree that every effort should be made to prevent the recurrence of these communal troubles. In this field we can, and should, co-operate, and I trust that all members of these two communities and others, who are moved by humanity, public spirit and patriotism, will join with me and the responsible authorities in India in earnest efforts to promote this spirit of larger tolerance and conciliation. If this object could be attained, the distance along the road to political unity in India will be considerably shortened. Moreover, I venture to cherish the hope that the diffusion of this spirit of harmony and good-will may communicate itself to other regions of acute controversy, and that in due course of time, and aided by this brighter and purer light, the road may be more quickly found to peace and prosperity in India.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 22nd January, 1925.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 22nd January, 1925.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, and the President (the Honourable SIR ALEXANDER FREDERICK WHYTE, Kt.) took the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN:

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, K.C.I.E., C.B.E. (Industries Member); Mr. Lancelot Graham, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Secretary, Legislative Department); Mr. George Gall Sim, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Financial Commissioner, Railways); Khan Bahadur Muhammad Abdul Mumin, M.L.A. (Bengal: Nominated Official); Mr. Ernest Horatio Ashworth, M.L.A. (United Provinces: Nominated Official); Mr. William Alexander Cosgrave, M.L.A. (Assam: Nominated Official); Mr. James Leslie McCallum, M.L.A. (Burma: Nominated Official); and Sir Campbell Ward Rhodes, Kt., C.B.E., M.L.A. (Bengal: European).

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member): Sir, I wish to give Honourable Members such information as I can as to the course of business during the next week. To-morrow, as Members are aware, has been allotted for non-official Resolutions. The Assembly will not sit on Saturday, the 24th. On Monday, the 26th, a motion will be submitted for the election of members to the Committee on Public Accounts. The next business will be the moving of a Resolution by the Honourable Member in the Commerce Department in respect of the grant of a bounty on steel manufactured in India. The text of the Resolution is already in the hands of Honourable Members. In the event of the Resolution being passed in a form acceptable to Government, this will be followed by a demand for a supplementary grant to meet the expenditure to be incurred during the current year. Thereafter, if time allows, a motion will be made to refer the Trade Unions Bill to a Select Committee and a motion will be made to take into consideration and pass the Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, which provides for the levy of fees for inspection of wireless installations of vessels. Any Government business not transacted on that day will be taken on Wednesday, the 28th, on which day it is also proposed to move for leave to introduce the Legislative Assembly President's Salary

[Sir Alexander Muddiman.]

Bill and to move for consideration of the Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, which relates to the Haj, in a form in which it has been amended by the Select Committee and also to move, if the former motion is carried, for the passing of the Bill. Finally, if found necessary, an election will also be held on the 28th for the Central Advisory Council for Railways. Tuesday, the 27th, has been allotted for non-official Resolutions and Friday, the 30th, has been allotted for non-official Bills. The House will not sit on Thursday, the 29th, which is a gazetted holiday, nor will it sit on Saturday, the 31st January.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, after the announcement that has been made by the Leader of the House, I wish to draw his attention and also the attention of the Government to the fact that the policy which has led to the promulgation of the Bengal Ordinance of 1924 is very keenly felt throughout the country and also, I believe, in this House by a large body of Members. I am prepared to admit that the Resolution was disallowed on technical grounds, but I am sure the Government do not desire to prevent a free and full discussion on the policy and the provisions and terms of that Ordinance. If I understand rightly that the Government do not wish to prevent a discussion across the floor of this House, then may I ask the Leader of this House whether he proposes to give us an opportunity to raise that discussion with regard to the policy and the provisions of the Bengal Ordinance at an early date?

There is another matter which I want to bring to his notice. The 26th of January is, of course, fixed for very important business. But I want to bring to his notice the fact that a Convocation is going to be held at Aligarh on that day, and large bodies of the Muhammadan Members at least have already accepted invitations and will probably have to go there. In the light of that fact, which I bring to his notice, may I know whether it is possible not to take up such important business on the 26th.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Sir, with reference to the remarks of the Honourable Member opposite in regard to a discussion on the provisions of the Bengal Ordinance, I may say at once that this Government have no desire whatever to shirk a full discussion on any Resolutions that can be constitutionally discussed and I will examine the state of business on the Government side and, as far as possible, I will endeavour to make available an early day for the discussion of that question. Nothing is further from the wish of the Government than to shirk this discussion or in any way to burke the matter and I recognise that the Honourable Member was also aware of that fact when he made his allusion to a Resolution which might otherwise have come on to-day.

As regards the second matter, the matter of the Aligarh University, that is quite new to me. But, speaking generally, Honourable Members must understand that there can be no business more important than the business of this House. However important any other engagements may be, Honourable Members must always recognise that they may have to give them up. However, I will consider the point and I will consult my Honourable Colleague who is mainly responsible for the business of that day. My Honourable friend must also recollect that there is a good deal of Government business and we have to do the best we can to get it through. But I will consider the point.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NUMBER OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS AND ACCOUNTANTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF MILITARY ACCOUNTS, SOUTHERN COMMAND AND POONA DISTRICT.

1. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar**: What is the number of:

- (a) authorised,
- (b) actually working (1) Deputy Assistant Controllers of Military Accounts and (2) Accountants in the office of the Controller of Military Accounts, S. C. and Poona District?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) Deputy Assistant Controllers of Military Accounts—7; Accountants—34.

(b) (1). Deputy Assistant Controllers of Military Accounts on the 1st September 1924—7.

(2) Accountants on the 1st September 1924—35.

OFFICIATING PROMOTIONS IN LEAVE VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF MILITARY ACCOUNTS, SOUTHERN COMMAND AND POONA DISTRICT.

2. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar**: (a) Are the officiating appointments in the vacancies caused by Deputy Assistant Controllers of Military Accounts and Accountants on leave from 1st September 1922 onwards made in all cases? If not, will Government please state the reasons for the same?

(b) Is it a fact that the Controller of Military Accounts, S. C. and Poona District has declined to notify officiating promotions in leave vacancies as long as the number of Accountants working in his office and with Units are in excess of the authorised strength? If the reply be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the same principle was followed in the same office in notifying promotions to the grade of D. A. C. M. A.? If not, the cause of the difference?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) Officiating arrangements in question have been made from 1st September 1922 onwards, where admissible, with due regard to the acting allowance rules.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer already given to Mr. Lohokare's question No. 2317 on the same subject. We have no surpluses in the Deputy Assistant Controllers of Military Accounts' grade in any of the Controller of Military Accounts' offices.

GRANT OF OVERTIME ALLOWANCES TO POSTAL SIGNALLERS.

3. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar**: Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an overtime allowance is granted in the case of departmental telegraphists for postal and telegraph service messages dealt with by them beyond their prescribed hours of attendance while the same is denied to postal signallers. If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: It is a fact that an overtime allowance is granted to departmental telegraphists for postal and telegraph service messages dealt with by them beyond their prescribed hours of attendance.

2. The allowance is not however denied to postal signallers, provided that the combined office is required to be kept open, under competent authority, for substantially longer hours (i.e., for a period of 30 minutes or more) than those fixed for the transaction of telegraph business.

WORKING HOURS OF RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE SORTERS.

4. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the attendance hours at the record office and on the railway platforms of R. M. S. sorters on duty are not taken into account in calculating the working hours? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Such hours are not taken into account as working hours, because to do so would be still further to reduce the term of actual duty of R. M. S. officials which is already considerably below that of other branches of the Department.

VACANCIES IN SELECTION GRADE APPOINTMENTS IN THE WESTERN CIRCLE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

5. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that vacancies in the selection grade appointments in the Western Circle R. M. S. have been kept vacant for over a year and if so, why?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The appointments were kept vacant owing to a misapprehension of the orders on the subject. The matter has been set right and the vacancies have since been filled up.

INCREASE OF LEAVE RESERVE IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

6. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have accepted the recommendations of the joint R. M. S. conference regarding the increase of leave reserve to 30 per cent. in the R. M. S.? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether any final orders to that effect have or have not been passed yet?

(b) If final orders have been passed, will the Government be pleased to state what are the orders?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The question of increasing the leave reserve in the Railway Mail Service is being carefully considered by the Director-General in consultation with the Financial Adviser to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. His recommendations will be considered by Government as soon as they are received.

WORKING HOURS OF POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH OFFICIALS.

7. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) How many hours' attendance daily is considered as normal in the case of officials of (I) the Post, (II) of the Telegraphs;
- (b) Whether any differentiation between postal officials and telegraphists is made in respect of attendance by day and attendance by night;
- (c) If any is made, what are the normal hours of attendance by day and normal hours by night per day in case of the officials of the two departments?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Ordinarily 8 hours daily, for attendance by day.

(b) The work of postal clerks is usually done by day, but telegraphists are, in many cases, called upon to put in a regular term of night duty, and their period of attendance by night is from 6 to 7 hours. In view of the replies to (a) and (b), (c) does not arise.

GRANT OF EXTRA REMUNERATION TO THE SORTERS OF THE POONA POST OFFICE FOR SORTING THE KESARI NEWSPAPER ONCE A WEEK.

8. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the sorters of the Poona Post Office have to work for two hours extra to sort the *Kesari* newspaper once a week and if so, are they paid any additional remuneration and if so, what? If they are not paid extra remuneration, why not?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The sorting staff of the Poona post office, having been fixed, in accordance with the rules of the Department, on the basis of the amount of work performed daily on the average during a fortnight, the position is that the staff have more work than the average on one day in each week and less work than the average on the remaining days. In the circumstances, it is not considered necessary to grant extra remuneration in connection with the sorting of the *Kesari* newspaper.

TIME TEST OF SORTERS OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

9. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that orders are in existence to exclude from calculation the work in connection with sorting weekly newspapers and magazines from the prescribed time-test of the work of the R. M. S. sorters? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The reply is in the negative.

GRANT OF COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE TO POSTAL OFFICIALS AT BOMBAY, POONA AND KARACHI.

10. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to sanction compensatory allowance to postal officers working at Bombay, Poona and Karachi similar to that sanctioned by the Local Government to their officers similarly posted?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The Government have already admitted, with effect from the 1st April 1924, the gazetted officers of the Central Services who are stationed at Bombay, Karachi and other expensive towns, to the benefits of a special scale of local allowance. Poona is not included in this allowance.

REFUSAL OF THE ANCHOR LINE TO CARRY INDIAN SALOON PASSENGERS TO EUROPE.

11. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) Is it a fact that the Anchor Line steamers refuse to carry Indian saloon passengers to Europe?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if they have represented to the Directors of the Anchor Line against this racial discrimination?

(c) What subsidy do the Government give to this line of steamers?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) None.

Colonel Sir Henry Stanyon: Are Government aware of the fact that in October and November last on the Anchor Liner "California" I had the pleasure of a voyage to India with 22 Indian First and Second Saloon passengers?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I am glad the Honourable Member is able to confirm the information I have just given to the House.

Mr. W. S. J. Willson: Do the Government pay a subsidy to any line of steamers? I am not referring to payments for services done, but to a subsidy.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: We pay to certain steamship lines what are called mail subsidies which are of course payments for services rendered.

Mr. W. S. J. Willson: My point is that they are not subsidies.

LOCATION OF THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT IN SIMLA.

12. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what necessity there is for the Indian Stores Department to be located in Simla?

(b) What percentage of the stores are purchased in Simla and what commercial houses have their headquarters in Simla for the purchase of stores?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) I propose to answer this question in reply to part (b) of the Honourable Member's next question* on the paper.

(b) It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to purchases made from firms located in Simla. If this is so, the answer is that no such purchases except some petty supplies have been made. As far as the Government are aware no commercial Houses have their headquarters in Simla for the wholesale purchase of stores.

LOCATION OF THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT IN DELHI.

13. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many offices of the Indian Stores Department are located in Simla, and for how many months and what work they do during their stay here?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state why the headquarters of the Indian Stores Department should not be permanently located in Delhi or some other commercial centre?

(c) Is it a fact that the employees of the Indian Stores Department find difficulty in getting house accommodation in Simla and their efficiency thereby suffers?

* Question No. 13.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The only office of the Indian Stores Department which is located for any portion of the year at Simla is the office of the Chief Controller of Stores. This office moves between Simla and Delhi with the headquarters of the Government of India and discharges at Simla the ordinary work devolving on it.

(b) The Honourable Member is aware that the Indian Stores Department is still in process of organization, and it is considered essential in the interests of administrative convenience and efficiency that the headquarters of the Department should remain as a temporary arrangement with the Government of India.

(c) Not, as far as the Government of India are aware.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS INDUSTRIES SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

14. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) Is it a fact that the Indian Stores Department has been inaugurated in this country for the purpose of encouraging the indigenous industry of the country?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what indigenous industries have been encouraged since its establishment?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) The Indian Stores Department since its institution has rendered material assistance to the following industries:

Textiles.

Cement.

Miscellaneous iron and steel manufactures including fabricated articles.

Oils and paints.

Sundry Chemical and allied manufactures.

The Department has also assisted the Engineering industries by inspection of manufactures, testing of materials and affording technical assistance and advice.

PURCHASE OF STORES.

15. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** With reference to the Rules for the supply of articles for the public services will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the following information:

(a) Names of indigenous industry encouraged under the patronage of the Indian Stores Department since its establishment in January 1922;

(b) Names of the firms whether owned and managed by Indian or English capital and personnels;

(c) Total amount of indents placed by the I. S. D. for the supply of such local industry as is referred to in (a) above during the period the new rules were introduced?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to his starred question No. 14.

(b) The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not available. The collection of this information would take a considerable time and entail some expense. It is also doubtful if private trading firms would be prepared to furnish the information asked for.

(c) The value of the purchases, of *locally manufactured* articles, made by the Indian Stores Department, from the date on which the revised Stores Rules were introduced up to the 31st December 1924 is Rs. 77,74,900. I may add that these rules came into force only in May last.

PURCHASE OF STORES.

16. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** With reference to rule 1 of the Rules for the supply of articles for the public service will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the following information:

(a) Names of articles manufactured in India from materials produced in India and purchased through the I. S. D.

(b) Names of firms whether owned and managed by Indian or English capital and personnels?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (b) of his starred question No. 15.

List of stores manufactured from Indian materials and purchased by the Indian Stores Department.

Engineering and Hardware stores—

Anchors.
 Axles.
 Belting.
 Brushes.
 Carts, hand.
 Carts, night soil.
 Casing and Capping.
 Cement.
 Chair spikes.
 Cranes.
 Creosote.
 Dogspikes.
 Firebars.
 Firebricks.
 Fireclay.
 Glue.
 Gymnasium appliances.
 Hydrant standpost.
 Iron, pig.
 Nails, wire.
 Padlocks.
 Petrol.
 Phowrahs.
 Pipes and specials, C. I.
 Sleepers.
 Steel sections.
 Steel yards.
 Tar, coal.
 Tar, wood.
 Tiles.
 Trusses, roof.
 Turpentine.

Valves, wheel brass.
 Wheels.
 Wire, baling.
 Wood blocks.
 Textiles, Cotton—
 Bags, dasooti.
 Calico.
 Cambric.
 Canvas.
 Carriers, waterbottle.
 Cases, mattress, pillow, etc.
 Chintz, Tent.
 Cloth, dasooti.
 Cloth, Grey and other colours.
 Cloth, Jaconet.
 Cloth, Khadi.
 Cloth, Lining.
 Cloth, Long.
 Cloth, Markin.
 Cloth, Oil.
 Cloths, Glass, table, tea, tray, sponge, toos, etc.
 Cord, Bedford.
 Cordage of sorts.
 Corduroy.
 Cotton waste.
 Drill, grey and dyed.
 Duck.
 Dungari.
 Durries.
 Flannelette.
 Fringes.
 Kullahs.

List of stores manufactured from Indian materials and purchased by the Indian Stores Department—contd.

Textiles, Cotton—contd.

Lines, bedding.
 Mulmul.
 Napkins.
 Newar.
 Pugri cloth, bleached and dyed.
 Putties.
 Ropes of sorts.
 Safas Police.
 Sheetting.
 Sheets.
 Tape, cotton.
 Tents and components.
 Thread.
 Ticken.
 Towelling cloth.
 Towels.
 Twill.
 Twine.
 Yarn.
 Wool—
 Banat.
 Bandages, horse.
 Blankets.
 Broadcloth.
 Chutt.
 Cloth, Baize.
 Comforters.

Jackets, Cardigan.
 Jerseys.
 Jhools, camel.
 Melton.
 Putties.
 Rugs, horse.
 Serges of sorts.
 Socks.
 Stockings.
 Wool, Raw.
 Jute, Coir, Hemp, etc.—
 Bags of sorts.
 Canvas (jute).
 Fibre (coir).
 Gasketting (jute).
 Hessian cloth.
 Log Lines.
 Mats, coir fibre.
 Nets, hay.
 Nets, loading camel.
 Paulins (jute proofed).
 Rope of sorts.
 String (coir).
 Tanks, mule covers.
 Tanks, mule nets.
 Tatputties.
 Twill (jute).
 Twine.

PURCHASE OF STORES.

17. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** With reference to rule 3 (b) (i) and (c) of revised Store Rules, will the Government be pleased to give the following information:

List of I and II of approved firms.

Number.	Owned and managed by English capital and personnels.	Owned and managed by Indian capital and personnels.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to starred question No. 1738, on the 10th September, 1924.

PURCHASE OF STORES.

18. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** Will the Government be pleased to state the method followed by the Indian Stores Department in the selection of firms for placing orders in cases of indents for which no advertisement is made?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: A list of approved firms who deal in the various classes of stores purchased by the Indian Stores Department is maintained by the Chief Controller of Stores and in cases in which tenders are not called for by advertisement a number of firms

on the approved list are invited to tender. The selection of the firms who are invited to tender is made after taking into consideration among other things their location in relation to the destination at which the stores are required.

PURCHASE AND INSPECTION OF STORES.

19. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** With reference to rule 6 of the Stores Rules will the Government be pleased to state whether a department under the control of Indian Stores Department can purchase its stores from another department which is not under the control of the Indian Stores Department. If so, what is the limit as regards cost of stores thus purchased?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: There is no Department under the control of the Indian Stores Department which is purely an agency for the purchase and inspection of stores on behalf of other Departments.

ACTION TAKEN AGAINST DEPARTMENTS INDENTING DIRECT ON LONDON FOR STORES.

20. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** Will the Government be pleased to give the following information:

(a) Names of the departments who in disregard of Government instructions did not send in their indents to the Indian Stores Department but sent them direct to London, during last year ended the 31st July 1924;

(b) What effective action was taken against such departments?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Indents for stores are sent direct to the London Store Department in accordance with Standing Orders and a copy of such indents is sent to the Indian Stores Department for scrutiny.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. B. Das: May I inquire whether any of the Railway Departments are sending their orders through the Indian Store Department?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I understand, Sir, that several Railways are placing orders with the Indian Stores Department.

Mr. B. Das: At the end of the last September session the Honourable Member for Commerce assured us that after a conference with the Director of Stores Purchases various Railway Departments would make purchases through the Indian Stores Department. May I know the result of that conference?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I think there is a question on that subject in the paper later on.

Mr. B. Das: May I know if the Indian Stores Department is calling for rupee tenders in accordance with Mr. Jinnah's Resolution adopted by this Assembly last year?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: That is a matter on which a question has been asked later on.

INDENTS FOR STORES SENT TO THE LONDON STORE DEPARTMENT.

21. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** Is it a fact that the indents sent direct to the Indian Stores Department, London, are not first advertised in India in order to give opportunities to Indian firms for quotation? If so, will the Government be pleased to state why this is not done?

INDENTS FOR STORES SENT TO THE LONDON STORE DEPARTMENT.

22. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) On the case of indents forwarded direct to London of which only a copy is sent to the I. S. D. what action do the latter take to safeguard the interest of indigenous producers?

(b) Are such indents made known to the indigenous producers?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer this question and the preceding question No. 22, put by the Honourable Member together.

Indents are forwarded to the London Store Department direct by indentors for all articles which they believe cannot be obtained in India under the provisions of the Rules for the Supply of articles for the Public Service. A copy of each such indent is sent simultaneously to the Indian Stores Department for scrutiny. If that Department finds that any articles have been demanded from London which can be obtained from Indian sources of supply, this is brought to the notice of the indentor, full particulars being given of the source of supply, etc.

The information contained in the indents is not communicated to indigenous producers at the time of their despatch to London, but for some years past a statement has been published half-yearly indicating the classes of engineering stores which have been indented for from London. It has recently been decided to expand the statement so as to include all classes of stores.

The bulk of the indents sent to the London Store Department are for stores which are not obtainable in India in conformity with the Stores Purchase Rules and hence the advertisement of such demands in India would only lead in the majority of cases to increased expenditure and also delay in the supply of stores.

COUNCIL OF STATE ELECTORAL RULES.

23. ***Mr. M. Yusuf Imam:** (a) Are the Government of India aware of the fact that the electoral rolls of the several constituencies of the Council of State in the United Provinces are under preparation and were published for objections on September 15, 1924?

(b) Has the Government of India's attention been drawn to the interpellation of Doctor Ganesh Prasad in the meeting of the United Provinces Legislative Council of the 11th September 1924, and the reply of the Local Government thereto?

(c) When and on what date was the communication of the Government of the United Provinces, asking for the amendment of clause (f) paragraph 3 of Schedule II to the Council of State Electoral Rules, received by the Government of India and what action was taken thereon by them?

(d) What is the reason for the delay especially in view of the fact that a similar amendment in case of clause (a) paragraph 13 Schedule II to the United Provinces Electoral Rules was sanctioned by them last year?

(e) Do the Government of India propose to sanction the amendment applied for by the Government of the United Provinces before the revised electoral rolls are finally published?

(f) Are the Government of India prepared, if necessary, to obtain the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council in connection with this amendment?

(g) Do the Government of India propose to stop the final publication of the revised electoral rolls in question until after the amendment asked for by the Local Government is sanctioned?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Mr. Ranga Iyer's question, dated the 20th September 1924, which is reproduced on page 4065 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume IV. The necessary amendments to the Council of State Electoral Rules have been sanctioned by the Secretary of State in Council and were published in the Home Department Notification No. F.-807-Public, dated the 17th December 1924.

PROVISION OF ROADWAYS OVER RAILWAY BRIDGES IN ASSAM.

24. ***Mr. T. A. Chalmers:** (a) Is it a fact that railway bridges on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway are constructed so that the track on which the railway is laid is also used for wheeled traffic when the bridge is not actually carrying or about to carry a train?

(b) What is the extra cost per foot of span of constructing these bridges to fit them for this purpose?

(c) Are Government aware that a great deal of dissatisfaction has been caused in Assam because railway bridges, which are not used for railway trains more than six or eight times a day in Assam, are not utilised for the purposes of wheeled traffic as is said to be the case in Rohilkund?

(d) Is this want of consideration for the needs of improved communication due to the want of co-operation between the Railway Board or Railway Administration on the one hand and the P. W. D. or Local Boards on the other?

(e) If not, why cannot the present bridges and all future bridges be altered or constructed and worked as is said to be done in Rohilkund?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) There are two bridges on the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway system which can be utilised in the manner indicated.

(b) The extra cost cannot be stated as a definite figure per lineal foot of span of a bridge as it would vary with the requirements of each particular case.

(c) The Government of India have received no representations to this effect.

(d) The provision of roads is the concern of the Local Government but there is no want of co-operation on the part of Railways. The rules for the preparation of railway projects provide for the possibility of roadways being required by the local civil authorities on railway bridges and it is specifically laid down that when a large railway bridge is under consideration the Local Government or other road authority shall be given an opportunity of deciding whether facilities for road traffic should be simultaneously provided for.

(e) The provision of roads over existing bridges is precluded in many cases by the fact that this would entail an alteration in the design of the bridges. This difficulty does not, however, arise in the case of new bridges or when existing ones are being renewed and a roadway could be provided over them if asked for by the Local Government or road authority provided the extra cost to the railway is met by those authorities.

PURCHASE OF STORES.

25. ***Mr. K. Ahmed:** (a) Is it a fact that the Stores Purchase Rules issued by the Government of India are based on a policy which aims at the encouragement of Indian industries?

(b) Is it a fact that these rules are intended to regulate the purchase of stores by all Departments immediately subordinate to the Government of India and by Heads of minor Provinces?

(c) If the reply to the above is in the affirmative, will Government please state whether the purchases at present made by the three State Railways, the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs and the Chief Commissioner of Delhi are being made in conformity with the rules?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The reply to all parts of the question is in the affirmative.

PURCHASE OF STORES.

26. ***Mr. K. Ahmed:** (a) Is it a fact that Rule 1 of the Stores Purchase Rules requires that all articles which are produced in India in the form of raw material or are manufactured in India, should by preference be purchased locally, provided that the quality is sufficiently good for the purpose and the price reasonable?

(b) If so, is this policy followed in the case of all purchases made by the Indian Stores Department and the Master General of Supplies?

(c) How do the Indian Stores Department and the Master General of Supplies satisfy themselves in regard to comparison of prices of imported and indigenous articles? Do they maintain any rate lists? If not, why not?

(d) Do Government propose to amend rule 1 of the Stores Purchase Rules, so as to make it more effective by providing for disciplinary measures being taken against indenting officers, who may be found to have infringed the principle of the rule?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) In the case of the Indian Stores Department when orders involve large expenditure, simultaneous tenders are called for in India and from the Director General, India Store Department, London. Copies of all contracts placed by the Director General, India Store Department, London, are forwarded to the Indian Stores Department and in the case of orders for stores which are not of sufficient magnitude to justify calling for simultaneous tenders, the price of similar stores given in recent copies of contracts is compared with quotations received in India. If no recent purchase of the stores in question has been made by the London Store Department and hence no copies of contracts are available for comparison, the current price is ascertained from the Director General of Stores by cable. In all cases the additional charges shown in Rule 8 of the Stores Purchase Rules are added to the prices intimated by the Director General

of Stores. Rate lists are not maintained in the Indian Stores Department owing to the vast numbers and variety of items purchased for the several Government Departments and unstable conditions of market prices. It is considered that the labour and expense involved in the preparation of rate lists and in keeping them up-to-date would not be commensurate with their usefulness, and they would in fact in many cases be misleading.

In the case of the Master General of Supply the instructions contained in Rule 8 of the Stores Purchase Rules are strictly adhered to and rate lists are maintained for the classes of stores purchased.

(d) The answer is in the negative.

PURCHASE OF RAILWAY STORES.

27. ***Mr. K. Ahmed:** (a) Will Government be pleased to place on the table the circular letter No. 2574-S., dated the 18th August 1924, from the Railway Board to the Agents of State Railways?

(b) Are the instructions conveyed in this letter in regard to purchase of stores by the Railways, mandatory or permissive only? If the latter, why?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) The Railway Board's circular letter No. 2574-S., dated 18th August 1924, was laid on the table on the 17th September 1924, in response to the request contained in part (f) of Mr. Neogy's question No. 2135.

(b) As regards the second part of the question, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my speech on the 20th September 1924 in this House to which I have nothing to add.

PURCHASE OF MILITARY STORES.

28. ***Mr. K. Ahmed:** (a) Is it a fact that in the communiqué, dated the 31st March 1924, issued by the Government of India in the Army Department creating the office of the Master General of Supplies, it was announced that the production and provision of purely military stores such as lethal munitions and foodstuffs for the Army would be entrusted to the Master General of Supplies and the purchase of general stores, such as textiles and leather goods, engineering plant and material, hardware, oils and paints and other articles, which are in general use in the other Departments and in no way peculiar to the Army, would be entrusted to the Indian Stores Department?

(b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether or not the purchases made by the two authorities, are in accordance with the above distribution?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) I would first of all observe that the Honourable Member, by omitting from his quotation of the press communiqué in question an important qualifying phrase, has altered its complexion. As the communiqué plainly stated, it was only in the ultimate development of the Department of Surveyor General of Supply, if one were created, and of the Indian Stores Department, that the distribution of functions outlined in the communiqué was to take place.

(b) It was agreed at the time that the communiqué was issued that the Indian Stores Department should continue to carry out the purchase of textiles for the Army, and also that the purchase of engineering stores for the Military Works Services should be entrusted to the Indian Stores

Department as an experimental measure for a year. As the Department was not at that time sufficiently organised or developed to undertake the purchase of further classes of articles, it was further agreed that no extension of their activities on behalf of the Army should be carried out until the Department was in a position to buy as cheaply and as efficiently as the Army's own purchasing agency. The Government of India attach very great importance to the position which they desire to assign to the Indian Stores Department as a purchasing agency ancillary to the Master General of Supply, and the question of entrusting further classes of purchases on behalf of the Army to the Indian Stores Department is under the consideration of Government.

THE TAXATION INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

29. ***Mr. T. C. Goswami:** (a) Have Government dissolved the Taxation Inquiry Committee in pursuance of the Resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly during the September session of 1924?

(b) If not, will Government be pleased to say in what manner they have given effect to the Resolution referred to above, or in what manner they propose to give effect to it?

(c) Have Government considered the advisability of setting up an Economic Inquiry Committee, as recommended by the Legislative Assembly? Have they come to any decision on the subject?

(d) (i) How much of the amount voted by the Legislative Assembly for the Taxation Inquiry Committee had been spent before the said Assembly passed the Resolution recommending its dissolution, and how much (if any) has been spent since? What is the balance in hand?

(ii) Will Government be pleased to state how the money has been spent (i.e., the items of expenditure) in connection with the proposed Taxation Inquiry Committee?

(e) Has the Taxation Inquiry Committee ever yet met?

THE TAXATION INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

168. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Do Government propose to take any action in accordance with the recommendation of the Assembly about the Taxation Committee?

(b) If so, what action thereon is proposed to be taken and when?

(c) Have the members of the Committee been summoned and what work are they now engaged on?

THE TAXATION INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

377. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Are not the Government aware of the fact that a large number of the people's representatives in the Assembly are refraining from taking part in the Taxation Inquiry? Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons that have led the Government to disregard the disapproval of the House with regard to the personnel and terms of reference of the Taxation Inquiry Committee?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I propose to answer together with this question, question No. 168 by Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda and question No. 377 by Kumar Ganganand Sinha.

Mr. Goswami's question.

(a) to (c). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the statement made by His Excellency the Viceroy on this subject on the 20th instant.

(d) Of the sum of Rs. 2 lakhs voted by the Assembly, Rs. 5,656 was spent before and Rs. 62,739 after the passing of the Resolution, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,31,605. The details of expenditure are as follows:

	Rs.
Pay of officers	38,585
Pay of establishment	8,495
Travelling allowances	11,405
Contingencies	9,910
Total	68,395

With regard to (e) I would refer the Honourable Member to the accounts in the press.

That answers the whole of Mr. Chanda's question.

In regard to Kumar Ganganand Sinha's question a certain number of members of the Assembly have, I understand, published statements in the press to which the Honourable Member may refer. As regards the latter part of the question, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the statement made by His Excellency the Viceroy on the subject on the 20th instant.

Mr. T. C. Goswami: Arising out of that answer, may I ask the Honourable the Finance Member if he has any justification to offer for disregarding the Resolution of this Assembly in a manner which suggests peevishness and childish obstinacy.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member must choose his words with greater care.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I might apply the words to the action of somebody else. I would justify the action of Government by pointing out that this Assembly voted the sum necessary to appoint and carry on the work of the Committee for the year and that it was only in accordance with that vote and after it had been voted that the Committee was appointed.

Mr. Darcy Lindsay: Is it a fact that my Honourable friend, Mr. Goswami, in common with other Members of the Assembly was supplied with copies of letters, dated the 10th November and the 20th December, showing that the Committee were very much alive in proceeding with their labours and hence several of his questions have been needlessly asked?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, Sir, whether Government are in a position to tell the House what the terms of reference to the Economic Inquiry Committee are and what the constitution of the Committee is?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The terms of reference to the Committee are:

To examine the material at present available for framing an estimate of the economic condition of the various classes of the people of British India; to report on its adequacy; and to make recommendations as to the best manner in which it may be supplemented, and as to the lines on which a general economic survey should be carried out, with an estimate of the expenditure involved in giving effect to such recommendations.

The personnel of the Committee is as follows:

Sir M. Visvesvaraya, K.C.I.E., D.Sc., M.I.C.E., Chairman;

Rai Bahadur Pandit Hari Kishan Kaul, C.S.I., C.I.E., Member; and

Mr. A. R. Burnett-Hurst, B.Sc., Professor, Muir Central College, Allahabad, Member and Secretary.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know the reason why the Government did not accept the recommendations of this House as to the constitution of this Committee?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: If the Honourable Member will put that question down, I think I can answer it.

USE OF A DEFECTIVE WEIGHING MACHINE AT THE SEALDAH RAILWAY STATION.

30. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a letter published in the *Forward* on or about the last week of September over the name of Mr. Abdul Gunny Chowdhury, M. L. C., complaining that on his arrival at the Sealdah station his hand-bag was weighed by a railway employé by a weighing machine standing on platform No. 7 which showed a weight of 20 seers, that on Mr. Chowdhury challenging the weight, the bag was reweighed by Mr. G. Moss by another machine which stood by the side of the former machine, and the weight was now shown to be 14½ seers; that the matter being reported to the Superintendent, he inquired and discovered that the former machine had been declared defective and Mr. Chowdhury thus escaped and it was found as stated that the man in charge of the defective machine had once before been punished for weighing by the same machine which is described as I. S. R. Inter and Third class K. L. N. M. B. B. and K. I. R. *via* L. G. G.

(b) Are the above statements true?

(c) If so, what action has been taken in the matter?

(d) Who is responsible for using a weighing machine after it was found to be defective and what notice has been taken of his conduct?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Government have seen the letter referred to.

(b), (c) and (d). Government understand that the article in question was a small steel trunk, which had not been booked. When the trunk was weighed, the weighing machine was found to be defective, and, on this being reported to the Station Superintendent, he had the machine put out of use. The statement that the clerk, who weighed the luggage, had been previously punished for weighing by this machine is not correct.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask if the Government have got special machines, not necessarily defective, for weighing the luggage of intermediate and third class passengers?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I do not understand why we should have separate machines for weighing the luggage of intermediate and third class passengers.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I see here in this question there is reference to a special machine for intermediate and third class passengers' luggage.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I am not responsible for the phrasing of the question.

ALLEGED OUTRAGE ON AN INDIAN FEMALE TRAVELLING BY THE RANCHI EXPRESS.

31. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** Has the attention of the Government been called to an account published in the *Bankura Darpan* stating that an Indian female was travelling in a female compartment by the Ranchi Express and had a son with her, that at Purulia a guard of the train removed the latter to a male compartment and that thereafter as soon as the train began to move a guard entered the said female compartment and attempted to commit an outrage on her and on her crying out some one from the adjoining male compartment pulled the "Alarm Chain" on which the train was brought to a stop and the guard ran away, that the police prosecuted the two guards A. J. D. Rossio and A. H. Poke in this connection and the Sub-Divisional Officer of Bankura who tried the case convicted guard Rossio and sentenced him to 9 months' rigorous imprisonment and acquitted guard A. H. Poke.

(a) Are the facts stated above correct?

(b) Has it been ascertained whether or not the son of the female passenger could under the railway rules remain with his mother in the female compartment?

(c) If so, has the Railway Administration held any inquiry about the guard who removed him from the female compartment? Was he the guard A. H. Poke who has been acquitted?

(d) Has the Railway Administration considered whether he is fit to be retained in service though acquitted by the magistrate?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The facts as Government have ascertained them are as follows: The incident referred to occurred when the Ranchi Express was leaving Bankura on 5th April, 1924. Two persons, Guard A. J. D. Rozario of the train and H. Paul, were prosecuted by the police. Rozario was convicted and has been dismissed from service. Paul is not a railway employee. There is no information whether the son was removed to a male compartment, but the railway rules do not permit a male above the age of 12 to travel in a female compartment.

Sir Campbell Rhodes: With reference to section (d) of this question, Sir, may I ask the Honourable the Home Member whether it is or is not a fact under the law that a man is held to be innocent not only until he is convicted but even after he has been acquitted?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The Honourable Member has answered his own question.

PROSECUTION OF RAILWAY SERVANTS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERCROWDING OF TRAINS.

32. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Has it been admitted by Government in this Assembly and the old Imperial Council on several occasions that there is, and has always been, overcrowding in some of the trains at any rate?

(b) Is it a fact that there is overcrowding in some trains and that such overcrowding generally takes place with the help of the railway staff who cause passengers to enter compartments already full?

(c) Has there been a single prosecution of any of the railway staff since the enactment of the provisions in section 102 of Indian Railways Act 1890 and the corresponding section 28 of Act 10 of 1879 providing for the prosecution of any railway servant for causing such overcrowding?

(d) Is there any agency in existence or contemplated for prosecuting such railway servants? If not, are the Government prepared either to consider the desirability of taking steps to enforce the said provision of law or to repeal the same if it is found to have been a dead letter for nearly half a century?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) and (d). The Honourable Member asked a very similar question in the Imperial Legislative Council on 7th February 1917, and he was given a very full reply. The position in regard to overcrowding is now very much better as the Honourable Member will see from my speech in this House on 12th February last.

(b) Not so far as Government are aware.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

REFUSAL OF A PASSPORT TO DR. SUDHINDRA BOSE, LECTURER IN THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.

33. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a letter dated the 28th September published in the *Forward* over the name of Pundit Benarasidas Chaturvedi under the heading "Another Passport Scandal" stating that Dr. Sudhindra Bose, Lecturer in the State University of Iowa who is said to have been acting as such in the said University, a Government institution, since 1913 and who when he intended to return to India to see his old mother during her illness, was refused a passport?

(b) Are the statements in the above paragraph correct?

(c) What are the grounds on which Dr. Bose has been refused a passport?

(d) Have Government at any time formulated any charge or charges against him?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) Government have seen the letter.

(b) and (c). I invite the Honourable Member's attention to my predecessor's replies to questions on the subject in this House on the 10th January 1922 and 15th January 1923. Dr. Bose was, when the visa was refused, an American citizen. His status has since been changed as a result of the decision of the Supreme Court of the U. S. A. in the case U. S. A. *versus* Bhagat Singh Hind, and His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Washington was informed in May of last year that Dr. Bose might be granted permission to return to India.

(d) Does not arise.

RISE IN PRICE OF RICE IN EASTERN BENGAL.

34. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Has the Honourable Member, Education, Health and Lands Department, received any wire from the Indian Association, Calcutta, stating that floods in Eastern Bengal have

destroyed standing crops and the price of rice has risen abnormally in consequence and serious shortage of rice is apprehended and suggesting control of export and import of Burma rice?'

(b) Do Government propose to make inquiries about the situation in East Bengal and take any action to meet it?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government have made inquiries and the reports received from the Government of Bengal, who have been consulted in the matter, show that the price of rice has now fallen and that there is no need for Government interference.

RESIGNATION BY SIR DADIBA DALAL OF THE OFFICE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

35. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Is it a fact that Sir Dadiba Dalal has resigned?

(b) Is it true that there were differences between the Government and him and that this coupled with the attitude of the English staff under him towards him and his official acts was the cause of such resignation?

(c) If it is not true, what were the reasons of his resignation after a short period of holding the office?

RESIGNATION BY SIR DADIBA DALAL OF THE OFFICE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

65. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to say if there is any truth in the statement published in the Press that the resignation of Sir Dadiba Dalal of his office of High Commissioner for India is due to differences with the Government of India, and lack of co-operation and assistance from his European subordinates?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to publish all the correspondence relating to his resignation?

RESIGNATION BY SIR DADIBA DALAL OF THE OFFICE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

164. ***Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances that led to the resignation of the post of the High Commissioner for India by Sir Dadiba Dalal?

RESIGNATION BY SIR DADIBA DALAL OF THE OFFICE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

458. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances which led to the resignation by Sir Dadiba Dalal of his office of the High Commissioner for India?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the correspondence which took place between them and Sir Dadiba Dalal on this subject?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions Nos. 35, 65, 164 and 458 together.

The Government do not propose to make any statement regarding the reasons for Sir Dadiba Dalal's resignation.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know, Sir, what the reasons of the Government are?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: They do not think it is in the public interest.

APPRENTICES ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

36. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Is it a fact that at the Parel workshop of the G. I. P. Railway Co. three classes of apprentices are maintained purely on a racial basis, namely, (a) for Europeans, (b) for Anglo-Indians, and (c) for Indians. Further is it a fact that while an apprentice from (b) class can be promoted to (a) class, a candidate from (c) class cannot be promoted to either (b) or (a) class?

(b) Will Government state the exact qualifications prescribed for the apprentices in the three different classes?

(c) Is there any differentiation as between these three classes of apprentices regarding the study of the construction and operation of engines and machinery made available to them at Matunga workshop?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) The three classes of apprentices in the Parel Workshops are not maintained on a racial basis. The apprentices engaged in Class 'C' are of a lower educational standard than those in classes 'A' and 'B' and are not usually fit for promotion to the higher class, although there is nothing to prevent them being selected for class 'B' if they are found sufficiently qualified.

(b) All candidates for classes 'A' and 'B' are required to pass a written examination in the following subjects:—

1. General knowledge.
2. Mathematics.
3. Composition.
4. Dictation.
5. Drawing.

A candidate who has passed the VII standard of a recognised school and obtains 50 per cent. marks in Mathematics and in General Knowledge with an all round average of 60 per cent. is selected for class 'A', while a candidate who obtains 40 per cent. marks in Mathematics and an all round average of 40 per cent. is put in 'B' class. Candidates who are literate in one of the local vernaculars and possess a knowledge of English up to standard II are admitted as 'C' class apprentices.

(c) The training of apprentices in the Parel Workshops which deal with the repairs, renewals and erection of locomotives is different in certain respects from that gained by apprentices in the Matunga Workshops, as the latter deal with the repairs, renewals and erection of carriages and wagons.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know, Sir, how many Indians are in class 'A'?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I am afraid the Honourable Member must put down that question.

Mr. Chaman Lall: May I ask, Sir, whether matriculate Indians are eligible for classes 'A' or 'B'?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I am afraid the Honourable Member must also put down that question.

Mr. Chaman Lall: May I remind the Honourable Member that this is a very important factor governing the question of racial discrimination?

Mr. President: The more important the factor, the more desirable the notice.

Mr. M. K. Acharya: May I know, Sir, if there is any differentiation in the pay of these three classes?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I have no doubt there is difference in pay, but I do not know what it is.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE.

37. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Is there any difference between the constitution of the Council of the Bangalore Institute as recommended by Sir William Pope's Committee and that of the Council as it exists to-day?

(b) Will Government state whether they accept the recommendations of the Pope Committee in this respect? If yes, when will Government improve the constitution of the Council and, if no, will Government state reasons?

(c) Is it a fact that the Committee of Sir William Pope recommended the opening of two new departments at the Institute at the beginning of the year 1924? If so, have these departments come into existence? If not, will Government state reasons?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to him on the 18th September, 1924, in reply to his unstarred question No. 404. An attempt was then made to make it clear that it does not rest entirely with the Government of India to give effect to the Pope Committee's recommendations.

(c) The Honourable Member's statement regarding the nature of the recommendation made by the Pope Committee on this point is correct, but it rests entirely within the discretion of the Council, which is the executive body of the Institute, to give effect to this recommendation in consultation with the Senate. So far as the Government of India are aware, the two new departments have not yet come into existence.

BUDGET ESTIMATE OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE.

38. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to place on the table the budget estimates of the Bangalore Institute of Science for all the years beginning with 1920 and ending with 1924?

(b) Will Government place on the table a copy of the report of the retrenchment committee appointed by the Council of the Institute?

(c) Is it a fact that the salary of the Director of the Institute has been raised from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 5,000 a month?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The budget estimates of the Institute are included in the Annual Report of the Council, of which one copy only is available with the Government of India. This copy will be lent for the use of the Honourable Member if he so desires.

(b) Government are not in possession of a copy of the report of the Retrenchment Committee appointed by the Council.

(c) Yes.

REPRESENTATION OF PROVINCES ON THE COUNCIL OF INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE.

39. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of a more proper representation of the different provinces on the Council of the Bangalore Institute?

(b) Are Government prepared to advise the Council of the Institute to take steps to secure recognition for the work done at the Institute by making representations through the Government of India to the English and European Universities and secure permission for the students of the Institute to submit their thesis for obtaining Ph. D. or D. Sc.?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) As already explained to the Honourable Member, the question of a modification of the scheme for the management of the Institute, which includes the constitution of the Council, is under consideration.

(b) This is a matter entirely within the discretion of the Council of the Institute, and the Government of India do not propose to take the action suggested.

ABOLITION OF DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONERSHIPS IN ASSAM.

40. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Have the Government received from the Assam Government report of a Resolution of the Provincial Legislative Council recommending the abolition of the two Divisional Commissionerships in the Province with effect from April next in accordance with the recommendations of the Assam Retrenchment Committee, which Resolution was passed by 31 against 2 votes in the Assam Legislative Council on the 17th September last?

(b) Are the Government aware that, as appearing in the proceedings of the said Council, there was a motion for refusing the whole votable amount necessary for the upkeep of these two offices in Assam, as a last resort, when the demands of the Provincial budget were placed before the said Council in April last; that it was only when the Honourable Finance Member of the Province pleaded the difficulties which would have to be faced on the refusal of the demand at that part of the year, that the said motion was withdrawn, a European Member of the Council remarking that if the two offices were not abolished by the end of the year, he and his party would vote for the refusal of the whole amount in the next budget?

(c) Are the Government aware that, as appearing in the proceedings of the said Council, the said Resolution was passed in September with a view to give a timely reminder so that there may be no provision in the next budget for the Province for the maintenance of the said two offices?

(d) What action has been taken, or is proposed to be taken, by Government in the matter?

(e) Has any other Provincial Council adopted any similar Resolution?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) Yes.

(b) I have seen the official report of the proceedings referred to.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Government of India have consulted Local Governments in regard to the abolition or reduction of Commissionerships. The replies of these Governments have been received and are under consideration.

(e) The attention of the Government of India has not been drawn to any other similar Resolution.

ALLEGED OUTRAGE ON A WOMAN BY A EUROPEAN SOLDIER AT
JUBBULPORE.

41. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 2290 which was put by Mr. Ambika Prasad Sinha, are the Government now in a position to inform the House what has been the result of the prosecution of the European soldier in the District Court-Martial and if any further action has been, or is proposed to be, taken in the matter?

Mr. E. Burdon: The information was given in my letter No. 1087-S., dated the 20th November 1924, to Mr. Ambika Prasad Sinha, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. A copy was also sent to the Honourable Member on the 26th November 1924.

RETRANSFER OF SYLHET AND CACHAR TO BENGAL.

42. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Have the Government now received the views of the Assam Government regarding the Resolution passed by the Assam Legislative Council in June last recommending the re-transfer of Sylhet and Cachar to Bengal?

(b) Will the Government consider the desirability of placing the letter of the Assam Government on the table to enable the House to examine and discuss the views of the Assam Government?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) and (b). The Government of India have received the provisional views of the Assam Government on the question but they are not prepared to place a copy of the Local Government's letter on the table. As the Honourable Member is aware, a Resolution on the subject will come up for discussion to-morrow, and the attitude of Government on the question will be explained on that occasion.

ALLEGED OUTRAGE BY RAILWAY EMPLOYEES ON AN INDIAN FEMALE
PASSENGER AT CHARBAGH.

43. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a paragraph in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 12th October alleging that an Indian female passenger from Rai Bareilly arriving at Charbagh at 8-30 P.M. on the 3rd October was ravished by four railway servants who after arrest were released on bail?

(b) Is the allegation in the said paragraph correct?

(c) Will the Government inform the House if any prosecution was started or any inquiry made departmentally, and if so, the result respectively?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Government have seen the paragraph referred to.

(b) and (c). Government understand that the accused have been prosecuted and are under trial. The result will no doubt be published in the public press. If not, and if the Honourable Member will apply to the Railway Board, he will be informed of the result.

SHORTAGE IN THE CLERICAL CADRE OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

44. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a letter published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 11th October in the name of Mr. N. C. Sen Gupta, Honorary Secretary, Postal Club, Calcutta, calling attention to the alleged shortage of over 1,000 men in the clerical cadre in the Postal Department according to the existing time test?

(b) Are the statements made therein correct?

(c) Is it true as also alleged in the letter that there are villages in India where letters cannot be delivered within six months after receipt in the rural Post Office for want of delivery staff?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the urgency of supplying an adequate staff?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) and (d). There is no reason to believe that any serious shortage of staff exists.

(c) Not as far as I am aware.

PROVISION OF A PASSENGER HALL OR SHED AT GAYA STATION ON THE
EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

45. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Are Government aware that Gaya is one of the most important places of pilgrimage for Hindus and Buddhists and that the railway station at Gaya is one of the biggest on the chord line of the E. I. R.?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no passenger shed or hall although there is a large platform for passengers and that they are exposed to rain and sun?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the urgency of providing a passenger hall or shed?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Yes.

(b) No. There is a third class waiting hall measuring 150 feet by 50 feet with a closed zenana waiting hall at the station and sheds 800 feet long over the main platform and 350 feet long over the new down island platform are being provided.

(c) Does not arise.

GRANT OF THE FRANCHISE TO INDIANS RESIDENT IN AUSTRALIA.

46. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** Have Government any information showing that the Australian High Court has decided the question of the legality of the Commonwealth Government's denial of franchise to Indians residing in Australia in favour of the Indians?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: Government have no information beyond what has already appeared in the press, but have made inquiries.

Mr. FAZLUL HUQ'S STATEMENT RE AUTHORSHIP OF A LETTER ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY HIM.

47. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a cable published in the *Forward* of the 15th October wherein it is stated that the Under Secretary of State for India in reply to a question by Mr. Thurtle in the House of Commons on the 8th stated, without any qualification or addition, that Mr. Fazlul Huq to whom the authorship of a facsimile letter published in the *Forward* was imputed stated that the letter was not genuine, that he did not write it and that the alleged addressee was non-existent?

(b) Was the statement in the cable made on the authority of any information supplied by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) Yes.

(b) No. The source of the information of the Under Secretary of State for India may be gathered from the actual answer which he gave in the House of Commons, the relevant portion of which ran as follows:

"Mr. Fazlul Huq, to whom the authorship of the alleged letter is imputed, has, according to press reports, stated in the Bengal Council that he never wrote any such letter, that the letter is not genuine and that it purports to be addressed to a gentleman who does not exist."

OVERCROWDING OF TRAINS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

48. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a communication sent by Mr. K. P. Chatterji, Vakil, to, and published on the 16th October in, the *Forward* complaining that though the composition of an ordinary passenger train is 12 bogie carriages the 15 Up train arriving at Asansole on the E. I. R. on the 29th September consisted only of 6 carriages while the number of passengers awaiting the said train at the station was extraordinarily large and that there was no inter class carriage in the train for male passengers and that there was serious overcrowding and this was usual and one day a passenger fainted in the train on account of overcrowding and had to be sent to the hospital?

(b) Is there any truth in the above statements? If so, will the Government inquire why the composition of the train was reduced and why then passengers were booked as usual?

(c) Is Asansole a carriage-examining junction station where trains halt for a pretty long time? If so, why could not an extra carriage be attached at an important carriage-examining junction station like Asansole?

(d) Do Government propose to take steps to prevent any continuance or repetition of this arrangement which makes overcrowding usual?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Government have seen the communication referred to.

(b) They understand that No. 15 Up passenger train did not have its normal composition on 29th September, 1924, and had no inter class carriage for male passengers, owing to a temporary shortage of stock caused by heavy demands elsewhere. The number of third class passengers awaiting clearance from Asansol by this train was larger than usual.

The train was not crowded on its arrival at Asansol and overcrowding in the train is not a regular occurrence. There is continuous booking at Asansol, and, as there were other trains, by which passengers could proceed, following No. 15 Up, booking was not stopped. The Agent states that he has no information of any passenger having fainted in No. 15 Up at Madhupur on the 3rd October 1924 or having been removed from the train and sent to hospital.

(c) Yes. An extra carriage could not be attached, as there was none available at the time.

(d) Government understand that arrangements have been made to obviate further cause for complaint in this direction.

GRIEVANCES OF INDIAN GUARDS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

49. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Have Government seen the communication in the issue of the *Forward* of 16th October, under the heading "Grievances of the E. I. R. Indian guards" published in the name of Babu Manmathanath Basu?

(b) Are the complaints made therein true, namely, that the minimum rest of 11 hours to which they are entitled under the rules are very often reduced to 8 and sometimes even to 6 hours, that actually often they do not get more than 3 hours, that they get no allowance for good conduct under rest, Sunday and other holidays, passing headquarters and that the running rooms for the Indian guards are very poor compared to the comfortable two and three storied buildings fitted with electric lights and fans and other amenities allotted to the Anglo-Indian guards?

(c) Is the above description true? If so, why is this discrimination made between Indian and Anglo-Indian guards?

(d) Will Government see their way to remove the grievances of Indian guards?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The complaints regarding rest are untrue. Indian guards take their turn with European guards on the same roster and the conditions governing rest are exactly the same for all guards. Rest at headquarter stations varies from 14 to 24 hours according to the volume of traffic moving and the rest at out stations varies from 5 to 8 hours in accordance with the distance travelled.

As regards good attendance allowance to guards, it is only gunner guards who do not draw the other allowances for which the main line guards are ordinarily eligible. Allowances for working on Sundays, Christmas Day, Good Friday and the King's Birthday are given to European guards.

Running room accommodation has been provided for Indian guards at terminating stations. The standard type of Indian running rooms have separate accommodation consisting of a dining room, bed room, kitchen and a washing room for Hindus and Muhammadans. The rooms are of a suitable size and sufficient servants are employed for each caste. Electric lights and fans have been provided in the European guards' running rooms in places like Howrah and Delhi where current is available. The question of extending electric fittings to Indian guards' running rooms is under consideration. Elsewhere punkhas are provided in both Indian and European guards' running rooms.

(d) In view of the reply to parts (b) and (c) of the question the question does not arise.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally: Can the Honourable Member give us any information on the same subject with regard to men employed on the North Western Railway?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I have no doubt I can give the Honourable Member the information if he will put down a question.

COAL FREIGHTS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

50. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** Has the attention of Government been called to a communication under the heading "Coal freight on B. N. R." published also in the issue of the *Forward* of 16th October, in the name of Mr. P. Khaitan alleging that the B. N. R. is charging excess freight on coal?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: Government have seen the communication referred to. The difference in rates was due to the fact that coal from Bhaga (B. N. Railway) to stations on the Bengal and North-Western Railway *via* Asansol was charged on the actual distance carried and not on the direct distance from Jherriah (E. I. Railway). The Bengal Nagpur Railway have recently decided to charge coal to B. and N. W. Railway stations on the Jherriah distance and rates on this basis were introduced from 1st December, 1924.

GRANT OF RELIEF TO AREAS AFFECTED BY THE RECENT FLOODS.

51. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Is it a fact that wide-spread distress has been caused in several Provinces by the recent heavy floods?

(b) Do Government propose to grant any relief to the flood-stricken areas out of the Central Revenues or to make a substantial remission of the Provincial contribution from the Provinces affected?

(c) Will Government make a statement giving an account of the damage done in the several Provinces affected?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) Yes.

(b) With the exception of the Government of Madras, whose application for a grant from Central Revenues is under consideration, no other Local Government has applied either for a grant from Central Revenues or for the remission of the Provincial contribution which is governed by Rule 18 of the Devolution Rules. The Government of Madras have, however, been granted a loan of Rs. 20 lakhs to finance the Provincial loans account. The Government of the United Provinces have also intimated their intention of applying for such a loan from the Government of India, if necessary. I may also mention that grants of Rs. 1½ lakhs, 30,000 and 45,000 have been made from the Indian People's Famine Trust to relieve distress caused by floods in Madras, Bombay and the Punjab, respectively.

(c) Extracts from reports from the Governments of Madras, Bombay and the Punjab giving the required information are laid on the table.

No reports have been received from other Local Governments.

Extract paragraph 2 from a letter from the Government of Madras No. 3422/B/24-1, dated the 10th October 1924.

2. As the Government of India are aware the recent floods have caused serious damage to houses, crops, lands and other property in these districts besides damage to roads, communications and irrigation works resulting in general distress and severe privation in the flood-affected areas. The details of damage caused to the riayats are given below :

	No. of houses destroyed.	Standing crops destroyed.	Extent of land silted up.
Malabar	22,000	30,000 acres .	Negligible.
Trichinopoly	7,710	11,300 „ .	6,000 acres.
Tanjore	6,040	8,240 „ and seed beds sown with 71,000 kalams of paddy.	3,919 acres besides 60 acres washed away.
Salem	1,323	Valued at 1½ lakhs .	824 acres.
Coimbatore	6,136	Valued at Rs. 1½ lak	1,338 „

(A Kalam equals 24 Madras measures).

Extract paragraph 2 of a letter from the Commissioner of Sind to the Government of Bombay, No. 6672-1, dated the 11th October 1924.

2. The extent and the seriousness of the damage caused can be realised from the fact that in the Nawabshah District alone an area of 420 square miles of country was submerged and 212 kacha and 13 paka villages were wholly destroyed and 45 kacha and 26 paka villages partially destroyed, causing thereby a damage to house property to the extent of Rs. 1,23,000 and rendering at least 11,000 people entirely homeless. The area of crops destroyed covers 21,000 acres. The district that has next suffered most is the Karachi district, where the whole of the Ghorabari taluka, two-fifths of Mirpur Bathoro taluka, one-third of Jati taluka and portions of the Tatta and Kotri taluks and the Manjhand Mahal have been affected, rendering between 20 and 25 thousand people homeless. In the Larkana district the crop area submerged is reported to be 10,500 acres, and the damage to house property in the Dadu town alone is estimated at Rs. 90,000. In the Hyderabad district it is reported that an area of about 15,700 acres was submerged, causing thereby damage to crops estimated at Rs. 3,00,000. The damage to house property from the collapse of 3,750 houses, partly on account of floods and partly on account of abnormal rains, is estimated at Rs. 3,85,000. The remaining district that has suffered is the Sukkur district, where it is reported that an area of about 15,000 acres was submerged and house property valued at Rs. 81,000 was destroyed.

Extract from paragraph 2 from a letter from the Government of the Punjab No. 14786, dated the 14th November 1924.

2. In the Indus riverain approximately a thousand square miles of the Muzaffargarh district were under water and in the Mianwali district approximately 1,90,000 acres of cultivated land were damaged. In the Dera Ghazi Khan district some 46 villages

suffered loss. In the Sutlej riverain 6 villages have had a total of 3,500 acres thrown out of cultivation, of which 56 were entirely washed away. The Jumna floods were most sudden and caused still greater damage. In the Ambala Division 469 villages were affected; between 180 and 190 lives are reported as lost; several thousand heads of cattle perished and a very large number of villages have been entirely blotted out. Some, which hitherto existed on low lying lands where they would be exposed to future floods, have had to be removed to a higher level and over a large area both the Kharif crop has been lost and sowings for the Rabi have been rendered impossible. Many people have literally lost everything they possessed.

* * * * *

COMMUNAL RIOTS.

52. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Have there been serious communal riots recently attended with loss of life and injuries to persons and property in provinces directly under the control of the Government of India?

(b) Will Government please enumerate those which have taken place in 1924 with the names of the District Officers and the Superintendents of Police of the respective Districts in which such riots have taken place specifying if any one of such District Officers is not a member of the I. C. S.

(c) How many such riots took place in or near cities or towns and how many in or near rural villages?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: There have been such riots in the cities of Delhi and Kohat. The names of the Deputy Commissioners who held office at the time are respectively Mr. R. J. S. Dodd, I.C.S., and Major N. E. Reilly. The Superintendents of Police concerned who were stationed in the districts at that time are Mr. P. L. Orde and Mr. H. Lillie.

RESERVATION OF COMPARTMENTS FOR EUROPEANS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

53. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Have Government seen copy of a letter addressed to the Agent as well as the Traffic Manager, E. I. R. by Babu Mrinal Kanti Basu and published in the *Forward* on the 18th October complaining that in the 8 Down Howrah-Delhi Express train of the 12th October there was no inter class compartment for Indian male passengers, that there were two compartments in one of which he with a large number of Indian passengers were seated but the guard of the train turned them out at Allahabad on the ground that it was reserved for "Europeans" though there was no such label and they entered the other compartment but at Moghal Sarai were turned out again on the ground that it was reserved for females and that the male passengers had then to travel third class?

(b) Is it the policy of the Railway administration that a compartment must be reserved for Europeans though there is no accommodation for Indian passengers in the train?

(c) Do Government propose to remove this state of things?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Yes.

(b) No. Government understand that there were four inter class compartments on the train, only one of which was reserved.

(c) In view of the reply to (b) this does not arise.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

54. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) What countries are members of the League of Nations?

(b) Do they have to make annual pecuniary contributions to the League?

(c) On what basis are the same assessed?

(d) What were the contributions for the years 1922, 1923 and 1924 respectively from the following countries:

Great Britain, France, Italy, Poland, India, Netherlands, Belgium?

Mr. L. Graham: (a) A list of the members of the League will be found in Appendix 1 to the Report of the Delegates of India to the Fifth Session of the Assembly which was published in the *Gazette of India* of the 27th December, 1924.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the opening paragraphs of the Report of Committee No. IV on the Allocation of the Expenses of the League of Nations published as Annexure 5 to the Report of the Delegates of India to the Second Session of the Assembly which was published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* dated the 16th February, 1922, and explains the principles in accordance with which the present temporary scale of allocation was originally prepared. Those principles have been largely obscured as the result of subsequent adjustments the last of which has resulted, as the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, in a reduction of India's contribution by 5 units.

(d) A statement showing the contributions made in Swiss gold francs by the countries named by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

Statement showing the contributions made by certain members of the League of Nations in 1922, 1923 and 1924, respectively.

States.	1922 Gold Francs.	1923 Gold Francs.	1924 Gold Francs.
Great Britain	1,011,335	2,583,668,64	2,193,733,62
France	1,011,335	2,121,327,94	1,944,445,43
Italy	1,011,335	1,658,987,23	1,520,656,43
Poland	1,011,335	679,912,80	623,219,85
India	1,011,335	1,767,773,28	1,620,371,61
Netherlands	606,801	543,930,24	498,575,88
Belgium	606,801	407,947,68	373,931,91

REPRESENTATION OF INDIA ON THE COUNCIL AND SECRETARIAT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

55. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Has India ever been represented on the Council of the League of Nations?

(b) How many representatives had Great Britain, France, Switzerland and India in the League Secretariat in 1921 or 1923 or in the Labour office respectively?

(c) Is it a fact that some of the representatives of Great Britain, France and Switzerland hold positions of handsome emoluments and unquestioned influence and authority and that even non-members like the United States of America not contributing a farthing to the League have some of their nationals in occupation of positions of influence as against one single representative from India in the service of the League?

(d) Do the Government propose to take steps to have the contribution from India reduced proportionately to her revenue and the benefits she derives from inclusion among the members of the League as compared to the other members?

Mr. L. Graham: (a) No.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to pages 381-404 of the League of Nations Official Journal for 1921 and to pages 1233-1257 of the Journal for 1923 copies of which are in the Library. He will there find a list of all the employees of the League Secretariat and Labour Office classified in accordance with their nationality. The Government of India must leave the Honourable Member to form his own opinion regarding the handsomeness of the emoluments drawn, and the extent of influence exercised by the various employees in question.

(d) Endeavours have constantly been made to secure a reduction in India's contribution and a reduction by 5 units has in fact been made this year. The Government of India must dissociate themselves from the Honourable Member's insinuation that India derives less benefit from her membership of the League than do other members thereof.

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Has any attempt been made to represent to the League of Nations to employ more Indians on the Secretariat of the League and also in the International Labour Office?

Mr. L. Graham: If the Honourable Member will read the papers to which I have referred he will find the answer.

Mr. B. Das: Are the Government aware that the only Indian paper subscribed to by the League of Nations is the *Times of India*?

Mr. L. Graham: The question does not arise.

SELECTION OF PERSONNEL OF INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

56. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Is it a fact that there have been delegations from India to the League?

(b) Has the Central Legislature had any voice in the election or selection of the members?

(c) Has any Indian ever led any of the deputations to the League?

(d) Is there any other member of this League whose deputation to the League has not been led by one of its nationals?

(e) Do Government propose to place India on an equal footing with the other countries which have joined the League in the matter of selecting the personnel and the leader of the deputation to the League?

Mr. L. Graham: (a) Yes.

(b) No. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to question No. 1778 asked by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan on the 11th September 1924.

(c) No.

(d) The Government of India have no information.

(e) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the debate on the Resolution moved by the Honourable Mr. Sethna in the Council of State on the 10th March 1924.

P. AND O. TRAINS DE LUXE BETWEEN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA.

57. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Is it true that the P. and O. Company is going to start *trains de luxe* for carrying mails and passengers between Bombay and Calcutta?

(b) What will be its relations with the railways concerned as regards the income from passenger traffic and the carriage of mails and how will the financial adjustment be made?

(c) How will the proposed arrangement affect the Department financially, that is as regards cost of carriage of mails?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) The P. and O. Company are not going to run trains between Bombay and Calcutta. The Government are however aware that the Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railway Administrations are considering the question of running a special passenger service in connection with the weekly mail steamer.

(b) and (c). Income from the passengers or mails conveyed by that service, if established, will be railway revenue in the ordinary way.

MILITARY MANŒUVRES AT DELHI.

58. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Is it proposed to hold military manœuvres at Delhi during this cold weather?

(b) What is the object and probable cost? What are the main heads of expenditure likely to be incurred?

(c) Is there any specific budget provision for the same? If so, under what head or heads?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) The manœuvres concluded yesterday with a review of troops, and I hope the Honourable Member took the opportunity which was offered to him of witnessing them.

(b) Since the cessation of the war, the army has been occupied almost entirely in working up to the required standard of individual and unit training. The object of manœuvres is to train the larger formations to co-operate in battle and to provide opportunities for the study of problems connected with movements and concentration of troops, co-operation of arms, the use of new equipment, staff duties, tactics, etc.

The probable cost is Rs. 2 lakhs.

The main heads of expenditure are:

Movement of troops by rail and road; pay of additional establishments; miscellaneous equipment, maps, etc.; and compensation to be paid for any damage done to crops, but this is not expected to be a considerable item.

(c) Yes. The cost will be met from the Training Grant.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

BREACH IN THE RAILWAY LINE BEYOND WALTAIR.

1. **Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Are the Government aware that on or about the 27th September 1924 there was a report and scare in the Howrah station that forty miles of railway line were washed away beyond Waltair towards Madras?

(b) Are the Government aware that the said scare was based on railway official telegrams received in Howrah station to that effect whereas in fact only four hundred feet of railway line had been washed away?

(c) Are the Government aware that some passengers beyond Waltair towards Madras (including my humble self) were thinking of going back *via* Manmad to reach their destination early as it was given out that it may take several days to restore the line even for transshipment arrangements?

(d) Do the Government propose to inquire into the causes of such false alarm and to take steps to prevent such things in future?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Government have ascertained that on the date in question telegrams were received at Howrah station, from the Bengal Nagpur Railway authorities that the line was badly breached at Waltair and that transshipment was not possible. The telegrams did not say that forty miles of railway line had been washed away. The Honourable Member would have ascertained the true facts, had he applied to the Inquiry Office at Howrah for information.

FAILURE OF THE ALLIANCE BANK OF SIMLA.

2. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) In connection with the affairs of the Alliance Bank, has the attention of the Government been drawn to the following passages in the joint legal opinion, dated the 25th June, 1924, of Messrs. S. R. Das, L. P. E. Pugh, B. L. Mitter, John Langford James and H. R. Panckridge:

"(i) The misappropriation of £511,000 by Boulton Brothers and Co., by unauthorised use of the Bank's credit in London, appears to constitute a criminal offence calling for prosecution—if a prosecution is possible."

"(ii) We are of opinion that criminal offences have been committed with regard to certain of the balance-sheets issued, namely, those for 1916, 1921 and 1922. These, in our opinion, for the reasons given below, were false balance-sheets within the meaning of section 282 of the Indian Companies Act."

"(iii) The persons liable to prosecution in connection with the above matters would be the Directors concerned, and the Auditors."

"(iv) The downfall of the bank was due—broadly speaking to imprudent financial transactions by the Directors interested in the Firm (Boulton Brothers), and the group of companies floated by it?"

(b) What steps, if any, do the Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The Government have taken, are taking and will take all such steps in the matter as their legal advisers think possible and desirable.

PROVISION OF AN OVERBRIDGE ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE B. N. W. RAILWAY AND THE E. I. RAILWAY AT MOKAMEH GHAT STATION.

3. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Are the Government aware that the inhabitants of villages Outa, Murarpur, Hathi-dah, Daraipore, Mohenderpur, Maranchi, and others mostly situated on the east side of the B. N. W. Railway, and the East Indian Railway lines at Mokameh Ghat station are put to great inconvenience, and exposed to great danger for want of an overbridge over the said railway lines?

(b) Are Government aware that the Mokameh Ghat railway station, as well as a Government aided high English school are situated on the west side of the above railway lines?

(c) Is it a fact that a District Board road exists through these villages right across the railway lines; but it has been stopped since the railway transshipment extension?

(d) Are Government aware that the inhabitants of the said villages submitted a representation, dated 11th February 1922, along with the survey map, to the Agent, B. N. W. Railway on the subject, and prayed for an overbridge at the point where the District Board road has been closed by the railway authorities; and that this was supported by the Sub-Divisional Officer of Barh, and the District Magistrate and Collector of Patna?

(e) Are Government aware that in reply to a question on this subject in the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council on the 18th March 1924, it was stated that "the Local Government have no direct control over the Railway, but will inquire further from the B. N. W. Railway administration (who are more concerned with this locality than the East Indian Railway) whether they contemplate the provision of an overbridge?"

(f) Is it not a fact that another inquiry was held by the Sub-Divisional Officer of Barh in April, 1924, in consultation with the railway authorities, and that he strongly supported the proposal of an overbridge?

(g) Do the Government propose to take necessary steps for the provision of an overbridge by the railway authorities concerned?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) to (g). The needs of the inhabitants of the villages mentioned are met by a district road which crosses the railway lines. This road has not been closed. It is being realigned and the realignment will shorten the road by 175 ft. The road in its present alignment has been in existence for nearly 30 years and the Government do not know what special reasons have now come into existence why the railway administration should go to the expense of providing an overbridge. The matter is essentially one requiring local knowledge and might suitably be brought to the notice of the Agent by his Local Advisory Committee.

ABOLITION OF TOLLS ON THE GANDAK BRIDGE AT SONEPUR.

4. **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) With reference to my starred question No. 2339 of the 23rd September, 1924, regarding the tolls on the B. N. W. Railway bridge over the Gandak at Sonapur, will the Government be pleased to state if they have received any letter from the Government of Bihar and Orissa that His Excellency the Governor in Council has decided not at present to press further for the abolition of the tolls on this bridge?

(b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the letter in question, and indicate the reasons for this decision?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state in what years, and under what circumstances or conditions the tolls on the railway bridges over the Ganges at Benares, Cawnpore, and Allahabad were abolished?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the letter is placed on the table.

(c) The tolls on the railway bridges over the Ganges at Benares and Cawnpore and at Allahabad were abolished, at the instance of the United Provinces Government, in the years 1907 and 1905, respectively, without any conditions attaching to the abolition.

FROM RAI BAHADUR BISHUN SVARUP, OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT, BIHAR AND ORISSA, TO THE SECRETARY, RAILWAY BOARD, No. 826-C. Ry. VT-1 of 1924, DATED RANCHI, THE 30TH SEPTEMBER 1924.

Abolition of tolls on the Gandak bridge at Sonapur.

With reference to the correspondence resting with letter No. 134-A.C. & R., dated the 12th July 1924, from the Railway Board, I am directed to state that after due consideration of the facts, His Excellency the Governor in Council, while not accepting necessarily the arguments adduced, has decided not at present to press further for the abolition of the tolls on the bridge in question.

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE EXPENSES OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

5. **Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) What is the total amount allocated to India towards the expenses of the League of Nations for the year 1925?

(b) What percentage of the total expenditure of the League is the sum allocated to India?

(c) What percentage of the total expenditure of the League is the sum allocated to the following countries, respectively?

1. Great Britain.
2. Australia.
3. Canada.
4. New Zealand.
5. South Africa
6. Italy.
7. Switzerland.

Mr. L. Graham: (a) 1,453,998.18 Gold Francs.

(b) 6.41.

(c) Great Britain 9.41; Australia 2.78; Canada 3.74; New Zealand 1.069; South Africa 1.6; Italy 6.52; Switzerland 1.6.

EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS IN THE SECRETARIATS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

6. **Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) How many Indians are employed in the Secretariats of the League of Nations and the International Labour organisation?

(b) What is the pay drawn by each of these Indian officers?

(c) How many natives of Great Britain are employed in the Secretariat of the League and the International Labour organisation and what is the total amount of salary drawn by these?

(d) Has any representation been made on behalf of the Government of India that more Indians must be employed in the League Secretariat? If not, are Government prepared to take steps to represent to the Secretary-General of the League that the number of Indians employed in the Secretariat of the League and their status are quite inadequate in comparison with the amount of India's contribution to the League and that steps may be taken to employ more Indians especially in the higher branches of the Secretariat?

Mr. L. Graham: (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the first portion of the reply to parts (b) and (c) of Mr. K. K. Chanda's starred question No. 55 of to-day's date.

(d) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The second part therefore does not arise.

INDIA'S TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

7. **Mr. D. V. Belvi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount of money contributed to the League of Nations from the Indian Exchequer each year from the date of its inception to the end of 1924;
- (b) the names of the delegates who represented India at the several sessions of the League hitherto;
- (c) the expenditure of money out of the Indian Exchequer on the delegation at the several sessions of the League up to this time?

Mr. L. Graham: (a) 1919-20—£16,234; 1920-21—£28,787; 1921-22—£54,916; 1922-23—£43,747; 1923-24—£77,799; 1924-25 (up to end of November 1924)—£70,526.

The accounts for December 1924 are not yet available.

(b) 1920—

The late Sir William Meyer.
His Highness the Maharaja of Nawanagar.
Sir Ali Imam.

1921—

The late Sir William Meyer.
His Highness the Maharao of Kutch.
The Right Honourable V. Srinivasa Sastri.

1922—

The Right Honourable Viscount Chelmsford.
His Highness the Maharaja of Nawanagar.
Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer.

1923—

The Right Honourable Lord Hardinge of Penshurst.
His Highness the Maharaja of Nawanagar.
Mr. Syed Hasan Imam.

1924—

The Right Honourable Lord Hardinge of Penshurst.
His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.
Sir Muhammad Rafique.

(c) 1920—Rs. 58,122-5-0; 1921—Rs. 61,839-8-0; 1922—Rs. 24,020-5-0; 1923—Rs. 31,463-15-0; 1924 figures are not available.

EXPENDITURE ON POLITICAL PROPAGANDA IN AMERICA.

8. **Mr. D. V. Belvi:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a leading article in the *Bombay Chronicle* under the caption of "Mendacious Propaganda" published in its issue of the 6th December, 1924?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India have been financing the propagation of their political views in America?

(c) If so, since when, and will Government be pleased to state the amount of money they spent on this head during each of the last five years?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE SALEM-ATTUR RAILWAY.

9. **Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) Have the preliminary works in connection with the Salem-Attur Railway scheme been completed long ago?

(b) Is it a fact that the project is held over for the reason that the Railway Board has not yet settled the question of the gauge of the proposed line?

(c) If so, do Government propose to request the Railway Board to settle the question at an early date and sanction the construction of the line?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) No. A survey of the line was made in 1909-1910, but is now out of date.

(b) and (c). No, but the question of alignment has not yet been settled. Alternative up-to-date estimates for metre gauge lines from Salem to Attur and from Salem to Vriddhachalan via Attur and Chinna Salem are under preparation. As soon as the estimates are ready the most suitable alignment will be selected and the possibility of constructing the line will be examined.

ALLOWANCES TO POSTAL EMPLOYEES STATIONED IN UNHEALTHY TRACTS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

10. **Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) Whether Government are aware of the fact that the Madras Government in its G. O. No. 778 Finance, dated 31st August 1923 has sanctioned certain allowances to non-gazetted officers stationed in certain specified "unhealthy" tracts?

(b) Whether the allowances to postal employees stationed in these tracts are on a par with the Local Government rates?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to issue instructions to grant to the postal employees (including postmen and menials) allowances on a par with the rates sanctioned by the Local Government?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

PROVISION OF QUARTERS FOR THE CLERK ATTACHED TO THE LAWLEY ROAD POST OFFICE, MADRAS.

11. **Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) Whether any representation was made to the Postmaster General, Madras, that the clerk attached to the Lawley Road Post Office suffers considerable inconvenience on account of quarters not being available for him in the locality?

(b) Whether the Postmaster General will be instructed to arrange for the provision of quarters for the clerk?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is already receiving due attention from the Postmaster-General.

RESIGNATION BY SIR DADIBA DALAL OF THE OFFICE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

12. **Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) Whether Government will be pleased to state the reason why Sir D. M. Dalal resigned his office as High Commissioner for India?

(b) Whether Government will be pleased to lay on the table a copy of Sir Dadiba Dalal's letter of resignation?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to starred questions Nos. 35, 65, 164 and 458.

REPORT OF THE COLONIES COMMITTEE.

13. **Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) Whether the Committee sent by the Government of India to England to confer with the Colonial Office has submitted any report?

(b) If so, whether a copy of the report will be made available to Honourable Members of this House?

(c) Whether the Kenya Immigration Bill has been dropped by the Government of Kenya?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) and (b). No report has been received from the Colonies Committee as such. Two members submitted a memorandum and its publication is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me on the 16th September 1924, to Sir Hari Singh Gour's question No. 2021, on the same subject.

ACCOUNTS OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL.

14. **Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) Whether it is a fact that the reports on the accounts of the Secretary of State for India in Council do not come under independent review either in England or in India?

(b) Whether the Government of India asked the Secretary of State that copies of these reports should be supplied for presentation to the Public Accounts Committees of the Central and Provincial Legislatures and whether it is a fact that the Secretary of State refused to do so? Whether Government will be pleased to lay on the table a copy of their despatch to the Secretary of State and his reply?

(c) Whether Government propose to request the Secretary of State to take the necessary steps, by amending the Government of India Act if necessary, to enable the Public Accounts Committees to review the accounts?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) No; the reports in question are placed before the Public Accounts Committee.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SAVING OF THE CHANDPUR MAIL FROM DERAILMENT ON THE 19TH JUNE, 1924, BY THE BRAVERY OF A COWHERD.

15. **Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi Muhammad Kazim Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that on or about the 19th June, 1924, a bridge between Kumira and Bhatiari stations of the A. B. Railway was damaged due to heavy rains?

(b) Was the Chandpur mail train bound for Chittagong saved from derailment at this damaged bridge by the bravery of a cowherd belonging to a neighbouring village Hasenabad?

(c) Did the Traffic Manager visit the place of occurrence; if so, did he take any step to adequately remunerate the boy for the encouragement of such noble deeds?

(d) What steps have the Government taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). No. The damage was reported by a gangman (railway employé) and the down Chandpur mail stopped at Kumira Station.

The Traffic Manager did not visit the site and Government have taken no steps in the matter.

GRANT OF FACILITIES TO THE MUHAMMADAN EMPLOYEES OF THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY TO ATTEND THEIR MID-DAY PRAYERS, ETC.

16. **Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi Muhammad Kazim Ali:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether sufficient facilities are allowed to the Muhammadan employees of the A. B. Railway for attending their mid-day prayers and specially the Friday prayers?

(b) Is it a fact that the Secretary to the "Islam Association," Chittagong, had written to the Assam Bengal Railway authorities for allowing leave to the Moslem employees of the double mooring, A. B. Railway's jetties?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table all the correspondence that passed between the Secretary to the Chittagong Islam Association and the railway authorities, together with the correspondence on the subject with the Superintendent of the A. B. Railway double mooring jetties?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the times fixed for the cessation and resumption of works at the double moorings jetty shed office, double moorings jetty office, Pahartali workshop, Traffic Manager's office, the Agent's office and other attached offices of the A. B. Railway?

(e) Are the Government aware that the Muhammadan employees cannot take their meal on Friday as they have to bathe, make ablutions and other necessary arrangements for Juma prayer within the half an hour at their disposal before noon, i.e., before the actual prayer time?

(f) Is it a fact that the Agent, A. B. Railway, declined by his letter No. 14—27, dated the 24th July 1924 to give an interview to a deputation of the Chittagong Islam Association? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) to (f). The Government have no information as to the practice of the Assam Bengal Railway in these matters. The duties of some railway employes are such that it is quite impossible to give them the facility referred to as the Honourable Member will readily understand; but the practice on State Railways is as far as possible to give the facility to Muhammadans not engaged in such duties. The Government will recommend to the Railway Administration that the same practice should be followed on the Assam Bengal Railway.

QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR EMPLOYMENT ON RAILWAYS.

17. **Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi Muhammad Kazim Ali:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether in giving appointments by the railway authorities the qualifications of the candidate are judged by any competitive examination or otherwise?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: It is not known to what class of appointments the Honourable Member refers.

WELFARE OF INDIAN PILGRIMS TO THE HEDJAZ.

18. **Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi Muhammad Kazim Ali:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the statements of Hajee Muhammad Taiab Saheb published in the Urdu vernacular newspaper *Khilafat* of Bombay regarding the description of his journey in Hedjaz?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to inquire whether the statements made therein are correct?

(c) Is it a fact that ten thousand pilgrims died only owing to the scarcity of water and that proper steps were not taken for the burial of the dead bodies?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing how many out of these ten thousand were Indians?

(e) Is it a fact that at the Port of Jeddah all the Indian pilgrims were ordered to pass through a small door to the great inconvenience of the Hajees and that a sum of Rs. 2-8 was realised from every one at the door by the order of the then Sharif's Government?

(f) Is it a fact that out of five lakhs of Hajees this year only a very few had the good fortune to visit Medina Sharif; if so, why?

(g) Are there no representatives on behalf of the India Government to look into the welfare of the Indian pilgrims?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f). The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given on the 16th September last to a similar question No. 1978 on the same subject by Haji S. A. K. Jeelani.

(g) Yes. Apart from the Indian Vice-Consul and medical officer, who is paid from Indian revenues, a pilgrim officer was specially appointed by the Government for the purpose.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN THE UPPER AND SUBORDINATE SERVICES
OF THE ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

19. **Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi Muhammad Kazim Ali:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of employees in the upper and subordinate services with their present pay, of the different communities, in all the offices including the workshops under the A. B. Railway?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: A statement is laid on the table giving the latest information available. It is not possible to give the whole staff in detail of pay as asked by the Honourable Member.

Statement of Staff employed on the Assam Bengal Railway on the 1st April 1924.

OFFICERS.				SUBORDINATES ON SCALES RISING TO RS. 250 PER MENSEM AND OVER.				SUBORDINATES ON SCALES NOT RISING TO RS. 250 PER MENSEM.		
Muslims.	Non- Muslims.	Anglo- Indians.	Europeans.	Muslims.	Non- Muslims.	Anglo- Indians.	Europeans.	Muslims and Non-Muslims.	Anglo- Indians.	Europeans.
1	5	2	52	4	19	33	22	11,153*	245	15

* Separate information not available.

ABOLITION OF DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONERSHIPS.

20. **Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi Muhammad Kazim Ali:** What is the final decision the Government have arrived at regarding the abolition or retention of the Divisional Commissionerships all over India?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: No final decision has yet been arrived at. The Government of India have consulted Local Governments whose replies have been received and are under consideration.

MEMORIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BURMA POSTAL AND RAILWAY
MAIL SERVICE.

21. **Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi Muhammad Kazim Ali:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a deputation consisting of the representatives of the Burma Postal and Railway Mail Service waited upon the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, India, on the 23rd July, last?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the copies of the memorials submitted and the replies thereto by the Director-General?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) Government do not consider it necessary to lay these on the table, but I shall be happy to show them to the Honourable Member, if he so desires.

DUTIES OF PASSENGER SUPERINTENDENTS OF RAILWAYS.

22. **Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi Muhammad Kazim Ali:** (a) Do Passenger Superintendents of Railways freely mix with the passengers and look into their comforts specially of lower class passengers?

(b) Do the Passenger Superintendents remain present at the third and inter class ticket issuing windows at Sealdah to see that not more than the correct fares are realised from the passengers and that they are promptly attended to in regard to the issue of tickets?

(c) Is it not a fact that the intending passengers of the Chittagong Mail train find a great deal of trouble at the third class booking office as they are not promptly attended to?

(d) Is it a fact that the booking clerks do not issue tickets at third class booking windows whenever any intending passenger comes but begin the issue of tickets only a few minutes before the time fixed for the leaving of the train?

(e) Do the Government propose to take necessary steps to remedy this grievance?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to item (c) of question No. 1651 asked by Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta in this Assembly on 8th September, 1924.

(c), (d) and (e). Government have no information, but copies of this part of the question will be forwarded to the Railway Administration for such action as they think necessary.

PREVENTION OF RUNNING TRAIN THEFTS ON THE E. B., E. I. AND
B. N. RAILWAYS.

23. **Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi Muhammad Kazim Ali:** (a) Are the Government aware that in running trains often thefts are committed?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what measure the railway authorities or the Government have taken or are taking to prevent the recurrence of such thefts specially on the E. B. R., E. I. R. and B. N. R.

(c) Have the Government taken any steps to prevent pilferage of fresh fruit, vegetables, fish, etc., by the railway and the steamer employees on the E. B. and A. B. Railways?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Government are aware that such thefts sometimes occur.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to item (b) of the reply given in this Assembly on 5th June 1924, to question No. 1283. In regard to the three Railways mentioned, Government understand that good progress is being made in the rivetting of wagons, the percentages at the end of 1924 being 55 per cent., 89 per cent. and 69 per cent. on the Eastern Bengal, East Indian and Bengal Nagpur Railways, respectively. Watch and Ward Departments have been formed on the two latter Railways and a similar department has been sanctioned for and is in process of formation on the Eastern Bengal Railway.

(c) Measures for the prevention of pilferage are taken by Railway Administrations, who are fully alive to their responsibilities in this direction.

PROVISION OF LATRINE ACCOMMODATION IN THIRD CLASS
COMPARTMENTS ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

24. **Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi Muhammad Kazim Ali:** (a) Are the Government aware that there are no latrine arrangement in all the 3rd class compartments of the A. B. Railway?

(b) If so, do the Government propose to take necessary steps so that such arrangements be immediately made in all such compartments where there are none?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no arrangement for water in third class latrines?

(d) If so, do the Government propose to issue instructions for the convenience of the poor third class passengers so that water be available at all times in all the third class latrines?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Government understand that out of 312 compartments on the Assam Bengal Railway 33 are without latrines and 119 without water tanks, and that latrine and watering arrangements in these will be provided as funds permit.

The above figures do not include stock intended for short branches, where such arrangements are not considered necessary.

SALE OF TICKETS AT STATIONS ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

25. **Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi Muhammad Kazim Ali:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the notice regarding the sale of tickets at any time between the hours of 7 A.M. and 8-30 P.M. in the Chittagong station of the A. B. Railway are strictly observed?

(b) Is it a fact that in smaller stations tickets are not issued even before 15 or 30 minutes before the arrival of trains but according to the whim of the booking clerks to the great inconvenience of the intending passengers? If so, do the Government propose to take necessary action in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The points raised are such as may suitably be brought to the notice of the Agent through his Local Advisory Committee.

SUPPLY OF FREE STATIONERY AND POSTAGE STAMPS TO NON-OFFICIAL
MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE.

26. **Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi Muhammad Kazim Ali:** Is it a fact that stationery and postage stamps are supplied free of cost to the non-official Members of the Provincial Councils? If so, why are the Members of the Central Legislature deprived of the privilege?

Mr. L. Graham: The Government of India have no information regarding the practice which prevails in Provincial Councils in this respect. Stationery for the use of Members of the Indian Legislature is placed in the library free of charge. If the Honourable Member means to express an opinion that stationery for use outside the Chamber and postage stamps, should be supplied free of charge, Government regret that they cannot agree with him.

FREE SUPPLY OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS TO ELECTED MEMBERS
OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

27. **Shaikh-e-Chatgam Maulvi Muhammad Kazim Ali:** (a) Are the Government aware that requisitions for the supply of Government publications by the elected Indian Members of the Legislative Assembly are often not attended to and they are either suggested to apply to the Central Publication Branch, Calcutta, for the supply of the required publications on payment or instructed to consult those publications in the Library of the Indian Legislature and only a very few unimportant publications are supplied gratis?

(b) Are the Government aware that the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly are much inconvenienced owing to their not being supplied with proper and adequate information by the Government Members and Government servants and not being supplied with all the Government publications they require?

(c) Do the Government propose to consider this very important matter and henceforth supply the Honourable Members with all the Government publications free of cost for their use whenever they ask for any?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Special arrangements have been made by which orders for publications handed in by Members to the notice clerks are promptly forwarded to the Central Publication Branch. If the Honourable Member will give me particulars of any case in which such a requisition was not attended to, I shall have inquiries made.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me to parts (b) and (c) of question No. 1293 on the 5th June 1924.

PAYMENT OF INCOME-TAX BY THE ARMY CANTEEN BOARD (INDIA).

28. **Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Army Canteen Board (India) has so far paid any Income-tax and if so state the amount so paid in each year since the establishment of the organisation?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government do not consider that the floor of the House is the proper place for discussing individual assessments, which as the Honourable Member must be aware are confidential.

ADVANCES MADE BY THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA TO THE ARMY
CANTEEN BOARD (INDIA)

29. **Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount of money so far advanced to the Army Canteen Board (India) by the Imperial Bank of India on the guarantee of the Government of India?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps if any, they have taken to ensure that the operations of the Army Canteen Board (India) do not involve the Government in financial complications and losses in view of the Government's guarantee to the Imperial Bank of India on account of advances made by the latter to the Army Canteen Board (India)?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) Rs. 20 lakhs.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 22nd September, 1924 to part (b) of starred question No. 2312. I may also mention that Government hold a first charge on all assets of the Board.

BALANCE SHEETS OF THE ARMY CANTEEN BOARD, INDIA.

30. Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any balance sheets of its accounts have so far been issued by the Army Canteen Board (India) and if so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table those balance sheets?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what is the financial position to-day in respect of the affairs of the Army Canteen Board (India)?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) Audited balance sheets have been issued for the years ending July 31st, 1922, 1923 and 1924. Copies of these will be furnished to the Honourable Member separately.

(b) The balance sheet of the year ending July 1924 shows a total loss up to date of Rs. 3,92,529-9-6. The profit on the year's working amounted to Rs. 29,317-3-5 as compared with a loss of Rs. 1,67,609 in the previous year.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENTS BY EMPLOYEES OF THE ARMY CANTEEN BOARD (INDIA).

31. Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is true that the Manager of the Army Mansions, Lahore Cantonments, run by the Army Canteen Board (India) has embezzled over Rs. 30,000? If so, will Government be pleased to state the circumstances which rendered the defalcation possible?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether any similar defalcation have been made by other servants of the Army Canteen Board (India) in the area in which they are operating and if so, the extent of the defalcations?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) The amount embezzled by the individual to whom presumably the Honourable Member is referring was Rs. 15,320-13-0. A fidelity guarantee insurance was taken out on behalf of this employee for Rs. 5,000 and this amount has been recovered. The loss to the Board on account of this defalcation is, therefore, Rs. 10,320-13-0. The circumstances which rendered the defalcation possible are stated in the judgment on the case, a copy of which will be furnished to the Honourable Member separately.

(b) A statement is placed on the table showing the extent of the other defalcations alleged or proved against servants of the Army Canteen Board.

Statement showing the extent of defalcations alleged or proved against servants of the Army Canteen Board (India).

(i) Year ended 31st July 1922—

The late Manager of Institute No. 12, 2nd Gloucestershire Regiment, Gharial (Murree Hills) claimed to have lodged sums amounting to which the Bank did not receive. The case was taken up by the police and the accused was tried, convicted and sentenced to 10 days' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 5, "in that he misappropriated cash, the property of the Board".

Rs. A. P.

770 9 6

(ii) Year ended 31st July 1923—

Rs. A. P.

(a) The late Manager of Institute No. 8 Murree Depot failed to give account for goods to the value of supplied to him for sale in his Institute. The police instituted proceedings under section 488 I. P. C., but the Magistrate held that the prosecution had not fully proved dishonest intention and therefore acquitted the accused.

1,346 14 1

(b) The late Manager of Army Mansions, Peshawar, on behalf of the Board was charged with taking from his clerk, Abdar, and a contractor sums amounting to Rs. 2,700 as security deposits and converted this to his own use, and further misappropriated money, the property of the Board to the value of Rs. 211-6-6. The case was instituted by the police, and the accused was convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in December 1923, but it is understood that he appealed and his appeal was upheld in December 1924.

TOTAL . 2,911 6 6

4,258 4 7

(iii) Year ended July 31st 1924—

(a) The late Manager of Institute No. 701, the Black Watch, Quetta, misappropriated cash to the value of being the takings of "Pay day" in his Institute. He was charged by the police, convicted and sentenced to 9 months' imprisonment.

3,063 1 9

(b) The late Manager of Institute No. 28, 6 Pack Battery R. A., Bara Gali, forged Bank Slips and misappropriated goods and cash to the value of . . . was charged by the police, convicted and sentenced to one year's imprisonment.

440 9 4

(c) The late Manager of Institute No. 556, Seaforth Highlanders, Cherat, misappropriated cash and altered bank slips to the value of . . . was charged by the police, convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

1,571 5 10

(d) A sum of money was missing and alleged to have been burgled from the late Manager of Institute No. 603, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, Sialkote . . .

3,764 10 6

(e) The late Manager of Institute No. 551, Cherat Depot, converted to his own use cash to the value of . . . the property of the Board. The police authorities stated that they were unable to secure sufficient evidence to take the case into Court.

377 11 3

(f) The late Manager, Institute No. 510, 7th Coy. Royal Tank Corps, Peshawar, failed to account for goods and cash to the value of . . . The case although investigated by the police was not sufficiently strong to take into Court.

200 14 1

(g) The late Manager of Institute No. 11 Sherwood Foresters, Kuldana, was short in check of cash by . . . but insufficient evidence was available to take the case to Court.

361 11 7

(h) Small amounts of shortage of goods and cash which have come to light for the period . . .

584 0 0

10,364 0 4

Year ended July 31st, 1922 770 9 6

Year ended July 31st, 1923 4,258 4 7

Year ended July 31st, 1924 10,364 0 4

15,392 14 5

CONSTITUTION OF THE ARMY CANTEEN BOARD (INDIA).

32. **Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan:** Will Government be pleased to state the composition and constitution of the Army Canteen Board (India) and the amount of pay drawn by members of the controlling staff of this institution stationed at Simla?

Mr. E. Burdon: I place on the table a statement showing the composition of the Army Canteen Board (India). Remuneration is paid only to the Deputy Chairman of the Board of Management who as Controller is in receipt of a salary of Rs. 3,000 per mensem.

As regards the constitution of the Board, the attention of the Honourable Member is again invited to the reply given on the 22nd September 1924.

Members of the Army Canteen Board (India).

Lieutenant-General the Honourable Sir Richard Stuart-Wortley, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Quartermaster-General in India.

A. F. L. Brayne, Esquire, C.I.E., I.C.S., Financial Adviser, Military Finance.

Colonel C. H. K. Chauncy, C.B.E., Assistant Quartermaster-General and Director of Supplies and Transport.

J. S. Pitkeathly, Esquire, C.I.E., C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Major-General C. N. Macmullen, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., Chairman of the Board of Management.

H. Mansel-Pleydell, Esquire, O.B.E., Deputy Chairman of the Board of Management.

Sir W. C. Currie, Kt., Chairman, Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

L. S. Hudson, Esquire, Chairman, Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

The Honourable Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna.

Members of the Board of Management.

Chairman—Major-General C. N. Macmullen, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O.

Deputy Chairman—H. Mansel-Pleydell, Esquire, O.B.E.

Representative of Finance Department—A. F. L. Brayne, Esquire, C.I.E., I.C.S.

Member—Colonel C. H. K. Chauncy, C.B.E.

REPAYMENT OF ADVANCES TO THE ARMY CANTEEN BOARD (INDIA).

33. **Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan:** With reference to clause (b) of the reply given by Sir Godfrey Fell on 26th September 1921 to question No. 58, will Government be pleased to state (1) the amount of money advanced to it towards the preliminary expenses of establishing the Army Canteen Board (India) and (2) the amount so far repaid to Government on this account.

Mr. E. Burdon: (1) Rs. 4 lakhs.

(2) Rs. 4,14,271-10-11 being the above sum with interest.

SUBORDINATE ENGINEERING SERVICE, MILITARY WORKS DEPARTMENT.

34. **Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Is it a fact, that the Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the subordinate engineering service, both for the Military and for the Public Works Department?

(b) Are the Government aware, that the Public Works Department has already given effect to this recommendation?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state, by what date this recommendation will be given effect to in the Military Department?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a), (b) and (c). The question is not entirely understood. The constitution of a subordinate engineering service in the Public Works Department was sanctioned in 1920. The subordinate military engineering service has, however, been in existence for many years.

RECRUITMENT FOR THE INDIAN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS SERVICE, ETC.

35. **Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state, how recruitment for the following are made:

(a) Public Finance (Accountant General's) Department,

(b) Military Accounts Department,

(c) A. T. Ss. in the Railways,

(b) Are the Government aware, that the Bachelors of Commerce are specially coached in accountancy, banking, public finance and Railway economies?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) Recruitment for the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (to which the Honourable Member is presumably referring), and the Military Accounts Department is ordinarily made in India on the results of a competitive examination. As regards the Assistant Traffic Superintendents, the question of the method of recruitment is under consideration and an announcement will be made shortly.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative.

STOPPAGE OF RECRUITMENT IN KUMAUN, ETC.

36. **Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (1) Are the Government aware that out of two battalions of the 1st and 2nd Kumaun Rifles the latter has been totally disbanded?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that recruitment for the first battalion of the Kumaun Rifles and other regiments has been stopped from the towns of Almora and Ranikhet and also from the parganas of Baramandal (excepting Danpur) and Pali in district Almora? If so, why?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to ascertain and lay on the table the following details:

(a) the number of men from the aforesaid towns and parganas that were killed in the last war and also that of those who received 1st, 2nd and 3rd class injuries respectively?

(b) the ranks that the men from the aforesaid towns and parganas held in the unit?

(c) the authority according to which the battalion was raised in October, 1917 at Ranikhet?

(d) the ratio that men from Danpur bear to the total battalion and also with regard to the above details?

(4) Will the Government be further pleased to state if it is a fact that the interests of the men of all ranks of the aforesaid parganas, who are already in the first battalion Kumaon Rifles, are being systematically overlooked as to force some competent Havildars and men with services varying from 11 to 3 years to request for voluntary discharge?

(5) If so, how far do the Government favour this policy?

(6) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of men enlisted in the aforesaid battalions from the various parganas of district Almora specifying the proportion their parganas bear to the total population of the district?

Mr. E. Burdon: (1) Yes.

(2) and (4). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 22nd September 1924 to starred question No. 2315.

(3) (a), (b) and (d). The information desired by the Honourable Member is not available and could not be obtained without an inordinate expenditure of time and labour.

(c) Government of India, Army Department letter No. 16552, dated the 3rd November 1917. A copy of these orders will be communicated to the Honourable Member separately.

(5) Does not arise.

(6) No records are available to show the parganas from which individual men were recruited.

GRANT OF A PASSPORT TO KESHO RAM SABHARWAL.

37. **Lala Duni Chand:** (a) Is it a fact that one Kesho Ram Sabharwal was bound down on 27th January 1915 at Peshawar under section 40, North West Frontier Regulation for a period of 5 years and was released on his furnishing the security demanded of him?

(b) Is it also a fact that after having furnished security demanded of him and with a view to avoid harassment the said Kesho Ram Sabharwal had gone to Japan?

(c) Are Government aware that he applied to the British Consul at Tokyo in June, 1924 for the grant of a passport and a safe conduct on the ground that he wanted to return to India, as Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore who had recently paid a visit to Japan had offered him the post to serve as his personal assistant and to work in the executive department of his University, in proof of which he had submitted a copy of the letter from Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore?

(d) Is it a fact that the British Consul at Tokyo refused to grant him either the passport or safe conduct and merely offered to grant him an emergency certificate without giving any assurance that he will not be prosecuted in India on his return?

2. Are the Government prepared to give an assurance that he will not be prosecuted in India on his return and if not, will the Government state reasons for their not doing so?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) Kesho Ram Sabharwal was bound down for a period of three years. The rest of the facts are as stated.

(b) He proceeded to Japan in 1915.

(c) Government have no information regarding the letter said to have been written him by Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore,—otherwise the reply is in the affirmative.

(d) Yes.

2. In view of his past record Government are unable to give such assurance.

TRAINING OF INDIANS IN CERTAIN BRANCHES OF THE ARMY.

38. **Sardar V. N. Mutalik:** Will Government be pleased to state what steps they intend to take for training Indians in Artillery, Military (Royal) Engineering, Tank Service, and the Royal Air Force? And when?

Mr. E. Burdon: I presume that the question relates to commissioned ranks.

The Government of India have submitted proposals to His Majesty's Government for the training of Indians at Woolwich and Cranwell, in order to qualify them for employment in the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers and Royal Air Force.

As regards the Royal Tank Corps, Government do not propose to train young Indian officers in this difficult and highly technical branch of the service, until they have attained to greater experience and efficiency in the commissioned ranks of the cavalry and infantry now open to them.

PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE FIJI DEPUTATION.

39. **Sardar V. N. Mutalik:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) when the Report of the Fiji Deputation was submitted to Government?

(b) when do they propose to publish the Report?

(c) the reasons why the report has not been published till now?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) In September 1922.

(b) and (c). Some of the points touched upon in the report formed the subject of representations to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Colonies Committee appointed by the Government of India last March. The Honourable Member will recognize that until the result of these representations, which were of a confidential character, is known it is not possible to come to any decision regarding the question of publishing the report of our deputation.

PURCHASE OF SOUTH AFRICAN COAL.

40. **Sardar V. N. Mutalik:** Will Government be pleased to state what quantity of coal they have contracted to purchase from South Africa, since the beginning of the financial year, and the departments for which it is intended and the Governments (Central or Provincial) for whom the contracts have been made? And the periods for which the contracts are entered into? And also the rate at which the coal is being purchased from South Africa?

Mr. E. Burdon: The information required by the Honourable Member is being obtained and will be furnished to him in due course.

ASSESSMENT OF INCOME-TAX ON INTEREST.

41. **Lala Duni Chand:** (a) Is it a fact that under the existing law income-tax is assessed on the interest that is not actually realised but only accrues due?

(b) Is it a fact that a considerable portion of the interest so assessed is never realised?

(c) If the reply to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, are the Government prepared to modify the existing law so as to allow assessment only on the interest realised?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) and (b). Under the present law whether an assessee is assessed in respect of income actually realised or that which has become due to him will depend on the method of accounting regularly employed by the assessee.

(c) Interest that has been assessed is deducted from taxable income if subsequently written off as irrecoverable. For this reason, and because it would cause grave inconvenience to assesseees who keep their accounts on the commercial system to assess them on the cash basis, the Government see no reason to modify the law.

ALLEGED ASSAULT ON POSTAL CLERK BY MR. J. H. THOMPSON,
ASSISTANT COLLECTOR OF COIMBATORE.

42. Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a note in *The Nilgiri Postal Advocate* for August, 1924, in which it is alleged that Mr. J. H. Thompson, Assistant Collector of Coimbatore assaulted the parcel clerk in the Coimbatore Post Office in the presence of the staff and the Postmaster?

(b) Has any inquiry been made in this matter and what action has been taken?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government have not seen the note referred to, but I understand that the matter is at present under inquiry.

REVISION OF PAY OF CLERKS OF THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

43. Mr. N. C. Kelkar: Is it a fact that the pay of clerks of the Civil Accounts Offices in India has been revised a second time, having effect from 1st April 1924, and if so, do Government propose to revise the pay of clerks of the M. A. D. and if so, when is the revision likely to be notified?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Yes. The question of the revision of pay of the clerks of the Military Accounts Department is under the consideration of Government and orders on the subject will issue shortly.

PERIOD OF SERVICE AT ADEN OF MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY
ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

44. Mr. N. C. Kelkar: Is it a fact that service at Aden is restricted to two years in the case of the establishment of the I. A. S. Corps, Postal Department, Indian Ordnance and Medical Departments and the Military Engineering services, and to three years in the case of M. A. D.? Were any representations received praying that the members of the M. A. D. should also be subjected to serve there for a period authorised for other Departments and if so how were they disposed of? Do Government propose to bring the employees of the M. A. D. in the same boat as their brothers in other departments are so far as the period of service at Aden is concerned?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The representations received from the Members of the Military Accounts Department on the subject are under consideration.

IMPORTATION OF ACCOUNTANTS FROM CIVIL ACCOUNTS OFFICES INTO THE
MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

45. Mr. N. C. Kelkar: Is it a fact that Accountants from Civil Accounts Offices are going to be imported into the M. A. Department? If so, will Government please state why this arrangement is considered necessary? If this is for the purpose of increasing efficiency in the Department, is it not possible to utilise competent accountants of the M. A. Department for the proposed scheme?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: No such change is intended at present.

NOTIFICATION OF PROMOTIONS IN THE SUBORDINATE ACCOUNTS SERVICE
OF THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

46. Mr. N. C. Kelkar: Is it a fact that permanent promotions in the Subordinate Accounts Service of the M. A. Department have not been notified beyond 1st April 1923? If so, do Government propose to issue orders to enable the M. A. G. to notify permanent promotions early, as nearly two years have elapsed since they were last notified?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The reply is in the affirmative. For administrative reasons *sub pro tem* arrangements have, however, been made and the question of making permanent promotions will be considered.

REJECTION OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATES GRANTED BY REGISTERED MEDICAL
PRACTITIONERS.

47. Mr. N. C. Kelkar: With reference to the reply to my question No. 370 to the effect that in certain cases medical certificates granted by registered medical practitioners were rejected as not being countersigned by Government officials, will Government be pleased to state from the details they would have collected from several Districts, whether in a particular command or District Office, the percentage of certificates which were required to be so countersigned was particularly high and if so, do Government propose to issue necessary instructions on the subject with a view to discourage the tendency of the general rejection of registered practitioners' certificates?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Under the rules the head of an office can exercise his discretion in accepting a medical certificate furnished by a clerk of his office. From information collected, it is observed that the percentage of certificates which were required to be countersigned varies with the varying circumstances in different districts but Government see no reason to interfere with the discretion of Controllers in this matter.

WITHHOLDING OF INCREMENTS EARNED BY CLERKS AND ACCOUNTANTS
IN THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

48. Mr. N. C. Kelkar: Is it a fact that increments already earned by clerks and accountants and which they were in receipt of are or were being withheld in the M. A. D. for some alleged inefficiency, etc.? Will Government please state whether this procedure is regular? Were not these increments earned on past approved service? In how many cases were such increments withdrawn during 1923-24?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: It is the ordinary practice that increments in the time scale are not granted as a matter of course but may be withheld for inefficiency or misconduct. Information as to the number of instances of withholding of increments during 1923-24 is being collected.

DUTY ALLOWANCES OF UNIT ACCOUNTANTS AND CLERKS IN THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

49. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Will Government please state whether duty allowance to Unit Accountants and clerks in the M. A. D. is granted on the condition that they perform their duties satisfactorily? Can the allowance be discontinued for various reasons although the Unit Accountants and clerks continue to perform their duties? In how many cases was this allowance stopped in the year 1923-24?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The duty allowance is granted for the reason stated and also on account of liability for transfer with the unit. It may be discontinued for inefficiency or irregularity in the performance of the duties of the post. The number of instances of discontinuance in 1923-24 will be ascertained.

ISSUE OF RIFLES TO MEMBERS OF THE ALLAHABAD UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS.

50. **Pandit Shamlal Nehru:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article "Compulsory Military training for University students, An Appeal" published in the issue of the *Leader*, dated 7th December 1924?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Allahabad University Training Corps was organised in the year 1922 and the members have not yet been supplied with rifles? If so, what is the cause of this delay? When are they going to be supplied?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) Government have seen the article referred to.

(b) The Allahabad University Training Corps was formed in the year 1922. In July 1924, orders were given for the issue of rifles, but I cannot say whether the rifles have actually been issued as yet. The reason why rifles were not issued to the United Provinces Battalion (which includes the Allahabad University Training Corps) when it was formed, is that no arrangements could be made at Aligarh and Benares for the safe custody of the rifles, particularly during the University vacations.

UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS, ALLAHABAD.

51. **Pandit Shamlal Nehru:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conditions laid down in the Territorial Force rules Part III section (2) and section 16 (2) were observed in practice in the University Training Corps at Allahabad?

(b) How many drills were actually held during the session 1923-24?

(c) Were there any camps during the sessions 1922-23 and 1923-24? If so, for how many days, if not, why not?

Mr. E. Burdon: The information desired by the Honourable Member is being obtained and will be furnished to him as soon as possible.

REVISION OF THE STRENGTH OF THE UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

52. **Pandit Shamlal Nehru:** (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that the Courts of the Allahabad University and the Hindu University of Benares have resolved to make military training compulsory for such of their students as are physically fit?

(b) Do the Government propose to revise the strength of the University Training Corps in the U. P. of Agra and Oudh so as to enable the Universities to accommodate their students in the University Training Corps?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) Government have no information on the subject.

(b) Government propose to await the report of the Auxiliary and Territorial Force Committee before considering any change in present arrangements.

REPORT OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE COMMITTEE.

53. **Pandit Shamlal Nehru:** Will the Government be pleased to state when they are going to publish the report of the Indian Territorial Force Committee?

Mr. E. Burdon: The Committee propose to re-assemble on the 23rd January to consider their report. The report will be published as soon as possible after it has been adopted by the Committee, and in order to minimise delay the draft report has been set up in type.

NUMBER OF PERSONS UNDER DETENTION IN BENGAL UNDER BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818.

54. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will Government be pleased to make a statement showing:

(a) the number of persons at present under detention in Bengal under Bengal Regulation III of 1818; and

(b) how many of the said persons were arrested before the 25th October, 1924 (the date of the promulgation of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance No. 1 of 1924), and how many since that date?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) 46.

(b) 27 before the 25th October 1924, and 19 on and after that date.

ARRESTS UNDER BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818.

55. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Is it a fact that Bengal Regulation III of 1818, has been used in Bengal for the purpose of dealing with the alleged criminal conspiracy which Ordinance No. 1 of 1924 is intended to deal with?

(b) Is it a fact that the said Ordinance contains provisions for the arrest of suspects without warrant, their detention in jail without trial, and payment of allowances to them and their dependants; and that these

provisions are analogous to the principal provisions of Bengal Regulation III of 1818, so far as they are applied for the purpose of dealing with persons suspected of association with criminal conspiracies of the kind contemplated by Ordinance No. 1 of 1924?

(c) In the case of persons incarcerated in Bengal under the said Regulation since the 25th of October, 1924, for their alleged association with criminal conspiracies, will Government be pleased to state the grounds on which the Governor General in Council undertook the responsibility of dealing with them under Bengal Regulation III of 1818, instead of leaving them to be dealt with by the Local Government under Ordinance No. 1 of 1924?

(d) Which authority decides as to whether a person is to be dealt with under Bengal Regulation III of 1818, or under the provisions of Ordinance No. 1 of 1924 referred to in clause (b) above; and what circumstances generally determine such discrimination in any particular case?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) Bengal Regulation III of 1818 has been used for dealing with the anarchical associations which exist in Bengal in certain cases before Ordinance No. 1 of 1924 was made and promulgated or could come into effective operation.

(b) The Honourable Member is doubtless fully acquainted with the provisions of both the Ordinance and the Regulation.

(c) Reference is invited to the reply given to part (a) of the question. In respect of persons arrested under Regulation III on or after the 25th of October, orders under section 12 of the Ordinance have been substituted for warrants under the Regulation.

(d) It is the intention to apply the provisions of the Ordinance in the case of all persons who come within its provisions and when it is in the public interest to do so.

DETENTION OF MR. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE UNDER BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818.

56. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a statement recently made by Earl Winterton, Under Secretary of State for India, in reply to a question, in the House of Commons, to the effect that Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, Chief Executive Officer of the Municipal Corporation of Calcutta, has been detained under Bengal Regulation III of 1818 under the authority of the Government of Bengal?

(b) Is it a fact that the Governor General in Council have, for all practical purposes, delegated most of their functions under Bengal Regulation III of 1818 to the Government of Bengal, although there is no legal authority for so doing?

(c) What part does the Government of Bengal usually take in the administration of Bengal Regulation III of 1818?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) Government have seen the reply made by Earl Winterton. Mr. Bose was arrested by officers of the Government of Bengal under the authority of a warrant issued by the Governor General in Council.

(b) Certainly not.

(c) The Government of Bengal administers the Regulation in such matters as may not be specifically ordered by the Governor General in Council, under the orders of the Governor General in Council.

REPORTS ON STATE PRISONERS IN BENGAL.

57. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a summary of:

(a) the periodical reports under section 3 of Bengal Regulation III of 1818, regarding State prisoners in Bengal;

(b) the representations made by the said prisoners under section 5 of the said Regulation;

(c) the official reports under section 6 of the said Regulation; and

(d) the orders passed by Government on the reports and representations referred to in clauses (a), (b) and (c) above?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Government have nothing to conceal in regard to the treatment of these State prisoners and I am willing to give all reasonable information about the treatment of any particular prisoner, but I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by summarising all the periodical returns, reports and representations referred to in the question.

TREATMENT OF STATE PRISONERS IN BENGAL.

58. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** In how many instances have Government received complaints regarding the treatment in jail of prisoners under Regulation III of 1818 in Bengal, and the inadequacy of the allowances granted to them and their families, and what action has been taken thereon?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: No complaints have been received from the State prisoners recently confined under the Regulation in regard to their treatment in jail. It would involve a great deal of labour to examine the monthly reports for other State prisoners since the dates of their detention, and I am not prepared to undertake such a general examination, as complaints, if made, are always promptly attended to. In the matter of inadequate family allowances, five representations have been received from or on behalf of persons who are now detained as State prisoners. Of these, one was favourably considered and the remaining four rejected as there were no grounds to justify a reconsideration of the amount of allowance already sanctioned.

ALLOWANCES TO STATE PRISONERS IN BENGAL.

59. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** What is the total amount distributed, during the last month for which complete figures are available, to prisoners under Bengal Regulation III of 1818, and their families; and under what head of the accounts of the Government of India are these amounts shown?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: These charges are debited under the head "29—Political." The figures asked for are not immediately available but are being obtained.

MILITARY MANŒUVRES AT DELHI.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer (Madras: Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, may I request you to be so good as to convey to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief our grateful appreciation of the opportunities which he gave to the Members of the Legislature of witnessing the manœuvres. Most civilians have no idea of military operations and seldom have a chance of seeing such operations. Manœuvres on this grand scale are held only very infrequently and it is an opportunity which the Members of the Legislature are not likely to obtain often. We feel deeply thankful to His Excellency for having given us the opportunity of witnessing these manœuvres.

Mr. President: I understand I will be interpreting the sense of the House as already expressed by my Honourable friend Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer if I convey to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the great appreciation of all Members of this House and particularly of those who were actually present of the arrangements made and so efficiently carried out under his orders and by his officers for Members of this Chamber in connection with the manœuvres and the review of the troops which was held yesterday.

Mr. Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): With your permission, Sir, may I request you to dissociate myself and some of my Honourable colleagues from the remarks which have just fallen from the Honourable Member. We as a body refrained from attending the manœuvres and had no part in the business.

Mr. President: I leave the House to judge of the character of the remarks which my Honourable friend has just made. I did, however, safeguard myself in saying that in conveying the thanks of the House to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief I should specially convey the thanks of those who accepted the invitation which His Excellency was good enough to give.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. President: Diwan Chaman Lall. [Mr. Chaman Lall, on being called, did not rise.] I gather the Honourable Member has forgotten that he sent me notice of his desire to move an adjournment of the House to-day.

Mr. Chaman Lall: In view, Sir, of the statement made by the Honourable the Leader of the House in reply to the Honourable Mr. Jinnah's question, I do not wish to press my motion for adjournment.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

Mr. President: I have to acquaint the House that I have received the assent of His Excellency the Governor General to the following Acts passed by both Chambers of the Indian Legislature. The Indian Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 1924. The Indian Post Office (Amendment) Act, 1924. The Imperial Bank of India (Amendment) Act, 1924. The Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1924. The Land Customs Act, 1924.

PETITIONS RELATING TO THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

(AMENDMENT OF SECTION 375.)

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, under Standing Order 78, I have to report that twenty-five petitions as per statement laid on the table have been received relating to the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code (Amendment of section 375) which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly by Sir Hari Singh Gour.

STATEMENT.

Petitions received relating to the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code (Amendment of section 375) which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly by Sir Hari Singh Gour.

1. Brajendra Nath Smrititirtha and others.
2. Kalikesh Chandra Chatterjee and others.
3. Raj Kumar Smrititirtha and others.
4. Sreejukta Prasanna Kumar Smrititirtha and others.
5. Sreejukta Basanta Kumar Tarkanidhi and others.
6. Kamakyacharan Sastri and others.
7. Sarat Chandra Sankhya Vedanta Tirtha and others.
8. Kumar Nagendra Kishore Roy Chowdhury and others.
9. Panchanan Tarkaratna and others.
10. Satish Chandra Mukherjee and others.
11. Birendra Nath Chaudhuri and others.
12. Satish Chandra Roy and others.
13. Kally Charan Chatterjee and others.
14. Sibadas Banerjee and others.
15. Rai Dinanath Bisvas Bahadur and others.
16. Amulya Charan Chatterjee and others.
17. Sukhada Prasad Majumdar and others.
18. Akshay Kumar Smrititirtha and others.
19. Kali Kumar Bhattacharya and others.
20. Sreeharsa Mukerji and others.
21. Women's Indian Association.
22. Md. Ismail Khan and others.
23. Sundar Das Bhalla and others.
24. Citizens of Madras.
25. M. Balasundaram and others.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY SLEEPER CONTRACT.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Commerce Member): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to a question by Diwan Chaman

[Sir Charles Innes.]

Lall asked on the 10th September, 1924, regarding the North-Western Railway 5 years sleeper contract.

Record of the meeting of the Central Railway Advisory Council held on 4th September 1924.

PRESENT :

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes, Member for Railways and Commerce, Chairman.

Mr. C. D. M. Hindley, Chief Commissioner.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons, Financial Commissioner.

The Honourable Sir Arthur Froom.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, M.L.A.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar, M.L.A.

Dr. H. S. Gour, M.L.A.

Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai, M.L.A.

It was decided to take as the basis of discussion the reports of the Sub-Committee appointed by the C. A. C. and at the suggestion of Sir Charles Innes, it was decided also that in the first instance, the discussion should be confined to the four issues framed by the Sub-Committee.

Issue No. 1.—In calling for a five year contract for whole or part supply in October 1922, did the Railway Administration exercise ordinary business prudence?

After a lengthy discussion, the Council came by a majority to the following conclusion :—

The Council recognises the difficulty of pronouncing judgment on a contract placed nearly two years ago. It is easy to be wise after the event, and allowance must be made for the circumstances of the time when the contract was made. But the Council is impressed by the fact that prices had risen very much during the war and that the effect of the contract was to stabilise prices at a high level for 5 years. It considers that the Railway Administration would have been well advised to watch the course of prices for some time before entering into a long term contract and that in entering into a 5 year contract when it did, the Railway Administration did not exercise ordinary business prudence.

Issue No. 2.—Should the whole contract have been given to Messrs. Spedding & Co.?

The Council recognises that reliability is a factor to be taken into account in deciding between tenders. It notes, however, that under the orders of the Railway Board, tenders were called for part supplies as well as for the whole supply of the sleepers required. It considers that the tenders for part supplies should have been considered on their merits, and a majority of the members are of opinion that the Railway Administration should not have given a monopoly to a single firm. Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas asked that information might be obtained from the N. W. R. Administration as to the manner in which Messrs. Spedding & Co. had fulfilled their contracts since 1914. He desired information in particular on two points :—

(i) whether they had fulfilled their contracts in full and up to time, and

(ii) whether prices had been revised in their favour during the currency of any of the contracts.

Issue No. 3.—Should the terms have been varied after the acceptance of the contract?

The C. A. C. is unanimously of opinion that the terms should not have been varied after the acceptance of the contract and that the Railway Administration should not have called for tenders in a form which was entirely out of date.

Issue No. 4.—Are there any specific points which from a consideration of this case the C. A. C. might suggest investigation by the officers, who are enquiring into the best method of obtaining sleepers in future?

The Central Advisory Council is unanimously of opinion that the first lesson to be derived from this case is that proper arrangements should be made for co-ordination between the Railway Department of the Government of India and the Forest Departments of the local Governments in the different provinces in the matter of sleeper supplies. The Chief Commissioner of Railways explained that this matter had already been taken up and that the joint report of the Chief Engineer and a Forest Officer on the subject was now under the consideration of the Board.

The Central Advisory Council was also of opinion that the whole question of the powers of the Agents in the matter of placing of sleeper contracts should be brought under review. Sir Charles Innes promised that this question would be examined and brought up before the next meeting of the Central Advisory Council.

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY, RAILWAY BOARD, TO THE AGENT, NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY, No. 185-S-II, DATED SIMLA, THE 6TH OCTOBER 1924.

I am directed to forward for your information copies of the documents noted in the margin relating to the sleeper contract concluded in 1922 by the North Western Railway Administration. This contract, as you are aware, has attracted a good deal of comment in the Legislative Assembly and, in accordance with a pledge given in the Assembly, has been considered in consultation with the Central Advisory Council. I am now to communicate the orders of the Government of India on the four issues considered by the Council.

2. As regards the first issue, the Government of India recognise that there is room for a fair difference of opinion. On the one hand, long term contracts have great attractions for a Railway administration working on a programme thought out over a series of years. The benefit of a long term contract is that it secures the supply of sleepers necessary for that programme. Such contracts too suit, and indeed are almost essential for, the contractors. Usually these contractors on securing a contract acquire forest leases and make their own arrangements for extraction.

Such arrangements involve capital outlay, and long term contracts are necessary in order to enable the contractors to recoup themselves for their initial outlay. On the other hand, it might be argued—and this is the view taken by the majority of the Council that when this contract was placed, prices had not settled down after the war and that the Railway Administration would have been well advised if it had allowed time for prices to stabilise themselves before committing themselves to a contract for the long period of 5 years. The Government of India, as stated above, recognise that there is room for a fair difference of opinion, but they are not prepared to subscribe to the view that in concluding a five-year contract the Railway Administration did not exercise ordinary business prudence.

Issue No. 2.—The Government of India recognise that reliability is a factor which must be taken into account in deciding between tenders. But the Railway Administration were definitely ordered by the Board to call for tenders for part supply as well as for whole supply, and the Government of India consider that tenders for part supply should have been considered on their merits. They attach also importance to the considerations urged by Sir Campbell Rhodes in that part of his note which deals with this point.

Issue No. 3.—The Government of India entirely agree with the Central Advisory Council that the terms should not have been varied after the acceptance of the contract, and that the Railway Administration should not have called for tenders in a form which was entirely out of date. Orders have already been issued that the revision of the tender form should be taken in hand at once. As regards the former point, the Government of India understand that the terms of a former contract were merely

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copied out in preparing the contract with Messrs. Spedding and Company. They consider, however, that the terms of this contract should have been compared with the terms in the tender form before the contract was actually issued, and they must record their dissatisfaction that this was not done. They do not propose to pursue the matter further as they understand that the officer who is primarily responsible has now retired.

Issue No. 4.—The Government of India agree with the Central Advisory Council that proper arrangements should be made for co-ordination between the Railway Department of the Government of India and the Forest Departments of the Local Governments in the different provinces in the matter of sleeper supplies, as stated, in the record of the meeting of the Central Advisory Council this question is already being taken up.

GRANTS MADE BY E. B. RAILWAY TO SCHOOLS FOR EUROPEANS, ANGLO-INDIANS AND INDIANS.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Commerce Member): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to a question by Mr. Amar Nath Dutt asked on the 17th September, 1924, regarding grants made by the Eastern Bengal Railway to schools for Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians.

(a) Number of schools aided by the Eastern Bengal Railway—

(i) European and Anglo-Indian	10
(ii) Indian	45

1922. 1923.

(b) Amount paid by the Eastern Bengal Railway as aid to—

	Rs.	Rs.
(i) European and Anglo-Indian schools.	13,277	15,300
(ii) Indian schools	8,180	10,292

(c) Yes, there is a difference in the payment of aid to schools.

(d) The rates of contribution paid are—

(i) European and Anglo-Indian schools	Rs. 2 per child per mensem.
(ii) Indian Schools	Annas 8 per child per mensem. In the case of H. E. and M. E. schools the rates are Re. 1 and annas 12 per mensem respectively.

The difference in rates is due to difference in the cost of education.

DISBURSEMENT FROM THE FINE FUND OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

Mr. G. G. Sim (Financial Commissioner, Railways): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to a question by Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas asked on the 18th September, 1924, regarding the disbursement from the Fine Fund of the North Western Railway for the years 1922-23 and 1923-24.

Statement showing the disbursement from the Fine Fund of the North-Western Railway for the year 1922-23 and 1923-24.

Particulars.	1922-23.				1923-24.				REMARKS.
	European.	Indian.	Joint.	Total.	European.	Indian.	Joint.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1. Institutes	9,029	2,160	...	11,189	10,845	2,100	420	13,365	
2. Reading Rooms	420	240	810	1,470	420	210	800	1,430	
3. Sports Clubs and Tournaments	1,631	2,672	1,234	5,537	1,039	2,813	2,442	6,344	
4. Education, viz., capitation and monthly grants to schools.	...	...	...	...	...	390	...	390	
5. Compassionate education of children of staff killed on duty.	2,939	1,043	...	4,012	3,191	1,389	...	4,571	
6. Apprentices' Home	2,68	...	...	2,268	2,220	...	...	2,220	
7. Holiday Home	2,540	...	...	2,540	1,250	...	...	1,250	
8. Protestant Cemetery	120	...	...	120	110	...	...	110	
9. Chaplain	3,500	...	...	3,500	3,600	...	...	3,600	
10. North-Western Railway Band	...	...	6,300	6,300	...	...	4,800	4,800	
11. Recoverable loans and advance to co-operative stores, etc., and Railway employees for outfit of children going to schools.	...	...	...	45,320	...	...	...	27,147	
12. Cost of War Memorial.	...	...	...	...	2,175	...	...	2,175	
13. Compassionate gratuity	...	...	...	...	550	...	...	550	
14. Grant to Red Cross, Karachi	...	...	...	...	...	...	500	500	
TOTAL	22,440	6,115	8,334	36,889	25,400	6,983	9,012	38,395	

MESSRS SPENCER AND COMPANY'S REFRESHMENT ROOMS.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Commerce Member): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to a question by Mr. T. C. Goswami asked on the 19th September, 1924, regarding the privileges allowed to Messrs Spencer and Company's Refreshment Rooms as compared with those allowed to Indian Refreshment Rooms.

Privileges allowed to Messrs. Spencer and Company's Railway Refreshment Rooms as compared with Indian Railway Refreshment Rooms.

Railway.	FURNITURE.		OTHER ARTICLES FOR REFRESHMENT ROOMS.		AERATED WATERS, ICE, ETC.		LIGHT.		TELEGRAMS.	
	European Rooms.	Indian Rooms.	European Rooms.	Indian Rooms.	European Rooms.	Indian Rooms.	European Rooms.	Indian Rooms.	European Rooms.	Indian Rooms.
N. W. Ry.	Carried free	Carried free	Fresh provisions carried free. Oilman stores, wines, etc. carried at half tariff rates.	Fresh provisions carried free. Oilman stores, wines, etc. not carried free, as not sold.	Carried at Revenue rates.	Carried free when not available locally.	Not provided free.	Not provided free.	Telegrams regarding passengers meals transmitted free.	Telegrams regarding passengers meals transmitted free.
M. & S. M. Ry.	Carried free	Carried free	Not carried free.	Not carried free.	Ice carried free but not aerated waters.	Not carried free, as not usually sold.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
S. I. Ry.	Carried free, as one agency works all rooms.	Not carried free, as rooms are licensed to local contractors.	Carried free from Madras Return empties carried free.	Not carried free, as such articles are usually obtained locally.	Carried free from Madras, Return empties carried free.	Not carried free, as such articles are usually obtained locally.	Where ordinary lights are used, contractors provide their own.	Where ordinary lights are used, contractors provide their own.	Do	Do.

CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Commerce Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, a panel consisting of 8 Members from which 6 shall be selected to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways, as provided for in clause 6 of the Resolution adopted by this Assembly on the 20th September, 1924, on the subject of separation of Railway Finance."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I may inform Members that, arising out of the motion which has just been carried, the office of the Assembly will be open to receive nominations up to 12 Noon on Saturday the 24th January and the election, if any, will take place in the Chamber on Wednesday the 28th January by the usual method, namely, the single transferable vote.

I have received information that the Honourable Member in whose name the next item stands, namely, Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar, cannot be present till to-morrow. Therefore, I propose to take his motion as the first item of business to-morrow.

APPOINTMENT OF MESSRS E. H. ASHWORTH AND L. GRAHAM AS MEMBERS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. L. Graham (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, I rise to move that in place of Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith and Mr. H. E. Holme, the following persons be appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for certain purposes, namely:

Mr. E. H. Ashworth and the Mover.

The motion, Sir, is necessitated by the fact that the two Members whose names I have mentioned, Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith and Mr. H. E. Holme, have ceased to be Members of the Assembly.

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Commerce Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, for a certain purpose.

I do not think, Sir, I need say very much about the provisions of this little Bill. The provisions indeed are no doubt familiar to Honourable Members. They were included in the Bill which Sir Montagu Butler introduced this time last year to amend the Indian Shipping Act, on a larger subject, namely, in regard to pilgrim ships and in regard to the provisions for making return tickets for pilgrims to the Haj compulsory. That Bill, as the House will remember, was referred to a Select Committee and though the Select Committee had much to say on the question of compulsory return tickets to pilgrims to the Haj, they accepted without any question the provisions of my little Bill here. I have thought it advisable to separate these provisions from the other Bill because the other Bill is, if

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I may say so, controversial, whereas I hope this little Bill is not controversial at all. This is a Bill merely to give us power to charge fees for the inspection of wireless installations on ships. I think, Sir, I need say no more than that. I move for leave to introduce the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN TRADE UNIONS BILL.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Industries Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the registration of Trade Unions and in certain respects to define the law relating to registered Trade Unions in British India.

Honourable Members will find in the Statement of Objects and Reasons a short explanation of the reasons for this Bill. As stated therein, the Bill has been prepared in response to a Resolution adopted in this House some four years ago. It is therefore hardly necessary for me at this stage to dilate at length on the reasons for its introduction. But the House will perhaps expect a word of explanation regarding the long period which has elapsed between the date of adoption by it of the Resolution of 1st March, 1921, and the introduction of the Bill.

As the House is aware, the subject in 1921 was new and unexplored so far as India was concerned. No Indian law ever contemplated such an organization as a trade union; and although laws on the subject were to be found in other countries, I am sure that the House will agree with me when I say that enactments presented to this House should be Indian Bills, designed with ample knowledge and recognition of Indian conditions and not merely blind imitations of Acts framed to suit different conditions in other countries. Before we could prepare a Bill for presentation to this House, it was obviously essential for us to consult Local Governments fully and to give employers' and workers' associations and the public at large ample opportunity of expressing their views.

The opinions expressed in response to our invitation are remarkable for their diversity. There are some who consider the proposed legislation to be premature and who would prefer that we should not proceed with it at all. There are some others who, while recognizing the need for the proposed legislation, apparently consider Trade Unions to be dangerous and pernicious growths whose activities should be controlled rigidly so that they may not eventually overwhelm the commonwealth. There are others again who regard trade unionism as a new religion which, given sufficient license, would bring about the millenium much more rapidly than any existing religions promise to do.

It would have obviously been impossible for us to prepare a Bill which would have satisfied all these conflicting points of view. All that the Bill before the House contemplates is the adoption of certain preliminary measures to foster the growth of Trade Unions in India on right lines.

We fully realize that the progress of the trade union movement in India will not depend to any large extent on legislation. Trade Unions are associations of men bound together by common interests for common ends; and like other democratic growths they cannot be set up by Statute. But something can be done by legislation to retard the progress of the movement, or to encourage its development on right lines. The Bill is intended to secure the latter object.

The Bill is a purely permissive measure. If adopted, it will compel no Trade Union to register. To those who desire to register, and who are prepared to accept the responsibilities which registration entails, we offer a privileged position which includes protection in regard to their legitimate actions and also protection of their funds against speculation or dissipation on extraneous objects. And we have endeavoured to avoid imposing any responsibility which a genuine Trade Union would be reluctant to accept. There are Unions possibly which regard the members as existing for the sake of the Union. These Unions will not register, and we shall not regret their absence. But those Unions which exist for the benefit of their members and which make that their sole aim have nothing to lose and everything to gain by registration. The future of trade unionism in India will be in their hands.

I do not propose at this stage to take up the time of the House by a reference to the detailed clauses of the Bill. These are explained in the notes on clauses. Many of them raise somewhat difficult and controversial issues, which will have to be very carefully considered at a later stage. At the present moment I am content to ask merely for leave to introduce the Bill, and to impress upon the House the importance of the measure. We are breaking new ground in legislation of this kind in India. Our measure is one which is of a simple nature in comparison with similar laws in more advanced countries. But I venture to think that it is wise to start with a fairly simple measure, suited as nearly as may be to the early youth of the trade union movement in this country.

I may mention for the information of Honourable Members that all the opinions received on the Bill are being printed and will be circulated to them as soon as copies are available.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be given to introduce a Bill to provide for the registration of Trade Unions and in certain respects to define the law relating to registered Trade Unions in British India".

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN PAPER CURRENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member): Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923.

Sir, if the Bill which my Honourable friend Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra has just introduced is a simple one, I may claim that this is even more simple. It is a very short Bill. It has only one operative clause and that operative clause makes only one small change in the existing law. It proposes

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to substitute for the figure "850" the figure "1,000", and the result of doing so will be to enable paper currency to be issued against securities up to a total of 100 crores in place of the existing maximum of 85 crores. No other change of any sort is made in the existing Statutes. No change is made as regards the kind of securities which may be held as cover for the paper currency. No change is made other than the figure. Obviously, therefore, the Bill has a very limited scope. Nevertheless, Sir, I must crave your indulgence and the indulgence of the House if on a Bill which is short and simple—and I hope not controversial—I make a somewhat lengthy speech. I am afraid it is necessary that I should deal at some length with that thorny topic, currency and its allied topic, exchange, equally thorny, because the true nature of this Bill cannot be properly explained unless it is brought into relation with wider issues. I think also it is to our advantage that we should devote some attention to these wider issues. There are comparatively few people who claim a deep knowledge of the subject of Indian currency and exchange; there are perhaps even fewer who possess it. Yet currency enters into our every day life in a way that scarcely any-think else enters. We all know what a rupee and an anna look like. Yet I think probably it is a subject about which less is known than almost any other subject in India. I do not want to delve deeply into past history. From 1898 to 1914, after a somewhat chequered early career, the rupee settled down to a steady and useful existence with a relation to gold and sterling practically constant at 15 rupees to the pound. There was nothing sacrosanct about this ratio and it lasted for less than 20 years. But while it lasted it gave us that stability which we had previously sadly lacked. Then came the war and the ratio of 15 rupees to the pound was disturbed by an entirely unforeseen rise in the price of silver. The rupee became more valuable as silver-bullion than as a silver coin. The moment was not propitious, if it ever could be propitious, for reducing the silver content of the rupee and thereby putting it into what some people regard as its proper classification—a purely token coin. The only alternative was to let the rupee rise above 1s. 4d., and as the House will remember it climbed steadily to 1s. 6d., 1s. 8d., 2s. and even for a few glorious moments to 2s. 10d. It certainly was not altogether to India's disadvantage that the ratio of 1s. 4d. had to be abandoned. Silver was not the only commodity which rose in value during and after the war. All other commodities rose very high in terms of gold and if the rupee had been maintained at 1s. 4d., India would have suffered very much more than she actually did from the rise of prices which was a feature of that period. Important as the exchange value of the rupee is, there can be no doubt that for the 320 million people of India or for the vast majority of them, the condition of internal prices is much more important than the condition of the exchanges. What people are interested is the power of the rupee to command the every day necessities of life in the bazaar. They are much more interested in this than in the number of pounds sterling or dollars or yen which a given quantity of rupees will obtain for them. If a choice has unavoidably to be made between keeping the value of the rupee stable in terms of gold or some other currency and keeping prices in India comparatively stable, there is no question that the choice must always be in favour of the latter alternative. We are all apt to suffer from the illusion that a sovereign or a rupee is something which is unchanging and always has a constant value. It is true that a given quantity of gold of a given fineness will always make a sovereign and a given quantity of silver of a given fineness will always make a rupee;

but when it comes to the value of a rupee in exchange that value is subject to constant fluctuations. A bale of cotton of a given quality will always make a certain number of *dhoties*. A maund of rice will provide a certain number of meals, whatever the price may be. The rupee in its quality as a measure of value is much more changing than a bale of cotton or a maund of rice and we shall never be able to think clearly on questions of currency if we do not get hold of this fact. It is the things which rupees buy which remain unchanging and it is the rupee which is always changing. It is subject to constant fluctuations due to causes internal and external. A good or bad monsoon, an earthquake in Japan, a revolution in China or Russia or Mexico or a change in the fashion of ladies' dress, all of them will change the value of a rupee. What the average man and woman in this country wants is a currency which will secure for as long a period as possible a fairly constant quantity and quality of goods in the bazaar and the rises and falls of bazaar prices are what we want to avoid. I shall illustrate the course of Indian prices in recent years shortly with certain figures. But first, I want to say something about the post-war period. The period since the Armistice was signed on November 11th, 1918, has seen unparalleled fluctuations in all the currencies of the world. Gold itself has fluctuated enormously in purchasing power. The French and Belgian francs and the Italian lira have fallen to about a quarter of their pre-war value in terms of gold and even further in regard to their purchasing power. The Austrian and Hungarian krone have felt themselves lucky when they were stopped by international action through the League of Nations in their headlong plunge at a figure at which 300,000 of them were required to do the work which 24 krone did before the war. The Russian rouble has ceased to exist and so has the Polish mark. The German mark has, it is true, recently, for the time being at any rate, recovered a constant relation to gold, but only by the device of making 20,000 million marks equal to 20 marks before the war, that is by the simple device of writing off the last nine ciphers. I notice that some gentlemen in India claim that the rise of the rupee from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. means the loss to the Indian producer for export of—I think the figure is—40 crores of rupees a year. I should like to ask those gentlemen how many marks the German produces for export have gained owing to the fall of the mark to one thousand millionth of its pre-war value. Is it 1,000 million times better? I would like to ask the same gentleman why if he prefers 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. so much and thinks that Indian producers gain 40 crores by that difference, he would not be logical if he followed his rupee down to 1 sh., for obviously the Indian producer would gain another 80 crores of rupees; and why stop at 1 shilling? It is the habit of some publicists in India to use the most opprobrious epithets when they talk of the Indian Government's policy in regard to exchange since the Armistice. I wish they would for a moment compare the history of Indian exchange during and since the war with the history of the franc or the mark. When they consider the franc or the mark they will surely see how modest have been the fluctuations of the rupee in comparison. India has suffered less than any country in the world in the matter of price fluctuations and in the matter of exchange fluctuations it has a very fair record. And, even if it is still subject to fluctuations, it is nevertheless regarded throughout the world as one of the few currencies which has remained sane and sound in an insane and disordered universe.

Let me now give the figures which I promised in support of my claim in regard to Indian prices. Taking the prices of July 1914 as 100, the

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Calcutta index number of wholesale prices in India rose to 197 in September 1918 to 218 its maximum in January 1920. The lowest point to which it has since fallen is 170 in July 1923. Between January 1st, 1922 and the present date its range has been between 187 and 170, a range of under 10 per cent. At the end of December 1924 it stood at 180. Contrast the position in England. I take the Board of Trade figure. From 100 in 1913 it rose steadily till it reached 307 in 1920, a maximum nearly 100 points higher than the Indian maximum. Its lowest point since is 154 in September 1922. Between January 1922 and to-day its maximum movements have been between 154 and 170, a range much the same as in India. In the United States of America the corresponding figures are:

	1913	...	100
	1918	...	194
Maximum	1920	...	226

Minimum since the beginning of 1922, 145. Range since that date and to-day between 145 and 167, a larger range than we have experienced in India. It will be seen that, though the dollar has never been dissociated from gold, prices in the United States rose higher than the maximum Indian figure and have since fluctuated more violently than Indian prices. It is always a little dangerous to take Index figures as an infallible guide. Yet, I think, these figures are striking and I ask whether it can be maintained in face of these figures for a moment that India has suffered unduly through the rupee being divorced from gold in the period since the Armistice.

At the end of 1919 an attempt was indeed made to tie the rupee to gold. The Babington-Smith Committee presented its report and an attempt was made to fix the ratio of 2s. gold. We can say now that that attempt was premature, that it was too soon to try and restore absolute fixity to the exchange value. I have said more than once both here and outside that the Government of India regard the 2s. ratio, which is on the Statute-book, as entirely fictitious. It has become entirely fictitious. There is no intention to conduct our exchange policy with a view to recovery of the 2s. ratio. If the 2s. ratio still remains on the Statute-book it remains there because the time has not yet come at which we can usefully fix some other ratio and be sure that we can maintain it. Mistakes were certainly made in 1920. It is easier now after the event to say so. But we shall be wise if we study the history of 1920 carefully and learn what lessons it teaches us. Perhaps the most obvious criticisms of that attempt are that the attempt was doomed to failure at a time when the £ sterling rising from \$3.20 to \$4: that it was impossible to stabilise the rupee by selling sterling in exchange for rupees if these rupees had to be used to finance a budget deficit and an Afghan war; and generally that it is not of much use selling sterling reserves in exchange for rupees unless the rupees can be used for the purpose of contracting the currency in India. I can understand those who point out that mistakes were made in 1920 and are anxious to learn lesson from them. I cannot understand those who with a self-complacency, which is somewhat staggering in face of the clear lessons of 1920, assert confidently that 1s. 4d. gold is the obvious and immediate remedy for our present difficulties. Since the failure of the attempt to stabilise the rupee at 2s., we have seen the rupee fall to a lowest point of 1s. 2½d. It has since risen again. It has challenged the old ratio of 1s. 4d. and has now passed it. For the last three months its value has been fairly constant at or around 1s. 6d.

sterling. In the meantime sterling has been rising in terms of gold and to-day there is but little difference between 1s. 6d. sterling and 1s. 6d. gold. The extent of the rise in the rupee for the last months can best be observed by taking the quotation of the dollar, because that shows the rise not only in terms of sterling but also in terms of gold. On January 1st, 1924, 327 rupees were required to make \$100. The figure of July 1st, 1924, was 326—very much the same. To-day the quotation is Rs. 281 for \$100. In view of the rapid rise which had been taking place during the late summer in the value of the rupee and of the further rise that was taking place in its gold value owing to the rise of sterling, the Government of India took steps during October to prevent any further rise for the time being in terms of sterling. But this means they have been able to purchase at or above 1s. 6d. all the remaining sterling which they required for expenditure outside India during the current financial year and also to make provision in advance for some of their requirements for 1925-26. They could, by refraining from purchasing sterling to so large an extent, no doubt have allowed the rupee to rise possibly even to 1s. 7d. or even 1s. 8d. but we took the view that it was not in India's interest that there should be so large and rapid a rise in so short a time. It was felt that neither the interests of those who are primarily concerned with the exchange value of the rupee nor the interests of those who are concerned with the internal purchasing power of the rupee would be served by such a movement especially as there was no certainty that the rapid rise might not be followed by an equally rapid fall. The very fact that the Government of India have been able to provide against their future requirements with exchange not rising much above 1s. 6d. must tend to diminish the probability of its falling far below 1s. 6d. later on. And thus our action may be said to be a step in the direction of adding some stability to the exchange value of the rupee. But more important even from the point of view of the interests of Indian business and commerce, the purchases of sterling made by the Government of India have enabled us to secure the important object of diminishing stringency in the money market. As the House is aware, there was considerable anxiety some six months ago lest the winter of 1924-25 should repeat in an aggravated form the stringency which had been experienced a year before, when even those who desired to borrow for what may be called purely legitimate trade purposes sometimes found difficulty in obtaining accommodation. I was asked a good many questions on the subject. The usual Indian question was put, "What is Simla going to do about it?" But I took the view that things would probably turn out better in 1924-25 because the market was better prepared and general conditions were such that the stringency, if any, which would be endured during this season, would probably not be so great as the stringency a year ago. Thanks to the policy of the Government of India, working in close co-operation with the Imperial Bank, we have been able to get through the first part of the current busy season with the bank rate not hitherto above 6 per cent., and with very much easier conditions than a year ago. Our purchases of sterling have enabled us to ease the market in two ways. First of all the rupees which we paid out for purchases of sterling were available for the banks and others for the purpose of re-lending. Those who required funds in India obtained funds from us. In addition, in order to put the Government of India in funds with which to purchase sterling and also to increase the amount of currency available for general trade purposes in India, the Government of India have to the extent of six crores of rupees already added to the amount of currency in India by transferring money

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from the Secretary of State's balances to the Paper Currency Reserve in London and issuing rupees against it. At the beginning of the busy season the total amount of securities, rupee and sterling, in the Paper Currency Reserve was something over 71 crores. With the addition of the six crores I have mentioned, the figure to-day is something over 77 crores. We have therefore a margin of rather less than 8 crores between the amount outstanding at present and the maximum limit of 85 crores. This amount, together with the balance, at present, I think, 6 crores, of the emergency currency which can be issued against self-liquidating *hundis*, constitutes the whole of our available margin for the purpose of providing additional currency if and when it is required during the remainder of the busy season to meet legitimate trade demands. It is possible this amount will suffice, but it is necessary that we should be prepared in advance, and the purpose of this Bill therefore is to enable us to issue an additional 15 crores to extend the margin from its present figure of something under 7 crores to something under 22 crores. The form of the securities which we can deposit against this additional currency under the existing legislation might be either rupee securities or sterling securities, but in practice since October 1920 we have issued no rupee securities as cover for paper currency. On the contrary 11 crores 61 lakhs of rupee securities previously held have been paid off and cancelled. All further additions have been in the shape of sterling securities, and this for the very good reason that rupee securities in the Paper Currency Reserve of the Government of India represent merely I.O.U.s. of the Government of India covering I.O.U.s. already issued. There is no harm in covering a certain amount of your paper currency with such rupee securities. But they must be issued in strictly limited amounts and they are not ideal cover for additional currency. In the elegant language of the City of London, trade bills of somewhat similar character are known, I believe, as *pig on pork*. I hope I need not stop to combat the entirely unfounded belief that keeping a part of our reserve in sterling is due to a consideration for the London money market. India, following the example of a very large number, probably the large majority of the countries of the world, keeps a portion of her currency reserve in sterling because what she requires is reserves which can be rapidly converted in an emergency into international exchange. Let me give an example of this which happens to have been within my own experience. Just before the end of July 1914 arrangements were made in the ordinary course by the India Office to renew several millions of Treasury Bills which they hold for reserves. Then the war broke out suddenly and it became extremely inconvenient, in view of the situation in India and the demand for currency in India, *i.e.*, for cash and for sterling exchange, for the India Office to carry out its contract and pay for its bills. I was rung up on the telephone and within an hour arrangements were made to relieve the India Office of their liability, and the three or four millions of pounds were available in the form of cash for their proper use as a reserve. What would have been the position of India if that part of the reserve had been held in rupee securities? The intention of the Government of India therefore, is, subject always to unforeseen contingencies, that the additional powers now asked for to issue currency notes against securities shall not be used to issue notes against rupee obligations of the Government of India.

But what of the future? We are certainly not willing to contemplate an indefinite continuance of the present conditions under which the rupee has no stable value in terms of gold or other currencies. I have said that

throughout our policy has been to lay stress primarily on the prevention of undue fluctuations of internal prices in India if stability in the exchange value of the rupee seemed to us incompatible with stability in internal prices. Since 1920 this policy, as I have shown, achieved a very considerable amount of success. We have escaped a large part of the violent fluctuations of prices which other countries have suffered since 1919. From 1920 onwards world prices and sterling prices first of all fell rather violently and since then have risen again to some extent in an uncomfortable way. In the intervening period Indian prices have shown a tendency to be comparatively stable, and the fluctuations in prices abroad have been reflected in India in fluctuations in the value of the rupee in terms of sterling. I have no hesitation in claiming that this policy has been thoroughly justified by events hitherto; but it has not been without its critics both in Bombay and Calcutta. It is natural where so many people are directly engaged in the business of import and export that the continuance of fluctuations in the value of the rupee in terms of foreign currencies should be looked upon with growing exasperation, and that demands should be made for stabilisation, especially when there is stringency in the money market. But these demands have not, I think, always been very well considered demands. I do not think that if we had yielded to the demand for 1s. 4d. gold 18 months ago there would have been much appreciation anywhere of the kind of stability that we should have secured, and I am fairly confident that both Bombay and Calcutta would have been very much bothered by the accentuation which would have been involved of the stringency, already severe, in the money market last winter. Stabilisation in terms of gold would have involved at least as great, probably greater, fluctuations in terms of sterling, and in sterling I believe over 90 per cent. of all the exchange transactions of India are negotiated.

To-day there is undoubtedly a change in the situation. The recent improvement in world conditions has clearly brought the date at which we can in all probability look forward to a recovery of stability very much nearer. For the time being at least the acceptance of the recommendations of the Dawes Committee and the MacKenna Committee seems to have taken Europe over one of the worst fences which have to be taken by the runners in the Reparation Stakes. The pound sterling has practically recovered or very nearly recovered parity with gold, but it is still too early to speak with complete confidence as to what the immediate future may have in store. World prices are still fluctuating in relation to gold and in relation to each other. The disturbance in the relations between gold and commodity prices, between the price of one commodity and the price of another commodity, between wages and the cost of production and the value in exchange of goods, which the World War caused can hardly be got over completely in the short interval of only six years since the Armistice. The recovery of parity by the pound sterling, though very gratifying, is due in some part at any rate to an expansion of credit in the United States, and more or less speculative investments and purchases by the United States in European securities and currencies. Dollar prices have recently moved up somewhat steeply but there is reason to doubt whether as yet the rise has been sufficient to justify on the price level theory the parity of sterling with gold. It is still risky, as I said before, to tie the rupee to the chariot wheels of the Federal Reserve Board. That is what stabilisation in gold means. And it is equally risky to tie the rupee to the chariot wheels of the Bank of England—that is what stabilisation in sterling means—until we are sure that the recent recovery in sterling is one that is likely to be permanent or—another contingency—until we are sure

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that it will not be followed by a rapid rise in gold prices. It is surely better to retain our freedom of action for the present in case prices move up very fast. Our successful effort for the last few years to maintain rupee prices fairly stable and avoid the social and industrial unrest which a rapid rise in prices involves would be frustrated if we were to tie the rupee either to gold or to sterling at the wrong moment and subject India to a severe rise in internal prices involving new demands for increased wages and increased emoluments from those whose salaries are fixed in terms of rupees.

It is also too soon to say what will be the effect of the cheapening of the rupee price of gold which has followed on the rise in the gold value of the rupee. The total imports of gold into India for the last four months amounted to the phenomenal figure of over 24 crores. Over 24 crores of gold in four months! No one has the right to prevent India from importing as much gold as India desires; and I recognise that some part of the gold is imported in order to be held as a reserve against bad times—a useful reserve—though perhaps not the most suitable or desirable form in which to keep a reserve, yet a natural form while the banking habit and banking facilities are as restricted as they are at present. But if we wish to import gold in large quantities we have to pay for it in commodities and I for one cannot but regret that India chooses to take gold and lock it up in an unfruitful form in return for so large a proportion of her exports. She would surely be richer if she took payment in some more useful form than gold or if she turned the gold into deposits at an Indian bank which would be just as useful as a reserve for the individual's needs while they would be available as capital for the development of India's economic resources and India's industries and communications. The net figure for imports of gold during the last three calendar years was roughly 100 crores. If this sum, which represents power to command wealth, instead of being kept simply as gold for the enjoyment which the possession of gold affords, had been invested in Indian commercial and industrial undertakings, India would have been poorer by a hundred crores of gold but she would have been richer by a hundred crores worth of capital usefully employed; and even at the low figure of 6 per cent. the people of India would be earning 6 crores a year as the income on that capital. By way of comparison with this figure of India's annual import, averaging over 33½ crores,—and adding 3 crores of gold produced in India, you get a total consumption of gold in India of 36 crores a year—well over a rupee for every man, woman and child of the population,—I tried to find figures for corresponding absorption of gold elsewhere. The best figure I could get for the United States, though I think it relates to the pre-war period, showed an average annual absorption of gold for other than currency purposes of about 20 cents—which is about 9 annas at the present rate of exchange—per head. The United States, the richest country in the world, therefore requires about half of what India is taking. For England I was able to obtain no exact figures but it is well known that since the War there has been a net export of gold from England to other countries in every year since 1914. This that I have said about gold is, however, by the way. The social and religious habits of the country and the remembrance of many centuries of uncertainty of life and property which preceded the establishment of British rule can hardly be expected to yield in a day or even in a generation or even in three generations, to the teaching of the latest economic thought; so further experience is needed, as I have said, before we can arrive at a final conclusion in regard to the exchange value of the rupee. There is no ideal ratio. The choice of a stable ratio depends entirely on what ratio is in fact easily attainable and

easily maintainable. The ratio of 1s. 4d. worked well enough in the years before the war, but it has less than 20 years, less than two

1 P.M. decades, to its credit, and there is no reason to regard it as any more natural a ratio than, say, 1s. 6d. or any other figure. If any ratio is historic, it is perhaps the ratio of 2s. But as I have said that ratio is not at present in our thoughts. The final decision must be a matter for careful examination on no *a priori* grounds, but on the grounds of convenience and experience of what is possible. When the time comes, it will no doubt be desirable to appoint an authoritative committee, that is as soon as world economic factors appear sufficiently stable to justify the formulation of a new policy. The present intention of Government is, as announced two days ago by His Excellency, to appoint such a committee in due course, probably before the end of the present calendar year; but the exact date must be subject to factors not yet fully discernible. The time when a decision can be taken is obviously much nearer than it was six months ago. There are some, I know, who would like to see the committee appointed at once and who are impatient to see it get to work very soon; but after very careful consideration it has been decided that the time has not yet come at which a committee might usefully be assembled, and it is undesirable that we should attempt to prophesy too precisely at what moment that time will arrive. There will be many cognate questions to be dealt with by the committee besides the question of the ratio. We shall have the opportunity of considering what improvements can be made on the gold exchange standard system as worked up to 1914. The war and post-war period have taught all of us much that we did not know before about currency and exchange; and when the committee is appointed the Government of India will certainly not lose sight of the obvious desirability that it should be fully representative of Indian opinion. But it must also take into account international factors, which those who have followed my speech will realise to be of essential importance. The decisions reached must be reached on a consideration of India's interests and India's interests alone. The interests of no other country come into that question; it will be the interests of India alone which will determine the action of the Government of India; but our policy cannot be settled entirely by a consideration of internal conditions in India, and it will probably be desirable that some part of the inquiry should take place outside of India as well as within India.

In view of what I have said I hope that perhaps some Honourable Members who have motions down for a committee on currency and who have Bills which they propose to introduce to re-establish a 1s. 4d. ratio, will be willing to leave them aside till the time comes for a permanent settlement of the question. The time for further advance will come in due course, I am not myself enamoured of a gold currency in actual circulation. That seems to me to involve an entirely needless and wasteful use of gold; but I do recognise the desirability of a nearer approach to the gold standard than was actually attained prior to 1914. But these and similar considerations obviously cannot be taken up before the rupee is ripe for stabilisation. It would no doubt have been preferable that no new legislation should have been introduced at this stage on the subject of currency until the committee can be appointed and present its report; but this little simple Bill of mine cannot wait. We cannot risk being in a position in which we cannot meet legitimate demands for currency.

I should like to say a word about our intentions in regard to the creation of additional currency. The creation of additional currency is always a

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matter which has to be dealt with circumspectly. Even under a system which works, as it is claimed, automatically, the authorities to whom the duty is entrusted watch with very jealous eyes any tendency to increase in the total circulating media and they take steps by their discount policy or other means to check any tendency to inflation with special reference to exchanges. It is necessary that the Government of India and the Imperial Bank should be equally cautious in the present transitional period. All suffer from inflation when it establishes itself; but there is a natural optimism in business circles in all countries which dislikes any check put upon movements which appear to promise increased business and increased profit. As I have heard it said the other day, everybody likes more money. In the first stage of expansion it is usually only in the teeth of opposition that the authorities can take the necessary steps to prevent a legitimate expansion converting itself into an incipient inflationary movement. With the experience of the last ten years behind them, the Government of India can, I think, be trusted not to misuse their powers in the direction of undue facility; and meanwhile the position of our currency is a very satisfactory one.

We have no floating debt properly so-called; it has all been paid off. We have over 73 crores of silver rupees in the Reserve and in addition we have 22½ crores of gold, which, being valued at 2s. to the rupee, is really worth considerably more than its book value if it came to be used for the purpose for which it is kept of securing the note issue. We have a total circulation of 182 crores and we have metallic cover to the extent of 103 crores nominally, but really more than 110 crores, allowing for the undervaluation of the gold. In addition the reserve in sterling amounts to 20 crores, again undervalued owing to the use of the 2s. ratio; and all this can be very rapidly converted into international currency and may be regarded as all but the equivalent of gold. The only merely fiduciary portion of the reserve is that which consists of Government of India securities, namely 57 crores in all, a modest and not unreasonable fraction. The maximum fiduciary issue allowed under the provisions of the Bill is 100 crores leaving out of account the special 12 crores of emergency currency against self-liquidating *hundis*; so there is not the slightest fear in present conditions that our reserve will be unliquid or that our metallic proportion will fall unduly low, even if for a time we found it necessary to use the full powers for which we ask in this Bill.

I know that I have the support of the whole of the business community and the whole of the business and commercial opinion in India in asking for this Bill and, in order that we may be in a position to meet any emergency the moment it arises, I recommend it to the House and ask them to pass it quickly.

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

I understand there is a general desire in certain portions of the House to continue this debate and I propose therefore now to adjourn till a Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas (Indian Merchants' Chamber: Indian Commerce): Sir, it is in the fitness of things that the first official day at the session this time should begin with a debate on the much vexed question of currency and exchange. The Honourable the Finance Member began by saying that his Bill was a very short one and so simple that on the agenda he has had it put down that the Bill is to be taken into consideration and even passed to-day. If the mere length or shortness of a Bill, Sir, were to be the criterion of the importance or otherwise of it, I really wonder if the Honourable the Finance Member would agree that one small dot more or less in calculations and in figures would also matter equally little. But he himself has, in spite of pointing to the shortness of his Bill, given the Assembly a long and learned speech which for its length and also for the various topics touched upon by him can hardly be beaten by any Member in this House.

The Honourable the Finance Member, Sir, warned the Assembly that there are many who claim to know and there are very few actually who do know anything that is worth knowing about exchange and currency. I do not think there is anybody, Sir, within the four corners of this House who has the cheek to compare himself with the great knowledge which Sir Basil Blackett commands not only regarding Indian finance and currency but the authority that he commands in the international banking and financial world. If, therefore, I had to speak, Sir, on the question of anything further than the currency and exchange of India, I should certainly have been the first to keep quiet. If, further, Sir Basil Blackett had asked me to explain why the German mark, which has multiplied by 9 noughts or 6 noughts I do not know what he said—should not be compared with the Indian currency, I would like to put him the question whether Sir Basil Blackett thinks that he is presiding over a department of currency which can be compared to-day with the German mark. If Sir Basil's reply is "yes", I am afraid his reputation as an international banker is in great peril. The reply of Sir Basil even can be nothing other than a great and big loud "no". When, therefore, he asked the House to judge why the German mark, which had depreciated several times and perhaps thousands of times, should not be compared with Indian currency, I thought that the reply might have been given by himself. Though I do not claim either to be an expert or to know much about exchange and currency, representing as I do a commercial community and a commercial electorate in this House, I feel it my duty to use a little of the common sense with which I may be blessed to look on the problem, if not from the point of view of an expert or a savant, at least from the point of view of plain ordinary common sense. Sir Basil said that he was surprised at the staggering boldness of some who recommended a return to 1s. 4d. gold. As the House knows, I happen to be the unfortunate person who has, according to Sir Basil, that staggering boldness. But, Sir, if a suggestion that the Government of India might consider the advisability of return to 1s. 4d. gold can be qualified as staggering boldness, may I ask what adjectives one can aptly use for the policy which the Government of India have followed since 1919-20 in handling India's currency and exchange questions. I know that the Honourable the Finance Member himself was not in India nor was he at the helm of affairs in the currency department of the Government of India then. I also know that he does not like many

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references to that very dismal chapter of the currency policy of the Government of India. I do not propose, Sir, therefore, to dilate on it, but, if any efforts of a non-official to suggest to the Government of India what the Indian commercial community and in some cases I may even say the Europeans, though may be, not collectively, I certainly know individually, think is the right step now, I should have expected from a great expert like Sir Basil Blackett to treat them with a little more consideration than calling it staggering boldness.

Sir Basil, Sir, has covered a very wide field in the course of his very learned speech. For instance, he referred to the location of currency reserves and the securities in which currency reserves may be held. I do not propose to follow him fully there but I feel that I cannot allow those remarks of Sir Basil's to pass unnoticed even at this stage when we are discussing something else without pointing out to Sir Basil that not only in this House but before now in the late Imperial Legislative Council there have been many very interesting debates in which his predecessors have taken very prominent part and wherein the opinions of the non-official community both European and Indian also are unmistakably on record. But, Sir, there is one point which I must dilate upon for a few minutes. Sir Basil Blackett pointed out that, if all the securities in the Paper Currency Reserve were to be held in India, what would have happened when the war broke out? May I ask Sir Basil if all the countries in the world that were affected by the war had a Secretary of State in London who looked after their cash reserves and their securities and, if not, if in the world there are countries who keep their reserves in their own countries and manage the same themselves without the help of a Secretary of State in London, whether their currency policies were much worse managed and looked after when the war broke out than those of the Government of India? But, Sir, this is perhaps strictly beside the point. I only thought that I might tell Sir Basil what would strike an ordinary person with a little common sense, that the argument which he used in this connection cannot be conclusive.

Sir, the Bill before the House is a very short one. I think in proportion to the size of the Bill the notice given to us of the Bill has been extraordinarily short. The Bill was barely published late last week and I do not know, Sir, whether you were approached with the request to suspend the Standing Orders in order that the Bill may be taken into consideration to-day. But, whether you have given that permission or whether that permission was necessary or not, I wish to suggest to the Honourable the Finance Member that the time that he has given for carrying the Bill through is much too short and the importance of the Bill, although in his opinion it may be very very little, in the opinion of some of us in this House the importance is very great and of far-reaching results. When the Honourable the Finance Member recollects that the Government of India would not give even a special day for discussion of what at any rate a very important section of the Indian public clamoured for in and since last September, I think he will concede that at least more time is due to the Members of this House before they can take this Bill into consideration. I, Sir, therefore rise in the first instance to move that consideration of the motion be adjourned. I feel that those few words which the Honourable the Finance Member wants to be altered in the Act raise the whole question of a principle, and, as, once the Bill is taken into consideration and even though the first motion on the

amendment paper of my Honourable friend from Bombay, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, namely, for the reference of the Bill to a Select Committee, may be accepted by this House, I think it may be ruled by you that, the principle having been accepted, the House cannot throw out the Bill later if they want to.

The Bill, Sir, as it is put before this House, can be said to be nothing less nor more than a last effort to patch up the garment of the Indian Currency Department. It is a big patch that the Honourable the Finance Member wants to be allowed to put in that garment and I therefore submit that in placing this Bill before this House the Finance Member is only trying to treat the symptoms of the wrong policy of the Government of India, since 1920, and overlooks the root cause of it. I make no apology, Sir, to this House for referring, if I may have to hereafter, to my Bills which suggest that the exchange ratio on the Statute-book may be put back to 1*sh.* 4*d.* gold. I would not have referred to it had not my Honourable friend in making his motion criticised it in the way in which he did. But when Government choose to avoid any discussion of this rather important subject of the rates on the Statute-book, it is well that we might have a free, full and very outspoken discussion on the whole question of currency and exchange on this very motion of the Honourable the Finance Member.

Sir, the insufficiency of adequate currency for India has before now been patently and very prominently brought to the notice of the Government of India by both sections of Indian trade and industry—I mean the Indian commercial community and also the British commercial community. Sir Edward Law, Finance Member in 1904, said that Government were responsible for the maintenance of a proper supply of currency which he fully admitted. I feel that all other resources of the Government of India for the supply of currency except the most natural one, namely, the automatic method of allowing gold to be tendered here to the currency office and issuing paper against it, having failed, the Honourable the Finance Member had no option but to come to the Assembly in order to ask that this particular section which it is now proposed to amend should be so amended that the Finance Member can draw 15 crores more than he can do at present. I wish to point out to this House in the course of my remarks that the unnatural, and what the Honourable the Finance Member himself admitted to be, the ineffective ratio that stands at present on the Statute-book practically covers up Rs. 30 crores and if only the Government of India will take action in the right direction, there should be no necessity to increase this figure from 85 crores to 100 crores. But, Sir, in that connection we are told that we must have patience. We are told that we must not rush to conclusions. After the Armistice the Government of India were first in the field in the appointment of a Committee in May, 1919, now known as the Babington-Smith Committee, to go into the question of currency and exchange. I am not aware of any other country which took the field so early to get its currency and exchange set right. That Committee, appointed in May, 1919, took evidence in London. It did not come out to India at all. It had only one Indian Member on it and issued a majority report within about six months of its appointment. The report, I understand, is dated some time in December, 1919. The majority report was accepted by Government. The minority report of the only Indian Member who knew more about the currency and exchange of India than perhaps several on the Committee was absolutely rejected. Forces of nature and the foresight which must come with the closest knowledge of the requirements of India—asserted themselves with the result that it is admitted

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to-day that Sir Dadiba Dalal was the only one on the Committee who could see straight and correctly ahead and that the other Members of the Committee made, to say the least of it, errors of judgment. But, Sir, this rash and wrong step on the part of the Government of India so early as 1919 is now having its reaction. To-day, when many of the other countries of the world have returned to somewhere near their pre-war exchange points, we are told that we must wait. I was told so in September last. I was told that the pound sterling is still much below the pre-war parity. It may be a strange coincidence that just on this very day, when the Honourable the Finance Member asks to be allowed to put a patch on the garment which covers his Currency Department, the parity between the pound sterling and the dollar has returned, for I see from a cutting from a local paper that from to-day the post offices in America will return to the pre-war parity and that the rate of conversion of postal money orders payable in Great Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa from America will be 4'8 dollars per pound.

Still, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member tells us that the man who suggests to-day that 1*sh.* 4*d.* gold should be reverted to shows staggering boldness.

The main point of the present Bill, as stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, is that "the Government of India, in the interests of trade, desire to raise the permissible limit of investment so that additional currency can be provided, if necessary, in order to prevent excessive monetary stringency." In a certain correspondence which the Government of India had with an Association representing commercial interests, the Association pointed out to the Government of India that the Bank of England, whenever they raise their bank rates, have as their motive either of the following, namely (1) either to restrict credit, or (2) to attract gold from abroad, which can be converted into sovereigns at the mint price of gold. The Honourable the Finance Member, who sent a detailed reply to that letter, took exception to this but admitted that the second, namely, the attraction of gold from abroad, was the result of the successful attainment of the purposes for which the bank rate was raised by the Bank of England. Here, in India, with the 2*sh.* rate on the Statute-book, we are in an artificial and unnatural position, in which the Government of India still persist that although so much gold is being imported, it is absolutely impossible to use that gold for purposes of tender at currency offices so that your paper currency may have what is looked upon everywhere as the most natural and the most desirable form of backing, namely, the precious metals. The rupee, Sir, still stands completely isolated. It is linked neither to gold nor to silver. India can claim neither a gold rupee nor a gold standard. In fact, the present state in India is completely undefinable. This is the condition in which we have been almost immediately after the Government of India accepted the Babington-Smith report, to say nothing of that disaster to which I just referred at the start; and I wish, when I make these remarks, Sir, to express what I consider to be the great appreciation of the commercial community in India, both European and Indian, of the very careful manner in which Sir Basil Blackett has managed the currency department since he took charge of it. Whilst I admit that he has not been responsible for the unparalleled disaster which befell India as a result of the reverse councils, he was in an unenviable position when he entered office and he has made the best of it under the circumstances under which he had to work.

There are two sections of the commercial community in India which have been pointing out the insufficiency of currency in India for some time now. The body which I have the honour to represent in this House was perhaps the first in the field; the other body, namely, the European commercial community, hesitated to follow us. But I see that last September even their patience was at an end and they had to write a weighty and important letter to the Government of India urging them, perhaps by some other method, perhaps in milder words, to the same goal which my Chamber have been pressing them to follow, namely, to ensure that there is more currency available. The difference between the Associated Chambers and my Chamber is this. My Chamber suggested that you must revert to the natural process which can allow the tender of gold to the Currency Officer. The other body recommended in that connection what I think has very aptly been called masterly inactivity. By the courtesy of the Honourable the Finance Member, I put to him a few questions by private notice at the Simla session last September. I wish to refer to one of those and to his reply as it has some bearing on what he said in the course of his speech to-day.

My question was:

"Will Government be pleased to state when they expect:

- (a) to take steps themselves to change the ratio in the Statute, or
- (b) to give necessary facility for, and support to, a non-official Member suggesting a change from the two-shilling ratio?"

The Honourable Member replied:

"As regards (a) the Government, as has been stated more than once, regard the 2 shilling ratio as inoperative but harmless. They desire that in due course an effective ratio should be substituted for the 2 shilling ratio, but it is necessary first of all to be sure that whatever new ratio is decided upon can be made fully effective as well as to determine what the new ratio ought to be.

(b) The Government do not think that it will be in the interests of India to fix a new gold ratio for the rupee forthwith, at a time when countries like Holland, Switzerland and South Africa regard a return to the gold standard in their own case as a somewhat rash experiment until they are more certain of what will happen to sterling."

Regarding the Honourable Member's reply to part (a) of my question he said that he thought that the ratio was harmless. May I ask that if that ratio drives him to ask for more powers for investment under the section that now requires to be amended, he still continues to think that the ratio is harmless? Regarding (b), Sir, has not South Africa now definitely made a declaration, and regarding the pound sterling, about which he said "until they are more certain of what will happen to sterling", is not that very nearly now known and does he still think that it would be a rash experiment and would he still recommend this House to go on devising these patches until the time when the Government of India are convinced themselves or possibly convince the India Office, that they cannot carry on any more with this unnatural ratio on the Statute-book? Meantime, Sir, until the Government of India, absolutely, of course with the concurrence of the India Office, undertake this inquiry and make up their minds that it is not going to be rash to change the ratio from the artificial, unnatural ratio of 2 shillings, what happens, Sir? The gold that we have there continues to be valued at the rate of Rs. 10 per sovereign and with this valuation, Sir, there are 30

[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

crores of rupees very nearly hidden back in the calculation which is printed and is available to the public from week to week. I have, Sir, in my hands a copy of the Abstract of the Accounts of the Currency Department as on 7th January 1925. The Honourable the Finance Member read out the figures contained in it in order to show how strong was the position of the Indian Currency Department. I suppose he then forgot that he had tried to compare this for some purpose or other with the German mark, but that is neither here nor there. Now, Sir, against a note circulation of 181 crores, we have in silver, gold coins bullion under coinage 192 crores, which is more than half. We have besides that securities. I will refer to the securities a minute later. But it has to be noted that the gold coin and bullion which is put down as worth 22 crores 31 lakhs and odd has got hidden in it value 50 per cent. of it, because all that gold has been valued at Rs. 10 instead of Rs. 15 to the sovereign, which indeed is approximately the value of that gold to-day either in England or here. There you have, Sir, 11 crores more which would be available for the Honourable the Finance Member if he wanted to use more paper currency and which he cannot do for the simplest of all reasons that he has got the ineffective—I wonder if he will still say harmless—ratio on the Statute-book. When you come to securities in England the securities held are for Rs. 19 crores 99 lakhs and 78,000. There again you have 50 per cent. of it, because the securities are all valued at the fictitious rate of Rs. 10 to the pound sterling, a rate which is good enough only for the Government of India to receive gold. If they paid out gold at the rate of Rs. 10, one could understand. But it is the rate only to receive, which practically means that gold is cut out for the purposes of tender to the currency office. I submit, Sir, that the ineffective rate on the Statute-book which the Government of India still persist in maintaining under the guise of not allowing anybody to make a rash experiment is not as harmless as it may look now that as it has put the Honourable Member to the necessity of moving the Legislature to amend the section which is under the consideration of the House. The root cause, therefore, Sir, to my mind of this stringency is mainly that the Government of India persist in keeping on that ineffective ratio on the Statute-book of 2 shillings to the rupee and will not consider the advisability of returning to that other ratio of 1s. 4d., which is a ratio which India did very well with as far as circumstances went until that ratio was disturbed.

The Honourable the Finance Member reminds us of the declarations made by His Excellency the Viceroy in this Chamber two days back that an authoritative Committee would be appointed in due course in order to go into this question. If I mistake not—I am speaking from memory because I have not a copy of the speech—if I mistake not, His Excellency the Viceroy said that the period for it may be up to a year. I do not know how many months this authoritative Committee may take in order to submit a report, nor am I aware of the period that the Government of India may take to come to a decision after the report is submitted. But, if, until all this somewhat tiring process is gone through, it is intended that this ineffective ratio on the Statute-book is to continue, I really wonder whether the Honourable the Finance Member thinks that even this 15 crores will go far enough. And if it does not go far enough perhaps he would come back to this House asking for a further increase. I therefore, Sir, come to the conclusion, which I submit to this House for its serious consideration, that in submitting this Bill to the Assembly the Finance Department are only deal-

ing with the symptoms and not with the root cause of the stringency in the money market which is the main reason put forward by the Honourable Member in his Statement of Objects and Reasons as leading to this Amendment Bill.

There are, Sir, one or two other points which I would like to mention to this House. The securities included or allowed under section 19 of the Paper Currency Act are of two natures—securities in England and securities in India and also what are called created securities or *ad hoc* securities. At present the Government of India have very nearly 50 crore rupees worth of securities which are created and *ad hoc* securities. They are nothing short of I. O. U.'s of the Government of India to the Currency Department promising to pay the Currency Department 50 crores. Those Members of this House who remember the Paper Currency Act as it exists at present will see that section 19 has the heading “temporary provisions”, the idea being that on an appointed day the Governor General in Council may notify that that section shall cease to operate and section 18, which has been put down there, I understand, as being the ideal up to which the Government of

India would work up, would come into operation. Now, section 3 P.M. 19 cannot cease to operate and section 18 cannot come into operation until these 50 crore rupees worth of I. O. U.'s, which were issued during the war period, are paid back. If, therefore, the Assembly do not wish the Government of India to issue any more of these created or *ad hoc* securities, I would very seriously suggest that the Bill should certainly have a further addition, if the Assembly choose to pass it after a full consideration, to the effect that no more securities than 50 crores shall be *ad hoc* securities under the paper currency reserve. I know it to be a fact that these *ad hoc* securities do not add to the credit of the Currency Department of the Government of India either here or abroad and I have reason to know that the commercial community in India are not very fond of these *ad hoc* securities being put in and retained there as may suit the Government of India. I therefore feel that the Assembly would do well to insist that no more *ad hoc* securities should be allowed in the Paper Currency Reserve without further sanction of the Assembly itself. It would take a long time before these 50 crores *ad hoc* securities are paid back but it would take longer still if they were added to by another 20 or 30 crores of rupees for one reason or another. If we are anxious to retain a Currency Department which will command the best of credit which India needs, then, I think, this safeguard should be insisted upon by the Assembly when this further concession is made to the Currency Department.

The Honourable the Finance Member mentioned a few reasons which appeal to him as to why exchange should be higher than 1s. 4d. I do not propose to weary this House at this time with any lengthy remarks on that subject. I feel that if the Honourable the Finance Member is so sure of his grounds and thinks that they will also appeal to this Assembly, then let him give an official day for my Bills. Let him put his own case before this House and allow me also to do the same and I am quite prepared to take the verdict of the House on that question. If he makes out a strong case, which no doubt he will be able to do because of his long and varied experience, then I shall certainly confess that the Assembly is not with me but that it is with him. Until then I do not think any useful purpose will be served by mixing up the issues in this debate which are, I think, so important that they should be kept clear by themselves.

[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

Towards the end of his remarks the Honourable the Finance Member threw out a hint that the Movers of one or two motions which happen to be on the paper of the Assembly regarding the appointment of a Committee and I, who have given notice of my two Bills, may rest satisfied with the announcement made by His Excellency the Viceroy and should think it fit not to press them even when the ballot box is more kind to me than it has been till now. As the Honourable Member himself has raised this question, I think I might say that, unless he tells me that he is prepared to give me a Government day for the discussion of my Bills and that he is prepared to take the verdict of the Assembly on them, if the Government of India are really in earnest to put the currency question of India on a sound basis, they might appoint a Committee within the next two or three months. The Committee might take up to six months to submit their report. The whole thing will then come up for discussion before this Assembly this month one year hence at the very latest. That is the longest period for which the Government of India would be justified in asking us to wait. If, on the other hand, as is usual with the Government when any assurance is asked for, we are only to get the ordinary assurance of "as early as possible" and "as soon as convenient", then I am quite prepared to take my chance with the ballot box and then appeal to the Assembly to hear the Honourable the Finance Member and myself and give their verdict as it may suit them. In the meantime, as far as the importance of the Amendment Bill which is before the House is concerned, I feel, Sir, that the policy of the Government of India has come to an end. We have a somewhat difficult problem facing us. On the one hand, there is this acknowledged stringency of the money market which everybody who understands and knows the situation would like to see avoided. Here, the Government have put before the House one method, perhaps the last method, which is now open to them, by which they can under certain circumstances avoid a great or excessive stringency of the money market. On the other hand, it must be said and I would repeat it that for this stringency the Government of India and their policy are mainly responsible to the House and to the country. Despite all the wise counsel and advice of caution which have been given to us, the Government of India might themselves now choose to follow in the wake of other countries in fixing our rates in the Statute, a question which they were rash enough to-day to handle immediately after the Armistice.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member): Sir, I have not the slightest wish to stray into the very difficult subjects which have been so very ably handled by the Honourable the Finance Member and my Honourable friend, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas. It is a subject on which I might amuse, but on which I should certainly not enlighten the House. The sole subject to which I wish to refer is this question of adjournment. I understand from my Honourable friend opposite (Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas), that he complains that this Bill has been brought before the House without due notice. Well, Sir, that is a charge that I, as long as I am Leader of this House, would never willingly incur. It does occur to me, having listened to the able and lengthy speech from my Honourable friend opposite, to ask, if this is a speech that he had made without due notice, what should we have had if he had had due notice? Still, Sir, on the question of short notice of Bills I hold very strong views, and if the House really are of opinion that they have not really had sufficient time to consider the provisions of this Bill, I think my Honourable

friend will be willing to consent to the Bill being adjourned for the present and taken up some date next week, but that is subject to a condition. The Bill as I see it, not as I say being fully cognisant of this extremely difficult subject, but from the lawyer's point of view, is a comparatively simple one. It consists of one clause and it alters three words. Well, Sir, references to Select Committees are intended to deal with matters of detail. If the House passes a reference to Select Committee, it affirms the principle of the Bill, and I take it that in a Bill of this kind the only question would be the particular figure you wish to substitute or the rejection of the Bill as a whole. Therefore I submit to the House that there is nothing in this Bill which could possibly justify a reference to Select Committee. You may want more time to make up your minds whether to reject the Bill, or whether to move an amendment to the Bill. That seems to me quite reasonable, and if the House will agree that, when this Bill comes up for consideration next week, there shall be no motion for a reference to Select Committee, and the House will deal with the Bill on the floor of this House and will either reject it or amend it, or pass it, then I am prepared, and I think my Honourable friend is prepared, to agree to such a proposal.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am sorry the Honourable the Home Member has made a stipulation on this point, and on that basis only he agrees to have the adjournment of this motion. I must at once say that I cannot vote on this proposition subject to that stipulation. It must have been apparent to the House that, although between the existing Act and the proposed Bill there is a difference of one figure only, i.e., that of a change from "85" crores to "100" crores, in order to justify that change, the Honourable the Finance Member has had to use 6,000 words. He spoke for a full hour and at least 100 words a minute, which makes 6,000 words to which a further 6,000 words have been returned by my Honourable friend Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas; from the speeches that both these gentlemen have made, it must be clear that the matter is neither so easy nor so innocent as it looks. Sir, Finance Members are apt to think that questions of finance and exchange are their close preserve, and on this matter the speech of the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett cannot be said to have erred on the side of modesty. But after all every proposal, however ably sponsored, has to be justified in the interests of the people of this country and we, the representatives of the people, ignorant though we are, ill-informed though we may be, have a right to understand each proposal and to be satisfied about its usefulness before we give our consent to it. I say this matter is not merely a question of a change from "85" to "100" crores; the manner in which that addition will be made, the conditions under which that addition may be withdrawn are also matters of importance. The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett has admitted that the proposed addition is for two purposes, one of a permanent nature to meet the growing demands of trade, and the other to meet the seasonal demand for currency. During the last four years Government have suspended the automatic expansion of currency, have made additions to it not as required by trade and industry but according to their own discretion. And to-day Government, after four years, have to a certain extent admitted that the addition to the currency has not been equal to the demand for it; and by the Bill before the House they are going to remedy the complaint. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce in the letter referred to by Sir Purshotamdas have

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]

made it quite clear that it is not the seasonal demand or the emergency currency to which they are referring, but that they want a permanent or quasi-permanent addition made to the currency. The resolution of the Associated Chambers of Commerce last month in Calcutta makes it absolutely clear that they want a permanent addition, not a mere seasonal addition when currency is required for the marketing of crops. We want to know quite clearly how far Government are agreed with that view or whether they want at their own sweet will and pleasure to withdraw wholly or partially the addition they might have made. Remember, Sir, this addition to the currency is to be made out of the balances of the Secretary of State for India; these balances are there for what are called "home charges." They are not intended to perform any currency function. Suppose the Secretary of State requires these moneys when the currency situation in this country is acute, and he is not going to wait until the currency situation becomes easier. If he needs 10 crores for his requirements, whatever may be the currency position in this country, he will withdraw it. Therefore we have to consider whether the right of the Secretary of State for India to withdraw the currency once added should or should not be hedged round with certain limitations so that he may not make it a mere question of his pleasure or of his own convenience. As I said before, the 15 crores are to be added only out of the remittances for "home" charges temporarily. They are temporary loans to the currency reserve which may be withdrawn when the Secretary of State wants them and we have to consider whether we will consent to give him an unlimited power to withdraw the whole of the 15 crores just at the moment when a currency crisis may be pending in this country. It is not a light matter, and it must be fully explored in the Select Committee. I cannot agree that a mere delay of eight days will make acceptable what is intrinsically wrong to-day; and if that is the only condition on which the Home Member will consent to postpone this motion I will have nothing to do with it. At the same time I may say that the reference to the Select Committee need not be for more than three days. I do not want to prolong this discussion. The matter can be fully discussed within three days and reported to the House. All we want is to examine it thoroughly; and, having made my position clear, I say again I cannot vote on this proposition if it is backed by this condition.

Mr. President: (After the Division was called) Before I put the question a second time the Honourable Member from Madras on my left (Mr. Shanmukham Chetty) has asked for an explanation of the situation in which the Assembly now finds itself. If the motion for adjournment is carried, the debate will be resumed on a subsequent date, on which date the Honourable Member from Bombay will have a full opportunity to move his original motion. And if I may add a further explanation, the announcement made by Government was simply a warning to him that he may expect opposition from the Government to the motion to refer to Select Committee. Some opportunity to consider the matter behind the scenes seems to be not inadvisable.

The Debate was adjourned.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 23rd January, 1925.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 23rd January, 1925.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN:

Sir Geoffrey Clarke, Kt., C.S.I., O.B.E., M.L.A. (Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs) and Mr. Andrew Gourlay Clow, M.L.A. (Industries Department: Nominated Official).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COST OF DELHI AND SIMLA SESSIONS OF THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE.

59. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** With reference to starred question No. 620 of the 8th March 1924, regarding the autumn session of the Central Legislature, will the Government be pleased to give detailed information on the following points separately for both Houses:

- The total cost of holding the last session at Delhi; and the cost of holding the last two sessions in Simla separately;
- The total expenditure incurred in the Delhi session on account of (i) haulage of motor cars, etc., and (ii) conveyance allowance paid to Members.

Mr. L. Graham: A detailed statement is laid on the table to which is appended an estimate of the cost which would have been incurred if the two Simla sessions in question had been held in Delhi. The Honourable Member will observe that the holding of the May-June and September sessions in Delhi would have involved excess expenditure of approximately Rs. 34,600 and Rs. 49,000, respectively.

Statement:

	Council of State.	Legislative Assembly.	Total.
<i>I. Delhi Session, 1924.</i>	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1. Travelling allowance of Members	22,983 14 0	47,956 8 0	70,940 6 0
2. Daily allowance of Members	41,860 0 0	1,35,695 0 0	1,77,555 0 0
3. Haulage of motor cars, etc.	16,196 14 0	32,672 9 0	48,869 7 0
4. Conveyance allowance	2,794 14 0	18,791 3 0	21,586 1 0
Total	83,835 10 0	2,36,115 4 0	3,19,950 14 0
<i>II. Simla Session, May-June, 1924.</i>			
1. Travelling allowance of Members	18,216 8 0	46,774 7 0	64,990 15 0
2. Daily allowance of Members	10,960 0 0	35,620 0 0	46,580 0 0
Total	29,176 8 0	82,394 7 0	1,11,570 15 0
<i>III. Simla Session, September, 1924.</i>			
1. Travelling allowance of Members	22,135 11 0	51,143 9 0	73,279 4 0
2. Daily allowance of Members	16,740 0 0	54,860 0 0	71,600 0 0
Total	38,875 11 0	1,05,943 9 0	1,44,819 4 0

APPENDIX.

Statement showing expenditure that would have been incurred on account of the sessions of May-June and September, 1924, respectively, had they been held in Delhi instead of in Simla.

I.—May-June Session, 1924.

	Council of State.			Legislative Assembly.			Total.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
1. Travelling Allowance of Members	15,790	14	0	35,231	14	0	51,022	12	0
2. Daily Allowance of Members	10,960	0	0	35,620	0	0	46,580	0	0
3. Haulage of motor cars	12,627	4	0	27,247	6	0	39,874	10	0
4. Conveyance Allowance	1,787	8	0	6,942	8	0	8,730	0	0
Total	41,165	10	0	1,05,041	12	0	1,46,207	6	0

II.—September Session, 1924.

	Council of State.			Legislative Assembly.			Total.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
1. Travelling Allowance of Members	20,009	2	0	41,281	6	0	61,290	8	0
2. Daily Allowance of Members	16,740	0	0	54,800	0	0	71,540	0	0
3. Haulage of motor cars	15,193	0	0	32,636	14	0	47,829	14	0
4. Conveyance	2,747	8	0	10,665	0	0	13,412	8	0
Total	54,689	10	0	1,39,433	4	0	1,94,122	14	0

Statement showing excess expenditure that would have been incurred on account of the above two sessions respectively, had they been held in Delhi instead of in Simla.

May-June Session, 1924.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Expenditure that would have been incurred if the session had been held in Delhi	1,46,207	6	0
Expenditure actually incurred for the session	1,11,570	15	0
Excess that would have been incurred if the session had been held in Delhi	34,636	7	0

September Session, 1924.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Expenditure that would have been incurred if the session had been held in Delhi	1,94,122	14	0
Expenditure actually incurred for the session	1,44,819	4	0
Excess that would have been incurred if the session had been held in Delhi	49,303	10	0

LOCATION OF TROOPS AT MUZAFFARPUR.

60. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) With reference to my starred question No. 1692 of the 8th September 1924, regarding the location of troops in Muzaffarpur, will the Government be pleased to state what were the events which led to the location of troops there?

(b) Are Government aware that in reply to a question on this subject in the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council on the 20th August, 1924, it was stated on behalf of the Local Government, as reasons for the location of troops in Muzaffarpur, that "a factory was burnt down in a place called Chautarwa. Another incident happened at Chauri Chaura"?

(c) Are Government aware that the incident at Chautarwa, which is in the District of Champaran, and not in Muzaffarpur, actually happened after the troops had been located in Muzaffarpur; and that Chauri Chaura is not in the Province of Bihar and Orissa at all?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) Local disturbances and threats of local disturbances of a kind with which the police by themselves could not adequately cope.

(b) Yes.

(c) According to the information in the possession of the Government of India the answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, the Government of India, and presumably the Government of Bihar and Orissa also, know where Chauri Chaura is.

CALLING OUT OF TROOPS IN MUZAFFARPUR OR IN THE TIRHUT DIVISION.

61. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Is it not a fact that ever since the dawn of British rule in this country, there was never any occasion for troops to be called out in Muzaffarpur, or in the Tirhut Division from elsewhere?

(b) If not, will the Government kindly state when and where, and on what occasions were troops requisitioned from outside the Tirhut Division?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) and (b). As far as the Government of India are aware troops have not been called out in the areas mentioned in recent years preceding 1921.

Colonel J. D. Crawford: Are the Government aware that the presence of British troops in Muzaffarpur has given considerable satisfaction to most of the people in North Bihar?

Mr. E. Burdon: I believe that is the case, Sir.

LOCATION OF TROOPS AT MUZAFFARPUR.

62. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Will the Government be pleased to give the date on which the troops were first despatched to Muzaffarpur; and also the date on which it was decided to retain the troops permanently in that town, as well as to give the name of the Governor who was at the head of the Province on the latter occasion?

Mr. E. Burdon: Troops were first despatched to Muzaffarpur on the 21st November, 1921. The formal decision of the Government of India to retain troops permanently at Muzaffarpur was dated the 4th April, 1922, on which date His Excellency Sir Henry Wheeler was Governor of Bihar and Orissa.

LOCATION OF TROOPS AT MUZAFFARPUR.

63. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Did the Government receive any representation from the planters of the Tirhut Division asking for the location of troops in Muzaffarpur? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of it on the table?

Mr. E. Burdon: The answer so far as the Government of India are concerned is in the negative.

LIABILITY OF THE BIHAR LIGHT HORSE TO QUELL DISTURBANCES IN THE TIRHUT DIVISION.

64. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Are the Government aware that in reply to a question "Had the Bihar Light Horse declared their inability to quell disturbances in the Tirhut Division, if any?" asked in the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council on the 20th August, 1924, the Local Government stated:—"We have not approached them on the subject yet"?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if the Bihar Light Horse receive any sort of assistance, pecuniary or otherwise, from the Government; and if so, what is it?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the rules or regulations under which the Bihar Light Horse has been allowed to be formed; and the conditions under which they are liable to be called out?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Bihar Light Horse is a unit of the Auxiliary Force, and the information which the Honourable Member desires to have regarding it will be found in the "Regulations for the Auxiliary Force, India, 1921", a copy of which is in the Library of the Assembly.

Mr. President: Question No. 65 has been answered.*

CAPITATION TAX IN BURMA.

66. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state if any correspondence has passed within the last 3 years, between the Burma Government, and the Government of India, on the subject of the agitation against the Capitation tax in Burma? If so, what objection the Government have to publishing the correspondence?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As the correspondence is confidential, I regret that it cannot be published.

REVENUE REALISED FROM THE TEA INDUSTRY OF ASSAM.

67. ***Mr. T. A. Chalmers:** What is the amount obtained in respect of the year 1923 from the Tea Industry of the Province of Assam by the Government of India in respect of:

- (a) Export Duty on tea;
- (b) Income-tax from tea concerns and tea planters salaries and commissions; and
- (c) Import Duty on tea boxes.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a), (b) and (c). The information is not recorded.

* On the 22nd January, 1925.

REVENUE REALISED FROM THE TEA INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

68. ***Mr. T. A. Chalmers:** What is the amount obtained in respect of the year 1923 from the Tea Industry in India by the Government of India in respect of:

- (a) Export Duty on tea;
- (b) Income-tax from tea concerns and tea planters salaries and commissions; and
- (c) Import Duty on tea boxes.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India for the calendar year 1923.

(b) No figures are available.

(c) The Honourable Member will be able to calculate this by referring to the figures for value under the items "Tea chests entire or in sections" and "Metals—Lead sheets for tea chests" in the Monthly Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India and by taking the duty at 2½ per cent. of the total value for January and February, 1923, and at 15 per cent. of the total value for March to December, 1923.

SUBSTITUTION OF THE PROVIDENT FUND SYSTEM FOR THE EXISTING PENSION SYSTEM.

69. ***Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) What action, if any, has been taken on the Resolution re substitution of Provident Fund system for existing Pension system passed by the Council of State on 18th February 1924?

(b) If no action has yet been taken, when do Government propose to do the same?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) and (b). The question is under consideration.

CONTEMPLATED CLOSING OF THE POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE AT BELAPUR IN THE THANA DISTRICT.

70. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Is it a fact that Government contemplate the closing of the post and telegraph office at Belapur in the Thana district?

(b) Is it a fact that this office serves an area of about 90 square miles and a population of about 8,000?

(c) Is it a fact that the area served by this office is studded with salt pans?

(d) If so, how will the requirements of the local population be satisfied without a post and telegraph office?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: (a) As the combined post and telegraph office is not self-supporting the question of closing the telegraph branch and reducing the status of the post office to a branch office has been under consideration.

(b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The office will be continued as a combined office on the local public furnishing the necessary guarantee against loss.

GRANT OF A MILITARY PENSION TO SEPOY GANPATRAO PARASHURAM
MORE OF THE 103RD MARATHA INFANTRY.

71. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Is it a fact that Sepoy No. 4947, Ganpatrao Parashuram More, of the 103rd Maratha Infantry, was wounded in actual fighting in the year 1919? Is it also a fact that his left leg was amputated in the Marine Lines Military Hospital at Bombay? Further, is it a fact that his application for a military pension was rejected by Government? If so, are Government prepared to give redress or state full particulars which in their opinion may justify such rejection?

Mr. E. Burdon: Sepoy Ganpatrao More was wounded in Waziristan in December, 1919, in the *right* leg. His *left* leg was amputated in the Marine Lines Military Hospital at Bombay, and the medical board was of opinion that the disability which necessitated the amputation of the left leg was neither contracted on, attributable to, nor aggravated by field service or military duty. The man's application for a pension never came before the Government of India, but the local military authorities are now reopening the case, and I will inform the Honourable Member of the result as soon as possible.

POSTAL ENDOWMENT INSURANCE POLICIES.

72. ***Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Will Government state whether it is a fact that the holders of postal insurance policies are deferred in point of the actual payment of the endowment insurance amount for a period varying from one to eleven months after the last due instalment of premium is paid?

(b) If so, does not the mean loss to the policy-holder represent the amount of interest at at least 5 per cent. for six months on the due amount, that is to say Rs. 30 per thousand?

(c) Is it a fact that Government regard this as a negligible loss?

(d) Will Government state reasons for this state of things? Is it a fact that this state of things is unparalleled in the dealings of any other insurance company?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes, except when the endowment assurance becomes payable on the death of the insured.

(b), (c) and (d). The policy specifically provides for the payment of the endowment assurance on the insured attaining a specified age or at his death; and the premia are calculated actuarially on the basis of this contract. There can, therefore, be no mean loss to the insured. A similar arrangement is followed by many insurance companies.

REFUSAL OF A PASSPORT TO DR. SUDHINDRA BOSE, LECTURER IN
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.

73. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article in the *Swarajya* dated 1st October 1924, under the heading "Another Passport Scandal"?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is true that Dr. Sudhindra Bose was not given a passport to return to India to see his mother who was on her death bed?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state on what grounds a passport was refused to him and whether the refusal was at the instance of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I have already answered this question yesterday.

REFUSAL TO GRANT PERMISSION TO MAHATMA GANDHI TO VISIT KOHAT.

74. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Is it a fact that Mahatma Gandhi was prohibited from paying a visit to Kohat where he intended to bring about peace between the Hindus and the Muhammadans?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state on what grounds Mahatma Gandhi was so prohibited?

Mr. E. Burdon: I have been asked to reply to this on behalf of Mr. Bray. (a) and (b). Mr. Gandhi was asked to defer his visit to a mere opportune season for reasons set forth in the correspondence between His Excellency the Viceroy and Mr. Gandhi which has been published in the press.

Mr. B. Das: Sir, is it not a fact that Government had no objection to the visit of certain non-official leaders of this House to Kohat?

Mr. President: I am not aware that Mr. Gandhi is a non-official leader in this House.

BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1924.

75. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if and when the Government of Bengal applied to His Excellency the Governor General to issue an Ordinance now known as Ordinance I of 1924?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the question of promulgating the said Ordinance was in contemplation during the month of September 1924, when the Assembly was in session? If so, will the Government be pleased to state why the said fact was not mentioned by the Honourable the Home Member or Mr. Tonkinson who on behalf of the Government opposed the Criminal Law Amendment (Repealing) Bill of Doctor Gour?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) The situation created by the existence of revolutionary conspiracies in Bengal and the measures necessary to deal with them have occupied the special attention of the Government of Bengal and the Government of India since the grave recrudescence of crimes of this character in 1923. I am not prepared to enter into any greater detail on the communications which passed and which were necessarily of the most confidential character.

(b) The situation was still under examination when this House was in session in September last. His Excellency the Viceroy has already dealt with the matter in a speech which was fully reported in the press and I have nothing to add to that.

Mr. Chaman Lall: Is it a fact, Sir, that in the original draft as prepared by the Government of Bengal mention is made not only of crimes anarchical but also of crimes political?

The Honourable Sir Alexandar Muddiman: I have already stated that I am not prepared to make any further statement.

REFUSAL OF A PASSPORT TO DR. SUDHINDRA BOSE, LECTURER IN THE
STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.

76. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Forward* of the 3rd October 1924, page 3, under the heading "Another Passport Scandal"?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the facts of the case, namely, whether Doctor Sudhindra Bose was refused a passport, as referred to in the letter, and if so, under what circumstances?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I have already answered this question yesterday.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY DURING
THE YEARS 1921, 1922 AND 1923.

77. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to the reply of Government to unstarred question No. 308, in the last September session of the Assembly regarding claims against the G. I. P. Railway during the years 1921, 1922 and 1923, will the Government be pleased to state if the inquiry has been completed and if completed to furnish the information to the House?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The substance of the information asked for in Dr. Lohokare's question is given below:

The number of claims preferred was:

1921	...	...	...	...	34,144
1922	...	...	...	...	34,760
1923	...	...	...	...	24,035

The total amounts paid in settlement of claims was:

				Rs.
1921-22	...	...	...	28,11,000
1922-23	...	...	...	19,68,000
1923-24	...	...	...	16,17,000

PROVISION OF LATRINES IN THIRD CLASS CARRIAGES ON THE E. I.
AND B. & N. W. RAILWAYS.

78. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- the total number of third class carriages on the E. I. Railway and B. & N. W. Railway?
- whether they all are provided with latrines?
- if not, what is the number of carriages on each of the above lines which are not so provided?

Mr. G. G. Sim: A statement giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member is placed on the table.

Statement showing the percentage of third class carriages on the East Indian and Bengal and North Western Railways provided with latrine accommodation on the 31st March 1924.

Railway.	Total number of third class carriages.	Number provided with latrine accommodation.	Number not provided with latrine accommodation.	Percentage of those provided with latrine accommodation to total number.
East Indian	1,018	574	444	56.4
Bengal and North-Western	870	301	569	34.6

POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE RESTORATION OF THE GOLD STANDARD.

79. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that the Under Secretary of State for India made the following statement in May, 1924: "while effective restoration of the gold standard was the objective of Government policy, economic conditions throughout the world had not yet reached the degree of normality, which would justify at present an attempt to stabilise the gold value of the rupee"?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to give at least a rough idea of the time when we can expect that the policy of Government with regard to the effective restoration of the gold standard will be given effect to?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I would refer the Honourable Member to the speech which I made yesterday, and if that does not satisfy him, to the speeches which I shall presumably have to make to-day. This answer may be taken as covering also the Honourable Member's question No. 140.

PROVISION OF WATER TAPS AT STATIONS ON THE E. I. AND B. AND
N. W. RAILWAYS.

80. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) What is the number of stations on the East Indian Railway and B. & N. W. Railway?

- What is the number at which water taps are provided?
- What is the number at which watermen are employed?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The numbers are:

- East Indian Railway, 481.
Bengal and North-Western Railway, 339.
- East Indian Railway, 68.
Bengal and North-Western Railway, 73.
- East Indian Railway, 340.
Bengal and North-Western Railway, 113.

HARDSHIPS OF INDIAN LABOURERS IN BURMA.

81. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to the Government reply to unstarred question No. 333, in the last September session of the Assembly with regard to hardships of Indian labourers in Burma, will the Government be pleased (a) to state if they have received the report from the Government of Burma? (b) if they have received the report, will they please lay it on the table?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The Government of Burma have reported that they are placing an officer on special duty with a view to the examination of the question of establishing an agency for the collection of information relating to labour conditions. Until reliable statistical information is available, the Local Government are not prepared to publish statements of the kind suggested in the question asked in the September Session.

REGISTRATION OF COTTON GINNING AND PRESSING FACTORIES.

82. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cotton ginning and pressing factories in India,
- (b) the number of them which have been registered?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) The number of cotton ginning, cleaning and pressing factories, subject to the Indian Factories Act, at work during the calendar year 1923, was 1,683. Information as to the number of such factories not subject to the Factories Act is not available.

(b) The nature of the registration which the Honourable Member has in mind is not understood.

COST OF INCREASED EMOLUMENTS TO THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE, ETC.

83. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the increase of emoluments to the Indian Civil Service, Indian Police Service, Indian Educational Service, British officers of Indian Army and British troops comes up to £2,540,000?

(b) If the figure quoted is not correct, what is the correct figure?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I understand from inquiries made by me from the Honourable Member that his question relates to the cost of the recommendations of the Lee Commission in respect of certain services, though if that is so I do not understand his reference to British officers of the Indian Army and British troops. An estimate of the cost of the recommendations of the Lee Commission will be found in Appendix VII at the end of their Report.

EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY TIMINGS.

84. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter under the heading "Eastern Bengal Timings" published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 7th October 1924, page 8?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statements made, are correct?

(c) If correct, will they please issue instructions to the authorities concerned to remove the inconvenience complained of?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government have seen the letter referred to. It contains a complaint about a change in the starting time of a certain train from Dacca. The Government cannot undertake to interfere in a matter of this kind. It is essentially a matter for the Railway Administration.

AMALGAMATION OF ORIYA-SPEAKING TRACTS.

85. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Home Department Resolution, Public, dated Simla, the 1st October 1924, will the Government be pleased to state if they will consult the Legislative Assembly after the report of the officers appointed to inquire into the question of the amalgamation of Oriya-speaking tracts have been submitted to them, and before they pass orders thereon?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The report in question has just been received and the question of its publication and the method in which it should be dealt with is under consideration.

AMALGAMATION OF THE DISTRICT LOCOMOTIVE CARRIAGE AND TRAFFIC OFFICES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

86. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to starred question 1659 *re*: "Amalgamation of the District Locomotive Carriage and Traffic Offices on the East Indian Railway", will the Government be pleased to state by what time the proposals under their consideration are likely to mature to enable them to give definite information on the subject?

Mr. G. G. Sim: It has now been decided to constitute four Divisions on the East Indian Railway, each under a Divisional Superintendent, in place of the nine districts under District Superintendents of the various Departments.

The Divisional officers at Allahabad and Dinapore were opened on 12th January 1925 and those at Asansol and Howrah on 19th January 1925.

PROVISION OF MORE WATERWAYS ON THE B. & N. W. RAILWAY.

87. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Are Government aware of the fact that in the course of a statement in the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council on 29th August 1924, the Local Government stated as follows:

"Several telegrams have been received from the residents of Sabarsa, Maknabazar, Mansi, Pasraba, and Khagaria reporting that scores of villages were flooded, cattle were dying for want of fodder, and that people were in great distress. They prayed for more outlets in the B. & N. W. Railway line in various places".

- (b) If so, have Government taken any action in the matter?
- (c) If not, do they propose taking any?
- (d) If not, why not?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). No reference has been made to the Government of India by the Local Government in the matter.

RAILWAY CONNECTION BETWEEN MUZAFFARPUR AND SITAMARHEE.

88. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to the replies of Government to starred question 1669 (a), (b), (c), (d) and its supplementary question asked in the last September Session of the Assembly, are the Government prepared to draw the attention of the Government of Bihar and Orissa to the fact that the question is urgent and that the travelling public are put to great inconvenience owing to the want of railway connection between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhee and ask them to expedite the matter?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The project is not financially promising, nor is it considered to be of sufficient importance to be described as urgent. It has therefore been decided with the concurrence of the Local Government to postpone further consideration of the project.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: May I ask till what time it has been postponed? Has any time been fixed?

Mr. G. G. Sim: It has been decided to postpone the project at present as it is not considered to be of any urgency.

DEPUTATION OF SIR BHUPENDRA NATH MITRA TO LONDON IN CONNECTION WITH THE OUTSTANDING CLAIMS IN DISPUTE BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

89. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to question asked by Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar in the last session of the Assembly on 8th September 1924, *re*: Deputation of Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra to London in connection with the outstanding claims in dispute between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India, its supplementary questions and the replies of Government to them, will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the exact amount of outstanding claims in dispute between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India?
- (b) the time that is expected to be taken by Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra in settling the points at issue?
- (c) the amount that is likely to be spent on or that has been sanctioned for, his deputation?
- (d) whether the Assembly will be consulted before a final decision on the question is arrived at?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the statement laid on the table on the 1st February 1924, as requested by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas in his question No. 1.

(b) Owing to the intervention of a general election in England no settlement on the points at issue could be reached and Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra was appointed to officiate as High Commissioner for India on the 6th November 1924. Much useful work was however done both in regard to these points and on the question of the capitation grant.

(c) The cost of his deputation was just under Rs. 4,000.

(d) I am afraid I cannot add anything to my previous statements on this point.

THE COAL COMMITTEE.

90. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 11th October 1924, page 3, under the heading "Contemporary Opinion" "The Coal Committee"?

(b) If so, will they please state if they have decided to appoint an Expert Committee, as stated in the paragraph?

(c) If so, when will the Committee be appointed, and what will be its function?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Resolution appointing the Committee, which was published in the Gazette of India of the 20th September 1924.

SEPARATE COMPARTMENTS ON RAILWAYS FOR TUBERCULAR PATIENTS.

91. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to starred question 1711 and its supplementary questions, asked in the last September session of the Assembly, will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if they are prepared to amend the Indian Railway Act in order that tuberculosis may be regarded as an infectious disorder, for the purposes of the Act?
- (b) If not, will they make such arrangements that tuberculosis patients should as a rule travel in a separate compartment?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Government do not propose to amend the Act, as tuberculosis is not considered to be in the same category, for the purposes of railway travel, as the infectious disorders already notified.

(b) Since tuberculosis does not come under the provisions applying to notified infectious disorders, Government are unable to make the arrangements suggested.

ARMING OF VILLAGERS AS A PROTECTION AGAINST RAIDS BY BORDER TRIBES.

92. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to the supplementary questions of Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar *re*: 'the arming of villagers to defend themselves', to starred question 1721 *re* 'Raids by Border Tribes', asked in the last September session of the Assembly, will the Government be pleased to provide the House with figures?

Mr. E. Burdon: Sir, I have been asked to reply to this question on behalf of the Honourable Member in charge. Up to the 1st January 1923, 11,482 Government fire-arms had been issued for village defence in the settled districts of the North-West Frontier; on the 1st January 1923 the number had increased to 11,692 and on 1st January 1924 to 14,758.

OUTPUT OF GOLD MINES.

93. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of gold mines in India?
- (b) the output of these mines during the years 1921-22, 1922-23, and the quantity exported during the same years?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) There were four gold mines in British India and five in Indian States in 1921 and 1922.

(b) The output of gold in India was, in 1921,

British India	10,190 ounces.
Indian States	422,533 „

and in 1922,

British India	8,455 ounces.
Indian States	429,560 „

Gold bullion and coin are both exported from and imported into India and on the balance there is usually a net import of gold into India. The figures for the years specified in the question are:

1921-22	Bullion net export	918,669 ounces.
	Coined gold net import	668,313 „
1922-23	Bullion net import	4,257,764 „
	Coined gold net import	1,600,534 „

INCREASE IN INDIAN SEA AND LAND CUSTOMS REVENUE.

94. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that the total of gross Indian Sea and Land Customs Revenue (excluding Salt Revenue) during the month of September 1924 amounted to Rs. 468 lakhs as against Rs. 408 lakhs in the preceding month, and Rs. 340 lakhs a year ago?

(b) If so, will Government please state the cause of this steady increase?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blakett: (a) Yes.

(b) The increase is mainly due to (1) general improvement in trade, (2) imposition of duty on Government Stores from April 1924, and (3) imposition of special protective duties from June 1924.

EXPENSES OF MAHARAJAHS AND RULING CHIEFS APPOINTED AS INDIA'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

95. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to starred question 1726 and its supplementary question, asked in the last September session of the Assembly, will the Government please:

(a) lay the information on the table, if it has not been laid?

(b) state if Maharajahs and Ruling Chiefs who join the Imperial Conferences and the meetings of the League of Nations, as representatives of India, also charge the expenses of their journey?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) A statement giving the information desired is laid on the table. Expenditure in sterling has been converted into rupees at the rate of Re. 1 equals to 1s. 4d.

(b) The principle has been accepted that travelling expenses of Ruling Princes and Chiefs deputed as representatives of India on such occasions as the Imperial Conference, the meeting of the League of Nations, etc.,

should be debitable to Indian Revenues. Hitherto, however, there has been a general disposition on the part of the Princes concerned to defray such expenditure themselves and the cost to the Government of India has therefore been almost negligible.

Statement showing the expenditure incurred in connection with the deputation of the representatives of India to the Imperial Conference and the Assemblies of the League of Nations.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Imperial Conferences—			
1917	46,883	4	0
1918	28,419	14	0
1921	61,112	10	0
1923	16,638	6	11
League of Nations Assemblies—			
1920	58,122	5	0
1921	61,839	8	0
1922	24,029	5	0
1923	31,463	15	0

Mr. B. Das: May I know if the Indian Princes represented the Indian people or the Indian Princes only?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: That does not arise, Sir, from the answer to the question.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF RAILWAY INDUSTRIES.

96. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply "but up to the last year just under 10 crores had been spent in India out of the 150 crores grant", to starred question 1740, regarding the amount spent towards the encouragement of railway industries, asked in the last September session of the Assembly, will the Government be pleased to state the major heads of the expenditure of the amount?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The expenditure in question was charged to the Major head "53—Construction of State Railways" in the accounts.

RAILWAY COLLISION AT HARAPPA ROAD ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

97. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to the question re the Railway Collision at Harappa Road, North-Western Railway, asked by Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao on the 10th September 1924, its supplementary questions and the Government reply, will the Government be pleased—

(a) to state if it is in a position to furnish full and complete information as asked for?

(b) If so, to furnish it for the information of the House?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The report is being printed and a copy will be placed in the Library in due course.

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD SORTERS AS SUPERIOR SERVANTS.

98. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to my supplementary question to my starred question 2267 asked in the Assembly on the 19th September 1924 will the Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to regard the Record Sorters under the title of Superior Service?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The question of classing record sorters as "superior" servants has been considered by the Government of India three times within the last four years and on each occasion the decision has been that they should not be so classed. I am not prepared to re-open the question.

TRADES UNIONS AND TRADE DISPUTES.

99. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to the Government reply to the last supplementary question to starred question 2279 asked in the Assembly on the 19th September 1924, will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) whether they have received the replies to the letters circulated for public opinion regarding (a) Trades Unions and (b) Trade disputes?

(2) If they have, whether they have considered the replies?

(3) If so, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (1) A number of replies have been received.

(2) and (3). The Honourable Member is referred to the provisions of the Trade Unions Bill which has already been introduced. The Trade Disputes Bill is under consideration and I suggest that the Honourable Member should await its introduction.

MONGHYR FERRY SERVICE.

100. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 6th November 1924, page 3, under the heading "Monghyr Ferry Service"?

(b) Are the complaints made therein correct?

(c) If so, do the Government propose to issue instructions to the railway authorities concerned to redress the grievances referred to?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given in this Assembly on the 15th September, 1924, to question No. 1848 asked by Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh on the same subject.

ALLEGATIONS IN THE WEEKLY MAZDOOR OF LUCKNOW AGAINST THE RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION.

101. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to starred question 2280 asked in the meeting of the

Assembly on the 19th September 1924 *re* "Allegations in the *Weekly Mazdoor* of Lucknow against Railway administration", will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) if the question has been considered?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

Mr. G. G. Sim: It was stated in reply to Mr. Joshi's question No. 2280 referred to, that the Agent was being addressed in regard to proposed action to be taken against the Editor. Unfortunately all of the officers in question were on leave until recently and the decision in this matter has accordingly had to be deferred.

INDIAN PAPER MANUFACTURE.

102. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to the Government reply to unstarred question 417 in the Assembly on the 19th September, 1924, will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) if the question of Indian Paper Manufacture has been considered by the Tariff Board?

(b) if so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Tariff Board is considering this question. Its report has not yet been received.

VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF MILITARY ACCOUNTS, SOUTHERN COMMAND AND POONA DISTRICT.

103. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to starred question 2317 *re* vacancies in the Office of Controller, Military Accounts, Southern Command, asked in the Assembly on the 22nd September, 1924, will the Government please state:

(a) if the information called for has been furnished to them?

(b) If so, will they please communicate it to the House for its information.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) Yes.

(b) Acting promotions of Accountants in leave vacancies have been made in the office of the Controller of Military Accounts, Southern Command and Poona District during the period in question to the extent admissible within the strength of Accountants sanctioned for that office.

PURCHASE OF RAILWAY AND OTHER STORES.

104. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to starred question 2322 (b) asked in the Assembly on the 22nd September 1924, *re* purchase of Railway and other stores through the Indian Stores Department, will the Government please state:

(a) if the Railway Board has discussed the matter with the Agents of Railways?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The matter was one of the subjects of discussion between the Railway Board and Agents on the 6th October, but the discussion was mainly concerned with the details of carrying out the procedure

indicated in the letters to the Agents of Railways on the subject, which have already been laid on the table. It is not considered that any purpose would be served by giving the House a detailed report of the discussion.

BUS SERVICE FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF CLERKS FROM RAISINA TO THE SECRETARIAT IN DELHI.

105. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to starred question 2324 asked in the Assembly on the 22nd September 1924, *re* Bus Service for the conveyance of clerks from Raisina to the Secretariat in Delhi, will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if they have been able to collect the information?
- (b) If so, will they please communicate it to the House for its information?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The information asked for in Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray's question No. 2324 on the 22nd September 1924 is as follows:

- (a) Government entered into a contract in 1921 with the Gwalior and Northern India Transport Co. Ltd., Delhi, for the running of a bus service for the conveyance of Government of India clerks from Raisina to Delhi for 3 years. This contract continues in force beyond this period until due notice of its termination is given to the company.

- (b) (i) The amount spent on the New Delhi Motor Bus Service during each of the last three years is as follows:

	Rs.
During 1921-22	1,19,300
„ 1922-23	80,426
„ 1923-24	66,043

- (ii) Tenders were not invited when the agreement was first concluded but Government are convinced that no more economical arrangement could have been made that would have been as efficient and satisfactory.
- (c) (i) The service will continue for the winter season of 1924-25. Nothing has yet been settled about 1925-26.
- (ii) It is not now expected that the Government of India as a whole will be able to occupy the new Secretariat Buildings until November 1926.
- (d) and (e). The buses leave to scheduled timings in accordance with the time-tables published by the company at the commencement of the season. These time-tables are subsequently modified to suit the conveniences of the passengers. The original time-tables and modifications thereof are notified. Government have had no report that the company has failed to run to these time-tables.

INDIANIZATION OF VARIOUS CLASSES OF APPOINTMENTS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

106. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to unstarred question 426 in the Assembly on the 22nd September 1924, *re* the Indianization of various classes of appointments on the East Indian Railway, will the Government please state:

- (a) if the inquiry has been completed?
- (b) If so, will they communicate the result to the House?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of letter addressed to Kumar Ganganand Sinha, dated the 10th October, 1924, giving the requisite information is laid on the table.

COPY OF A LETTER NO. 1191-E., DATED THE 10TH OCTOBER 1924, FROM THE SECRETARY, RAILWAY BOARD, TO KUMAR GANGANAND SINHA, M.L.A.

Number of Indians in certain services of the East Indian Railway.

With reference to the reply given to your question in the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd September 1924, I am directed to forward herewith a statement showing the number of posts specified by you (if any) which are held by Indians.

2. I am to add that there are other posts held by Indians which are similar in status and pay to those mentioned by you. For instance, in the Traffic Department there are 54 posts on Rs. 200 and over, and 527 posts on salaries over Rs. 100 but below Rs. 200 which are held by Indians.

Statement showing whether or not certain specified posts on the East Indian Railway are held by Indians.

Appointments.	Number held by Indians, if any.
District Inspector	Nil.
Travelling Ticket Inspector*	Nil.
Luggage Inspector	15
Detention Inspector	Nil.
Inter class Hall Supervisor	Nil.
Platform Assistant	23
Loco Inspector	Nil.
Loco Foreman	Nil.
Permanent Way Inspector	Nil.
District Carriage and Wagon Inspector	Nil.
Block Signal Inspector	1
Signal Inspector	Nil.
District Superintendent	Nil.
District Engineer	Nil.
District Loco Superintendent	Nil.
District Carr. and Wagon Superintendent	Nil.
Station Masters drawing over Rs. 200	Nil.
Assistant Station Masters drawing over Rs. 100 except Cabin Assistant	3
Guards drawing over Rs. 100	Nil.

* The services of Travelling Ticket Inspectors are under revision, and if this is sanctioned, the service will include Indians.

RECONSTITUTION OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.¹

107. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Is it a fact that after the publication of the Sadler Commission Report about the Calcutta University, Lord Chelmsford's Government considered the question of reform and reconstitution of the Calcutta University an urgent matter and accordingly drafted a Bill for that purpose which was submitted to the Secretary of State for sanction but the questions of finance and detail stood in the way of its introduction in the late Imperial Council?

(b) Is it a fact that shortly thereafter the Government of India Act, 1919, having come into force education and control of Universities among other things became a transferred subject rules made under the Act providing, nevertheless, that the Calcutta University and the control and organisation of secondary education in the Presidency of Bengal should be subject to legislation by the Indian Legislature for a term of five years from the commencement of the Rules?

(c) Is it a fact that differences arose between the Bengal Government and Legislative Council on the one hand and the Calcutta University on the other hand and two private Bills about the reconstitution of the University were introduced in the Bengal Council and a Bengal Government Bill was also prepared on the same subject and submitted to the Government of India for sanction but the University disputed the competence of the Bengal Council to legislate about it and the Government of Assam which Province is also included within the jurisdiction of the Calcutta University supported the contention of the University?

(d) Is it a fact that shortly thereafter some sort of a compromise was agreed to, the two private Bills were withdrawn, no Government Bill was introduced and His Excellency Lord Lytton in consultation with the Government of India called a conference of the representatives of the University, the Bengal Government and the Assam Government, respectively, to consider the question of the preparation of a Bill and the conference met in the Government House in Calcutta in July 1923 at which the Honourable Member for Education and the Educational Commissioner of the Government of India also attended, the proceedings of the conference being treated as strictly confidential; that there was a second sitting of the conference at the same place on the 26th January last and a third sitting notified to be held about August last but it was adjourned *sine die*; that meanwhile the Bengal Legislative Council has practically ceased to function and the Governor of Bengal has assumed charge of education among other transferred subjects in that Presidency?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) to (d). Generally, the facts are as stated.

RECONSTITUTION OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

108. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) What is the position and prospect of legislation about the Calcutta University under the present circumstances?

(b) Do the Government of India propose to take up the question of the reconstitution of the Calcutta University themselves and introduce a Bill for this purpose in the Central Legislature?

(c) If not, what do they propose?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) The Government of Bengal have decided to proceed first with the more urgent legislation for the creation of a Board of Secondary and Intermediate Education and to postpone legislation for the reconstitution of the Calcutta University till this has been done. They hope to hold a conference with the University authorities early in this year in order, if possible, to find a basis of agreement on the subject of secondary education. The question of the reconstitution of the University will be easier of solution if and when the question of secondary education has been satisfactorily disposed of.

(b) No.

(c) The Government of India propose to await proposals from the Local Government.

ANNUAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF HIGH COURTS.

109. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** What is the annual revenue and expenditure respectively of the several Chartered High Courts for the last 3 years for which the figures are available?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: A statement so far as the Calcutta High Court is concerned is laid on the table. Figures for the remaining High Courts with which the Governor General in Council is not primarily concerned are not available.

Statement showing the receipts of the High Court, Calcutta, during the calendar years, 1921, 1922 and 1923 as compiled from the Court's Register.

	Receipts.		REMARKS.
	Rs.	Rs.	
1921.			
Appellate side . . .	2,44,281	} 17,87,787	These receipts include Rs. 9,27,570-12 received for Probate and Administration duty.
Original side . . .	15,43,506		
1922.			
Appellate side . . .	3,08,301	} 21,06,156	These receipts include Rs. 10,93,221 received for Probate and Administration duty.
Original side . . .	17,97,855		
1923.			
Appellate side . . .	2,98,879	} 27,52,355	These receipts include Rs. 13,66,659-4 received for Probate and Administration duty.
Original side . . .	24,53,476		

Note.—The figures are for the calendar years, 1921, 1922 and 1923.

U. N. MITRA,
for Assistant Registrar.

Statement showing the expenditure of the High Court during the financial years 1921-22, 1922-23 and 1923-24.

Heads.	1921-22.			1922-23.			1923-24.			REMARKS.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Judges . . .	7,93,825			8,34,797			8,07,206			
Original Side.										
1. Registrar . .	4,14,820			4,67,391			4,56,457			
2. Official Receiver	21,899 4,36,719			20,104 4,87,395			22,311 4,78,768			
Appellate Side.										
1. Registrar . .	4,78,438			5,36,073			5,95,513			
2. Refund of Court-fee stamp.	1,170			4,610			1,628			
3. Printing Charges	78,000 5,17,608			60,000 6,00,683			33,063 5,40,204			
	17,87,053			19,22,875			18,26,258			

Note.—The figures are for the financial year.

(Sd.) U. N. MITRA,
for Assistant Registrar.

REPEAL OF BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818 AND OTHER REPRESSIVE LAWS.

110. *Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda: Has any step been taken or proposed to be taken to carry into effect the Resolution which was passed without any division by the Assembly on the 20th March last recommending the immediate repeal of Bengal Regulation III of 1818 and other repressive laws and regulations that still exist on the Statute-book?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me on the 11th June 1924 to a similar question (No. 1520) by Mr. Amar Nath Dutt.

ARRESTS UNDER BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818.

111. *Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda: (a) Will the Government state the number of persons arrested, between the 20th March 1924 and the date on which this question is notified to the Home Department, under the Bengal Regulation III of 1818?

(b) Is there anything on record to show on what occasions before 1908, were any persons arrested in Bengal under this Regulation? Will the Government kindly place the information before the House?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) Twenty-three.

(b) The periodical reports for the years 1868-75 indicate that the following numbers of persons were detained in Bengal under Regulation III of 1818. It is not suggested however that this information is complete as the records for the year subsequent to 1875 are not readily available.

Year.	No. of persons.
1868	4
1869	20
1870	7
1872	4
1875	2

ARRESTS UNDER BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818.

112. *Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda: (a) Is it a fact that 18 persons were arrested under Bengal Regulation III of 1818 on or about the 25th October including two Members of the Bengal Legislative Council and the Chief Executive Officer of the Calcutta Corporation?

(b) Are the Government aware that they all or most of them belong to the Swarajya party?

(c) What is or are the charge or charges against them respectively?

(d) Was or were any charge or charges communicated to them and their answer taken thereto before they were arrested?

(e) If not, is it proposed to let them know the charges against them and get their answers?

(f) At any rate is it a fact that the charge or charges against them, all "documents and evidence relating to, each of them have been or will be placed before two Judges of the High Court for the purpose of thoroughly sifting the material on which action was taken, of submitting it to the technical tests of judicial knowledge and experience, and of framing recommendations regarding each case", care being taken to see that it is High Court Judges and not any other authority to whom reference is made (*vide* the address of His Excellency the Viceroy before the members of the Imperial Legislature on the 31st January 1924 and subsequent admission by the Honourable the Home Member of the incorrect information given to, and repeated by, His Excellency that two High Court Judges were consulted in regard to the detention mentioned in his address).

(g) Have Government made or do they propose to make any adequate provision for their own maintenance during their detention and maintenance of their respective families and other persons dependent on them?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are aware that some of the persons arrested claim to belong to the Swarajya party.

(c) I am not prepared to publish the charges.

(d) No.

(e) Charges have been framed against them and their answers have been taken.

(f) The papers are placed before two Sessions Judges.

(g) Yes.

ARRESTS UNDER THE BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1924.

113. *Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda: How many arrests have been made under the new Ordinance for Bengal which His Excellency the Governor General has promulgated?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Sixty-six.

HOUSE SEARCHES IN BENGAL.

114. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Have there been numerous house searches in Calcutta and other parts of Bengal in connection with rounding up of persons arrested or intended to be arrested under Regulation III or the new Ordinance?

(b) Have books and documents been seized during the above searches which are described as incriminating?

(c) Are the Government aware that even the Sri Bhagavad-Geeta is also looked upon as an "incriminating book" by the police and occasionally seized as such? Are the Government aware that the Geeta is one of the sacred books of the Hindus?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a Press interview said to have been given by Mr. Tegart of the Calcutta Police and published in the *Friend of India* that no fire-arms were found in the course of the above searches? Is it true?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) "Sri Bhagavad Gita" is not regarded by the police as an "incriminating book". No copies of this book were seized during the searches under reference.

(d) Government have seen the statement, which is correctly reported.

PROTECTION OF THE INTERESTS OF INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA.

115. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Township Rules recently published in the Uganda official Gazette providing among other things, that the Governor may in the Gazette prescribe areas within which no piece or parcel of land may be occupied by any person not of European origin or extraction for the purposes of trade, residence or otherwise except with the consent or prior permission of the Governor in writing?

(b) With reference to the above rule do the Government of India propose to take any action to protect the interests of Indians in East Africa?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) and (b). The Uganda official Gazette containing the new township rules has not yet been received by the Government of India but copies have been cabled for and the matter will be looked into as soon as they are received.

AUDITING OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL FARM AT TARNAB.

116. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to my starred question 1905 (b), asked in the last September Session of the Assembly *re* "Auditing of the Accounts of the Government Agricultural Farm at Tarnab", will the Government be pleased:

(a) to state if they have obtained all the facts of the case?

(b) if so, to furnish the information to the House?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: No. The matter is still under inquiry.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: May I ask by what time the inquiry will be finished?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I cannot say. The matter is under inquiry by the local Administration and I can give the Honourable Member no intimation as to when the inquiry will be completed.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will Government ask the local Administration?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: We have already asked that the inquiry should be expedited.

THE RANCHI RADIUM INSTITUTE.

117. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to the last portion of the reply of Government, namely: "They have however drawn the attentions of these Governments to the passage in question, and asked for an expression of their views on the suggestion made therein" to my starred question 1794, asked in the last September session of the Assembly, *re* the Ranchi Radium Institute, will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have received the views of the Governments consulted?

(b) if so, will they please lay a copy of the same on the table?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) and (b). The replies of all the Local Governments and Administrations, who were consulted, have not yet been received. When they are all in I shall be glad to place a copy of them in the Library.

INDIAN FOREST SERVICE EDUCATIONAL STAFF.

118. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to my starred question 1795 *re* the Indian Forest Service Educational Staff, asked in the last September session of the Assembly, will the Government please state if they have arrived at any decision in the matter; and if so, will they please communicate it to the House?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: No decision has yet been arrived at as the question is a most difficult and complicated one. But I can assure the Honourable Member that the matter has not been lost sight of.

THE HESLA-CHANDIL CHORD RAILWAY.

119. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to my starred question 1805 (b), asked in the last September session of Assembly, will the Government be pleased to state by what time the Hesla-Chandil Chord Railway is expected to be completed?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Hesla-Chandil Chord is expected to be completed by May 1926.

INDIAN ARMY SCHOOLS OF EDUCATION.

120. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have considered the question of establishing an Indian Army School of Education for the training of Indian officers and non-commissioned officers as Instructors in any other place or places besides the one at Belgaum, in such a big country as India?

(b) if not, will they please give reasons?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) Government have considered the question, but have decided not to establish any other schools of the kind at present.

(b) The reason for this decision is that more Indian Army Schools of Education are not at present required.

POSTAL DELAYS.

121. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 17th October 1924, page 4, under the heading "Postal Delays"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the statement made therein is correct?

(c) If correct, do they propose to take action in the matter with a view to prevent the recurrence of incidents such as have been complained of?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: (a) and (b). My attention has been drawn to the letter in question, and I have had an inquiry made into the complaint, which was found to be well founded.

(c) Disciplinary action has been taken in the matter.

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ASKED, RESOLUTIONS MOVED AND NON-OFFICIAL BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE FIRST SESSIONS OF THE FIRST AND SECOND ASSEMBLIES, RESPECTIVELY.

122. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of questions asked, the total number of non-official Resolutions moved and the total number of non-official Bills introduced, in the first session of the last Assembly and the first session of the present Assembly, respectively?

Mr. L. Graham: I lay on the table a statement which gives the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

Number of questions asked, non-official Resolutions moved, and non-official Bills introduced during the first session of the First Legislative Assembly and the first session of the Second Legislative Assembly.

First session of the First Assembly. (February to March 1921).		First session of the Second Assembly. (January to March 1924, May 1924, and September 1924).	
			2,365 (starred). 470 (unstarred).
Questions asked	696	Total	2,835
Non-official Resolutions moved	38		20
Non-official Bills introduced	4		13

INCREASE OF STAFF ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

123. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to starred question 1887, *re* increase of staff on the E. B. Railway, asked in the last September session of the Assembly, will the Government be pleased to lay the result of the inquiry on the table for the information of the House?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The inquiry showed that additional traffic was being temporarily diverted over the Parbatipur-Kaunia-Santahar section owing to the extension of the broad gauge to Parbatipur and that arrangements would be made to post additional staff if this were found necessary.

GRIEVANCES OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY INDIAN EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION.

124. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to the second supplementary question to starred question 1892, *re* the grievances of the Eastern Bengal Railway Indian Employees' Association, asked in the Assembly on the 15th September 1924, will the Government be pleased to state as to what was the "Gross discourtesy by the people present at the meeting"?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Agent attended the meeting by request and opened it. The next speech that followed consisted mainly of an attack upon the Agent in which among other things he was accused of treating the staff with injustice.

ADMISSION OF INDIANS INTO VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

125. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to supplementary question to the starred question 1912, asked in the last September Session of the Assembly, *re* "Admission of Indians into various Branches of the Indian Army", will the Government be pleased to state whether they are carrying out the directions of the Statute referred to?

Mr. E. Burdon: The answer is in the affirmative. The Honourable Member is perhaps not aware that the King's commission held by an artillery officer is precisely the same as the king's commission held by an officer of cavalry or infantry and that the King's commissioned officer in Indian infantry and cavalry receives a higher scale of pay than the King's commissioned officer of Royal Artillery. Further, Indian candidates for the King's commission are required to qualify by what is on the whole a less rigorous test than British candidates.

126. (Will be answered at the next meeting.)

EXPENDITURE ON REPAIRS TO CHURCHES, TEMPLES AND MOSQUES.

127. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to the supplementary question to starred question 1951 asked in the last September Session of the Assembly, *re* "the principle on which money is spent for repairs to churches, and not to temples and mosques in the country", will the Government please state the principle asked for?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Government of India are bound by the King's Regulations to provide religious ministrations for British soldiers serving in India, and since 1698, it has been the practice first of the East India Company and then of the Government of India to provide, within reasonable limits, for the ministrations of religion to British born European servants of the Crown.

I may point out that many temples and mosques in India receive indirect subsidies from Government in the shape of remissions of land revenues on land owned by them.

CONSTRUCTION OF A PASSENGER SHED AT DARBHANGA STATION ON THE B. AND N. W. RAILWAY.

128. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Are Government aware that at Darbhanga railway station (B. & N. W. Ry.) there is no shed on the portion situated on the west of the railway line?

(b) If so, will they please state if they propose to consider the desirability of constructing a shed for the convenience of the third class passengers coming from Darbhanga City?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) The policy of Government is to leave it to the discretion of Railway Administrations concerned to provide sheds for third class passengers at stations where the traffic offering justifies their provision, and the necessity for one at any particular station is a question that might suitably be brought to the notice of the Agent direct or through a member of his Advisory Committee.

PAY OF HOSPITAL STOREKEEPERS OF STATION HOSPITALS

129. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to starred question 1983, asked in the last September session of the Assembly, *re* the pay of Hospital Storekeepers of Station Hospitals, will the Government be pleased to communicate their decision, if arrived at, to the House?

Mr. E. Burdon: Orders on the subject have been issued in an Army Instruction (India), a copy of which will be furnished to the Honourable Member separately.

GRANT OF DUTY ALLOWANCE TO HEAD CLERKS OF POSTAL SUPERINTENDENTS.

130. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply "Government are not prepared to give effect to this recommendation", to my starred question 1990 (b), *re* grant of duty allowance to head clerks of Postal Superintendents, will they please give reasons?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The reason is that a special scale of pay higher than the scales for ordinary clerks is already sanctioned for Head Clerks of Superintendents of Post Offices.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN KENYA.

131. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to Government reply "The population of Indians is 22,822, and of Europeans 9,651 Indians are at present entitled to return 5 members and Europeans 11" to starred question 2019(b) and (c) asked in the last September session of the Assembly, will the Government please give reasons for such a discrimination unfavourable to Indians?

(b) If they cannot give reasons offhand, will they please make an inquiry from the Kenya Government or the Colonial Office, and communicate the result of the inquiry to the House?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to paragraph 4 of part II of the memorandum published with the Government of India's Resolution No. 733, dated the 18th August 1923 and to paragraphs 4 and 5 of that Resolution. They do not consider that any inquiry on the lines suggested by the Honourable Member is necessary.

EXPENDITURE ON THE COLONIES COMMITTEE.

132. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply "I shall consider that point", to the second supplementary question *re* expenses of the Colonies Committee to starred question 2022, asked in the last September session of the Assembly, will Government please state as to whether they have considered the point, and if they have, to communicate their decision to the House?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: A statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

Statement of accounts of members of the Colonies Committee.

	Rs.	A.	P.
1. Honorarium	15,677	7	0
2. Subsistence allowance	11,910	0	0
3. Travelling allowance	9,629	10	0
4. Miscellaneous charges	553	3	0
TOTAL	37,770	4	0

PROVISION OF A WAITING ROOM FOR INTERMEDIATE CLASS PASSENGERS AT PURI STATION ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

133. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please state if provision of a waiting room for intermediate class passengers at Puri Railway Station (B. N. Ry.) has been made?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Yes. Government understand that the room will be brought into use about 1st April, 1925.

GRANT OF PASSES OVER FOREIGN RAILWAYS TO EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN, BENGAL NAGPUR AND MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHARATTA RAILWAYS.

134. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to starred question 2043 *re* grant of passes over foreign railways, asked in the Assembly on the 16th September, 1924, will the Government please lay the information on the table for the information of the House, if the inquiry has been completed?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The result of the inquiry was communicated to Mr. M. K. Acharya and a copy is being sent to the Honourable Member.

THEFT OF INSURED LETTERS.

135. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to starred question 2062 asked in the Assembly on the 17th September 1924, *re* theft of insured letters, will the Government please state:

- (a) whether the value of contents lost, was paid to the sender?
 (b) if paid, when was it paid, and how long after the letters were insured?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: (a) Yes, in two cases. The claim in the third case was inadmissible.

(b) On the 21st February, 1924, and 2nd October, 1924; about 9 months after.

CAPACITY OF RAILWAY WORKSHOPS FOR GENERAL REPAIR AND REHABILITATION WORK.

136. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to starred question 2080 (a) and (b) asked in the Assembly on the 17th September 1924, *re* the capacity of Railway Workshops, will the Government please also lay the information on the table, when received, for the information of the House?

Mr. G. G. Sim: A statement containing the information supplied to the Honourable Member, who asked question No. 2080 on the 17th September, 1924, in reply to parts (a) and (b) of that question, is laid on the table.

Capacity of Railway Workshops.

Serial No.	Railways.	The maximum number of Locomotives that can be repaired in the workshops per annum.	The maximum number of wagons that can be repaired in workshops per annum.	REMARKS.
1	North Western	*650	12,000	*In terms of heavy repairs 4 light repairs or 2 medium repairs = one heavy repair.
2	Oudh and Rohilkhand . .	144	3,640	
3	Bengal Nagpur	†190	5,000	†General repairs.
4	Great Indian Peninsula .	‡440	10,000	‡First class repairs.
5	Nizam's Guaranteed State .	80	1,658	
6	Bombay, Baroda and Central India. §	270	5,500	§Both B. G. and M. G. Systems.
7	South Indian	310	3,000	
8	Madras and Southern Mah-ratta.	250	2,700	Various repairs.
9	Eastern Bengal § . . .	160	6,004	
10	East Indian	506	28,000	

ADMISSION OF STUDENTS OF THE ROYAL INDIAN MILITARY COLLEGE, DEHRA DUN, INTO SANDHURST.

137. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will the Government please state:

- (a) the period for which a student has to study in the Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun, before he is permitted to appear at the Entrance Examination, Sandhurst?
 (b) whether all the students who pass the Entrance Examination are entitled to study at Sandhurst, or whether there is any prescribed number?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) Six to eight years. The student enters the Dehra Dun College at 12 years of age and appears at the Entrance Examination between the ages of 18 and 20 years.

(b) The Entrance Examination is competitive, and there are five vacancies allotted at the commencement of the spring and autumn terms at Sandhurst, that is, ten vacancies a year.

ALLEGED FATAL RESULT OF OVERCROWDING ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

138. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Forward* of the 24th October 1924, page 9 under the heading "Overcrowding on B. N. Ry. "?

(b) If so, will they please state whether the statements made therein specially regarding the death of a lower class passenger by suffocation near Balasore are correct?

(c) If correct, do they propose to issue instructions to the railway authorities concerned to make such arrangements that in future accidents such as that referred to may not take place again?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Government have seen the paragraph referred to.

(b) and (c). Inquiry has been made and the Railway Administration state that they have no knowledge of any incident, such as described, having occurred.

PROVISION OF SERVANTS' COMPARTMENTS ON TRAINS ON THE B. AND N. W. RAILWAY.

139. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Is it not a fact that servants' compartments are not attached to all trains on the B. & N. W. Ry. ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to draw the attention of the authorities concerned to the urgency of the matter with a view to remove the complaints of the 1st and 2nd class passengers who travel with servants?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.

(b) Government understand that a servants' compartment has been provided in the latest design of upper class carriages and that new upper class carriages will be built to this design in future.

GOLD STANDARD.

140.† ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** (a) Was the gold standard ever introduced in India since the establishment of the British Government?

(b) If not, will the Government please give reason why it was not introduced?

(c) If it was introduced why was it discontinued?

REMOVAL FROM THE ANDAMANS TO INDIAN JAILS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

141. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan**: (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question 2100 (c) asked in the last September session of the Assembly, will the Government please state if they have been able to remove to Indian jails the political prisoners that remained confined in the Andamans up to the time when the question was asked?

(b) If not, will they please give an idea of the time by which they will be removed?

(c) Will Government also please state their names and the terms of their imprisonment respectively?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The names of the prisoners are Kapoor Singh, Hardit Singh, Kirpa Ram and Amar Singh who were convicted in the Mandalay conspiracy cases in 1916 and 1917 and are serving life sentences. Amar Singh was transferred to a jail in India in September last. Arrangements had been agreed upon between the Government of India and the Government of Burma for the transfer of the other three prisoners to jails in Burma, but it was found that these men had become self-supporting convicts in the Andamans and strongly protested against their removal from the settlement. Kirpa Ram has imported his family and Kapoor Singh has imported his wife, and he and Hardit Singh have a half share in a valuable plantation and state that they would claim Rs. 32,000 as compensation if disturbed. In these circumstances the Government of India are taking no further steps in the matter of their transfer.

REDUCTION OF FIRST AND SECOND CLASS FARES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

142. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan**: Will the Government please state:

(a) If they propose to consider the desirability of reducing first and second class fares on the East Indian Railway, just as the Agent of the G. I. P. Railway has done on the G. I. P. Ry.?

(b) If so, from what date?

(c) If not, will they please give reasons?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a), (b) and (c). I and II class fares were reduced from 1st April last over the East Indian Railway to the level that now obtains on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

†See reply to question No. 79.

DIMENSIONS OF FAMILY AND SINGLE QUARTERS ALLOTTED TO DAFTARIES AT RAISINA.

143. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan**: Will Government please state standard dimensions of both family and single quarters allotted to the Daftaries of the Indian Secretariat at Raisina?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The menials' quarters built at Raisina are of one type, and consist of a living room 10' x 10', a cooking room 10' x 5' with an open courtyard of about 10' x 11'.

SEPARATION OF EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS.

144. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan**: With reference to Government reply to starred question 2126, asked in the last September session of the Assembly *re* the separation of Executive and Judicial Functions, will Government please state:

(a) if they have come to any decision on the subject?

(b) if not, by what time is the matter expected to be disposed of?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) The question is still under the consideration of the Government of India, and they have not yet arrived at any decision.

(b) It is not possible to say when a decision is likely to be arrived at, as the matter is very complicated.

ALLEGED MALPRACTICES OF LABOUR RECRUITERS.

145. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan**: (a) With reference to Government reply to starred question 2132 *re* alleged Malpractices of Labour Recruiters asked in the last September session of the Assembly, will the Government be pleased to state if the inquiries in the matter have been completed?

(b) And, if completed to communicate the result to the House?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The report of the Local Government shows that Chottey Lal was not recruited under false pretences, nor was he kept in confinement against his will. After arrival at the Benares Depot he evidently visited some friends in the city and changed his mind about going to Mauritius. He was therefore allowed to return to his native place. It follows that the complaint of alleged illegal confinement was false.

RECRUITMENT OF LABOUR FOR THE ASSAM TEA GARDENS.

146. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan**: Will the Government be pleased to make a statement showing the manner in which the garden sardars do the recruitment of labour for the tea gardens in Assam, and the protection given to emigrants by the officers stationed at Calcutta, Goalundo, Naihati, Asansole and Kharagpur in Bengal and Dhubri, Gauhati, Tezpur and Dibrugarh in Assam?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Garden sardars are persons actually employed on estates who are deputed by employers to engage labourers. They are furnished with certificates specifying the limits within which they can recruit and the local Agents to whom they are subordinate,

the time within which they have to return and other details. These certificates are countersigned by an authority in the labour district. The garden sardar then proceeds to the recruiting area where he works under the control of the licensed local Agent to whom he is accredited. The main duty of the officers stationed at the places mentioned in the question is the protection of the health of the emigrants by supervision of the sanitary arrangements and in other ways.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A RATES TRIBUNAL.

147. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to starred question 2139 *re* the establishment of a Rates Tribunal, asked in the last September session of the Assembly, will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have received the reply from the Secretary of State?
- (b) if they have received it, whether they have considered the question?
- (c) if they have considered the question, will they please communicate their decision to the House?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) The reply from the Secretary of State has not yet been received.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

APPEALS OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY AGAINST THE ORDERS OF DISTRICT OFFICERS.

148. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to starred question 2143, *re* appeals of the employees of the Eastern Bengal Railway against the orders of the District Officers, asked in the last September session of the Assembly, will the Government please state:

- (a) whether they have received the reply of the Agent?
- (b) if they have received it, will they please communicate it to the House?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Agent's reply was to the effect that the answer to the first part of Mr. Joshi's question was in the negative.

ALLEGED ASSAULT BY MR. GASPER, LOCO FOREMAN, KATIHAR, ON PHOOL MOHAMMAD, PUMPING DRIVER, KATIHAR.

149. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to supplementary question to starred question 2148, *re* alleged assault by a Loco Foreman, asked in the last September session of the Assembly, will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that Phool Mohammad attended the local hospital, and produced a medical certificate from the local doctor which was not accepted by the Loco Foreman?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Yes. The Locomotive Foreman did not accept the medical certificate because it was not countersigned in accordance with rule by the Railway Medical Officer who had found Phool Mohammad fit.

WORKING HOURS OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT STAFF ON INDIAN RAILWAYS.

150. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to starred question 2152 asked in the last September session of the Assembly, *re* working hours of the Traffic and Transport Staff on Indian Railways, will the Government please state:

- (a) if the inquiry into the matter has been completed?
- (b) if completed, will they please communicate the result to the House?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.

(b) The following information was furnished to the Honourable Mr. N. M. Joshi in reference to question No. 2152:—

- (a) The transshipment staff at the stations named are not required to work 12 hours or more a day.
- (b) The 60 hours-a-week rule is observed. The question of the grant of extra allowances therefore does not arise.

PURCHASE OF LOCOMOTIVES FOR RAILWAYS.

151. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to the unstarred question 351, in the last September session of the Assembly *re* "Purchase of Locomotives for the Railways" and the Government reply, to it, will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the cost of the 37 locomotives purchased?
- (b) the name or names of the firms from which they were purchased?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) The f.o.b. contract price of these 37 locomotives was £224,030.

(b) All the locomotives were purchased from Messrs Sir W. A. Armstrong Whitworth and Company, Limited.

ALLEGED FRAUDS ON THE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY.

152. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to unstarred question 355 in the last September session of the Assembly, *re* alleged frauds on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, will the Government please lay on the table a brief summary of the cases referred to, after judgment has been delivered in the second case?

Mr. G. G. Sim: A brief summary of the cases will be laid on the table after judgment has been delivered.

PURCHASE OF MACHINERY FOR THE SUKKUR BARRAGE.

153. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government please state if the Sukkur Barrage Scheme and Lloyd Barrage and Canal Scheme are different or one and the same?

(b) Will they please state if the Government of Bombay have purchased or ordered to be purchased machinery for the Sukkur Barrage Scheme?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The titles mentioned refer to one and the same project.

(b) Yes.

RETURN OF RAILWAY MATERIAL AND ROLLING STOCK SENT TO MESO-
POTAMIA DURING THE WAR.

154. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to starred question 2158, asked in the last September session of the Assembly *re* the Return of Railway material and rolling stock sent to Mesopotamia during the war, will Government please lay on the table:

(a) the list of the railway material sent to Mesopotamia which is available?

(b) the list of the rolling stock returned to India?

and state in what manner India has been compensated for such material as has not been restored to it?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). A list, showing rolling stock sent to Mesopotamia and retained there and also rolling stock sent to Mesopotamia but returned to India, is laid on the table. Detailed information regarding permanent way and other railway materials is not available and cannot be furnished.

For such stock and material as has been retained in Mesopotamia, Railways have been paid the actual or estimated cost of replacement of stock less a percentage for depreciation calculated on the cost of replacement, representing the proportion of service obtained before despatch to the total anticipated service.

In addition to this, Railways have been paid all incidental charges, to the extent of out-of-pocket expenses, in connection with the despatch of stock. They have also received 5 per cent. indirect charges on the net amount of the bills to cover supervision and other charges.

List showing rolling stock sent to Mesopotamia and retained there and rolling stock sent to Mesopotamia and returned to India.

Retained in Mesopotamia.		Returned to India.	
Locomotives . . .	132	Locomotives . . .	20
Coaching Stock . . .	404	Coaching Stock . . .	10
Goods Stock . . .	3,646	Goods Stock . . .	18
Special Stock . . .	37	Special Stock . . .	Nil.
Motor Trolleys . . .	2	Motor Trolleys . . .	Nil.

PROVISION OF LATRINE ACCOMMODATION IN SERVANTS' COMPARTMENTS
ON RAILWAYS.

155. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to the last supplementary question to the starred question 2171 asked in the last September session of the Assembly *re* the provision of latrine accommodation in the servants' compartments, will the Government please state:

(a) if the inquiries have been completed?

(b) if completed, will they please communicate the result to the House?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Except for replies from three or four smaller Railways the inquiries have been completed. Government understand that the Great Indian Peninsula, Bengal Nagpur and Oudh and Rohilkhand Railways provide latrines in some of the servants' compartments of their existing upper class stock. On other lines such accommodation is not provided. Railways will be asked to give the matter consideration when constructing new stock.

EXPORT OF BEEF.

156. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to the statement laid on the table, in reply to unstarred question 364, in the last September session of the Assembly, will the Government please state:

(a) the reason why beef dried or otherwise was exported only from the port of Bombay and not from the ports of Madras and Calcutta during the five years mentioned in the statement?

(b) the names of the Indian and Burmese ports to which dried beef was exported during the above period?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Government do not know, and the amount exported from Bombay was so trivial in the years mentioned in the statement that it does not seem worth while to inquire into the matter.

(b) For all practical purposes it may be taken that the dried beef was sent from India only to Burma. The exact ports to which it was sent appears to be immaterial.

REPORT OF THE COLONIES COMMITTEE.

157. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Have the Government of India received the report of the Indian Colonies Committee?

(b) If so, will they please lay it on the table?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) and (b). No report has been received from the Colonies Committee as such. Two members submitted a memorandum and its publication is now under the consideration of the Government of India.

ADMISSION OF CANDIDATES FROM BIHAR AND ORISSA INTO THE ROYAL
MILITARY COLLEGE, SANDHURST.

158. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government please state if any candidates from the province of Bihar and Orissa were admitted to the Royal Military College Sandhurst out of the 61 Indian cadets admitted since the commencement of the spring term of 1919?

(b) if so, what is the number?

(c) if not, was it that the Local Government did not nominate any, or was it that the candidates nominated by the Local Government, were not selected by the Central Government?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) Yes.

(b) Three.

(c) Does not arise.

EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS IN THE ROYAL INDIAN MARINE.

159. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is it a fact, that no Indians are employed in the Royal Indian Marine as executive and engineer officers?

(b) Is it also a fact that the entire cost of maintaining the Royal Indian Marine is borne by the Government of India, as well as by the Local Government so far as they are concerned?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Government please state why no Indians are employed?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 17th September 1924, to unstarred question No. 395. It has since been decided that His Majesty's Government will bear a portion of the maintenance charges of the Royal Indian Marine ship "Lawrence" in respect of her duties connected with lighting and buoying in the Persian Gulf. Orders to this effect will be issued shortly.

(c) No Indians possessing the necessary qualifications have offered themselves for admission.

SUPPLY OF SUITABLE INDIAN CADETS FOR SANDHURST.

160. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) With reference to the reply of Government to starred question 2233 (3) in the Assembly on the 19th September, 1924, *re* Indian cadets for Sandhurst, will the Government please state if they have arrived at any decision on the subject?

(b) If so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

Mr. E. Burdon: No conclusion has yet been arrived at on the subject.

161—163. **The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I regret, Sir, the Foreign Secretary is ill to-day, and the questions will be answered at the next meeting.

164. (This question was answered on the 22nd January, 1925.)

LORD MORLEY'S DICTUM *RE* DEPORTATIONS UNDER BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818.

165. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Did Lord Morley as Secretary of State for India refuse to sanction the deportation of any one under Regulation III of 1818 "except for a man of whom there was solid reason to believe that violent disorder was the direct and deliberately planned result of his action"?

(b) Do Government accept the above principle as the basis of decision in sanctioning the arrest of any one under the said Regulation?

(c) Was the above test applied in the case of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, Babu Anil Baran Roy and Babu Satyendra Chandra Mitra who have lately been arrested and detained under the Regulation?

(d) If so, have the Government any objection to disclose what action of any of the above persons answers to the above description given by Lord Morley?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The Government of India did not receive from Lord Morley as Secretary of State for India any communication in the terms recited in the question. Murder and other crimes

of violence have been the direct and deliberately planned results of the terrorist conspiracies in Bengal and it was in respect of complicity in such conspiracies that action was taken in the cases referred to under Regulation III of 1818. The evidence has been submitted to two Sessions Judges whose finding is that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the persons named are members of a terrorist conspiracy.

ARRESTS UNDER BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818.

166. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Does Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose's conduct or action which in the opinion of Government made it expedient that he should be detained under Bengal Regulation III of 1818 relate to any period prior, or subsequent, to sanction by the Bengal Government of his appointment as the Chief Executive Officer of the Calcutta Corporation?

(b) Were any arms, ammunition or explosive substance or any ingredient thereof found during the search in the house or office of the said Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose and Babu Anil Baran Roy and Satyendra Chandra Mitra?

(c) What, if any, revolutionary literature was found therein?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) The grounds upon which the Governor General in Council deemed it expedient to detain Mr. S. C. Bose under Regulation III of 1818, relate to his actions both before and after the Local Government sanctioned his appointment as Chief Executive Officer.

(b) and (c). I am not prepared to make any statement regarding the result of the searches.

EXODUS OF TEA GARDEN LABOURERS FROM ASSAM.

167. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** In connection with my question about the exodus of tea garden labourers from Assam, will the Government please find out from the Madras Government or the Assam Government which are the gardens where the labourers were as stated in the Government reply in the Madras Council getting Rs. 1/4 a day and had to work for 1½ or 2 hours a day?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: As far as the Government of India are aware no such statement was made by any Government Member in the Madras Council.

168. **The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I have already replied to this question, yesterday.

AMALGAMATION OF THE DISTRICT LOCOMOTIVE, CARRIAGE AND TRAFFIC OFFICES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

169. ***Mr. T. C. Goswami:** Will Government please refer to starred questions and answers, Nos. 1659 and 1660 (in the September session of the Legislative Assembly) and answer the following questions *seriatim*:

(i) Have the District Loco, Carriage and Traffic Offices in the E. I. Railway been amalgamated into Divisional Offices at Howrah, Asansol, Dinapur and Delhi? If not actually amalgamated yet, is such a scheme definitely sanctioned?

- (ii) Does that scheme mean the abolition of the Loop District which is one of the oldest Railway Districts in India, perhaps the oldest?
- (iii) Did the Railway Board receive petitions from merchants and the public of Sahebgunge and Bhagalpore, asking for official news of the scheme, which was then rumoured, and expressing apprehension at the possibility of great harm resulting to their interests? If so, did they receive it before Government answered the Honourable Kumar Ganganand Sinha's questions Nos. 1659 and 1660?
- (iv) Did the President of the Railway Board send a letter to the Agent, E. I. Railway, and did he write as follows:—"The Board fully appreciate the feelings of the staff concerned in the matter, but as the decision to place the headquarters of the Division in question at Howrah has not been arrived at until after careful consideration by the responsible officers of the Company, etc.?"
- (v) If the answer to (iv) is in the affirmative, was this letter dated, from London, the 2nd of October 1924? If so, how do Government reconcile this with Mr. A. A. L. Parsons' reply on the 8th September to Kumar Ganganand Sinha that "the proposals are not sufficiently mature to enable definite information to be given on this subject"?
- (vi) Have Government decided as to whether this new arrangement will continue when they take over the Railway on the 1st of January 1925; or is that a State secret?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (i) and (vi). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's question No. 86 to-day.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) Yes. As stated in reply to question No. 1660 on 8th September 1924, the petition had been received by then.

(iv) and (v). No such letter was issued by the President, Railway Board, but the letter referred to is apparently one which was dated from London on 2nd October 1924, and was sent by the East Indian Railway Home Board to their Agent in India.

ABOLITION OF THE CAPITATION TAX IN BURMA.

170. ***Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** Will the Government be pleased to state (i) whether any representations have been made by the people of Burma either to the Government of Burma or to the Government of India for the abolition of the Capitation Tax? (ii) Whether the Government have called for any report in regard to the agitation in Burma about the abolition of the Capitation Tax? (iii) Will the Government be pleased to place the report on the table?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (i) The Government of India have not received any such representation and are not aware if the Government of Burma have received any.

(ii) and (iii). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to-day to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question on the same subject.

COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO THE ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

171. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state why no non-official gentlemen were put on the Committee recently appointed for inquiring into the economic administration of the Post and Telegraph Departments?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state why the said Committee is debarred from inquiring into the rates of pay of the establishment?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The Committee is a purely departmental one, intended to investigate possible methods of economy in the Post and Telegraph Department, more particularly to report whether economy can be effected without loss of efficiency by internal re-arrangement of the methods of working and re-distribution of duties. These points are of purely administrative detail, and in the opinion of Government the inquiry could best be conducted by a small committee consisting of an experienced postal officer, and an experienced telegraph officer, associated with a representative of the Finance Department.

(b) It will be clear, from what I have said, that the Committee has nothing to do with any general revision of rates of pay—a subject which in the opinion of Government does not require further investigation by a Committee at present.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS OF THE POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENTS.

172. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** With reference to the answer given to Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas under question No. 2223, will the Government be pleased to state now at least how the profit and loss accounts of the Post and Telegraph Departments separately stand?

COMMERCIALIZATION OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENTS.

173. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Post and Telegraph Departments will be kept separate in the system of commercialization of accounts, and, if so, from what date?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 172 and 173 together.

As all the branches of the Post and Telegraph Department are administered by one authority a considerable portion of the expenditure is shared by two or more branches and an absolute separation of the accounts is not possible. In the commercial system of accounts which will be fully introduced from the 1st April 1925, there will, however, be separate Block accounts and separate Profit and Loss Accounts for each of the three branches—Post Office, Telegraphs including Radios and Telephones—designed to bring out the actual commercial profit or loss in each. A rough estimated profit and loss statement for the year 1925-26 will also be prepared and attached to the budget Demands for Grants for the Post and Telegraph Department for that year.

NUMBER OF FIRST CLASS POST OFFICES.

174. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar**: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of first class post offices and the number of Indians who are postmasters of such offices?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: The number of first class head post offices is 37 of which 13 are in charge of purely Indian Postmasters.

OPENING OF A TELEGRAPH OFFICE IN BANGALORE CITY.

175. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar**: (a) Are the Government aware that a great deal of inconvenience is felt by the citizens of Bangalore for want of a telegraph office in Bangalore City?

(b) If so, do the Government propose to take steps to open a telegraph office in Bangalore City?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: There is already a combined post and telegraph office in Bangalore City.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: May I know whether it is in the Cantonment or in the City?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: In the City.

REDUCTION OF THE SALE OF OPIUM.

176. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar**: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to reduce the sale of opium?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether steps are taken or are proposed to be taken to see that wherever there are qualified medical practitioners or reputed Ayurvedic doctors the sale of opium is entrusted to them with instructions to sell the same for purely medicinal purposes?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The policy of the Government has always been to reduce consumption, and with that end in view the issue price of opium has been increased progressively about three-fold altogether in the course of the last 10 or 12 years. There is a limit, however, beyond which such enhancement of prices defeats its purpose, as it induces smuggling and other illicit practices. I may point out that the consumption of opium in India which in 1912-13 was Mds. 12,753 had fallen by 1923-24 to Mds. 7,406.

(b) This question could only arise if the Government had decided to restrict the use of opium to its use for strictly medicinal purposes on the prescriptions of qualified medical practitioners. The Government are not satisfied that such a restriction is necessary, advisable or practicable.

RAILWAY CONNECTION BETWEEN ARSIKERI AND MANGALORE

177. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar**: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any project of connecting Arsikeri with Mangalore by direct railway line is under consideration?

(b) Is there any proposal that a portion of that line at least will be taken up by the Mysore State Railways?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) No project for connecting Arsikeri with Mangalore by direct railway line is at present under consideration. The project for a

railway connection between Hassan and Mangalore was prepared in 1917 and its examination showed that its prospects were not good enough to justify construction.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

POLL-TAX IN FIJI.

178. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda**: (a) Is it a fact that Indians are refusing to pay the Poll-tax in Fiji and in consequence Indians including prominent merchants have been sent to jail?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to make a statement about the present situation there?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) and (b). The Government of India understand that numerous protests were made by the Indian community in Fiji against the tax but they are not aware that payment was actually refused or that prominent merchants have been sent to prison. On the contrary it would appear that registrations for payment were proceeding smoothly last March. I may add for the information of the Honourable Member that the Governor has exempted from the tax persons having five dependent children under the age of 18. The whole question of the poll-tax formed the subject of representations by the Colonies Committee of the Government of India last July and the result of those representations is now awaited.

LEPROSY RESEARCH.

179. ***Dr. S. K. Datta**: Will Government state what has been done within recent years to promote research into the causes, dissemination and cure of Leprosy?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Mission to Lepers has kept the leper problem to the fore in India and for several years past researches into the causes, dissemination and cure of leprosy have been engaging the attention of medical and chemical experts working under the auspices of the Indian Research Fund Association, which is financed by Government and which has, since 1916, provided funds both for research and for modern treatment at selected centres. Extracts from the Annual Reports of the Association showing the work done in this connection have been placed in the Library.

In addition, an Indian Council of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association has recently been formed by His Excellency the Viceroy for the purpose of stimulating interest in the problems connected with leprosy and for starting a campaign to stamp out the disease in India.

INSPECTORS OF LEPERS.

180. ***Dr. S. K. Datta**: Will Government state whether any Inspectors of Lepers, as contemplated under the Act of 1898 and amended by the Act of 1920, have been appointed in the administrations under the direct control of the Government of India and, if so, whether the reports of these inspectors show that the provisions of the original Act are adequate for its purpose.

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Lepers Act has not been extended to the areas in question as the number of lepers in those areas is comparatively insignificant. No inspectors of lepers have been appointed in them.

CENSUS OF LEPERS.

181. ***Dr. S. K. Datta:** Have Government ever undertaken a census of lepers in India and, if not, whether any special steps were taken to ensure the statistical accuracy of the figures which formed a part of the general census of 1921?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: No special census of lepers has been undertaken by Government, nor have any special steps been taken to ensure the statistical accuracy of the figures obtained during the last ordinary decennial census in the case of lepers. The reasons for this, as the Honourable Member doubtless realises, are the difficulty of diagnosing the disease in its early stages and the powerful motives which operate to prevent individuals from admitting infection except when concealment becomes impossible.

RESTRICTION OF THE SLAUGHTER OF USEFUL AND PRIME CATTLE

182. ***Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** (1) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of the cattle under the different heads of (a) bulls, (b) bullocks, (c) cows, (d) he-buffaloes, (e) she-buffaloes, and (f) calves, slaughtered directly in Government butcheries as also the quantity of beef supplied by contractors for supply of food to the army?

(2) Have the Government of India consulted the Provincial Governments on the subject of restricting slaughter of useful and prime cattle? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of their replies on the subject?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (1) I regret that it is impossible to obtain the information required by the Honourable Member. No such figures are on record. I may mention, however, that bulls, male and female buffaloes and calves are not slaughtered in Government butcheries at all; and that, under standing orders, slaughter is normally confined to bullocks unfit for work and cows no longer capable of yielding milk.

(2) The Government of India have not addressed Local Governments on the specific question of restricting the slaughter of cattle, but they have impressed on them the importance of improving the various breeds of Indian cattle and their number and they are themselves taking action in that direction.

ARRESTS IN BENGAL UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818 AND BENGAL ORDINANCE I OF 1924.

183. ***Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state under the authority of what law have Subhash Chandra Bose and 71 other persons been arrested by the Government of Bengal on the 25th October 1924 and whether the warrants under which they have been arrested were directed specifically for their arrest or not?

(b) Under what sections of the law have they been respectively arrested and for how long have they been kept in custody?

(c) Whether and if so when and under what provisions of the law are they going to be put on trial?

(d) Have the material facts and circumstances in the possession of the Local Government on which the orders have been passed against them been placed before any Judges, and if so, before whom?

(e) Whether any visiting committee has been constituted by the Government of Bengal under section 20 of the Ordinance No. 1 of 1924?

(f) What allowances, if any, are being given to them or their families and what arrangements have been made about their food and clothing?

(g) Will the Government be pleased to place before the Assembly a list of the incriminating articles found during the searches that led to their arrest?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) and (b). Mr. S. C. Bose and 18 other persons were arrested on warrants issued under section 3 of Regulation III of 1818. 63 other persons were arrested without warrants under section 14 of the Ordinance. The majority of persons detained were arrested on 25th October 1924. A few were arrested at later dates. Those arrested under the Regulation are still in custody. Of those arrested under the Ordinance some have been restricted to definite areas, others remitted to custody in jails.

(c) The fact that any action has been taken against any person under the Ordinance or Regulation III will certainly not preclude such persons from being brought to trial for any substantive offences regarding which Government are advised that a prosecution is in the public interest. The policy of the Government of India is to bring persons to trial for substantive offences wherever possible.

(d) All the cases have been placed before two Sessions Judges whose names I am not prepared to give.

(e) Visiting Committees have been constituted.

(f) Those persons detained in jails at present receive no personal allowance but are given special diet and clothing and personal comforts. For those detained within prescribed limits outside jails suitable allowances have been sanctioned with due regard to their station in life and the locality of their detention. Family allowances are given according to the station in life of the detainee and the extent to which the family were dependent on him at the time of his arrest.

(g) The answer is in the negative.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know whether of the two Judges 12 Noon. who have been appointed to examine the cases any of them is an Indian?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I should like to have notice of that question. This is a Bengal matter and I really do not know.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: I should like to know whether any charges have been framed against persons referred to in (a) and whether the persons concerned were informed of the circumstances appearing against them and whether any explanations have been obtained from them?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Does the Honourable Member mean persons detained under Regulation or Ordinance or both?

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: Both.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The answer is the same. Charges have been framed.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: Have any explanations been taken?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: They have been given an opportunity, as I have already stated in reply to questions, but in many cases they have not availed themselves of it.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: With reference to the charges, may I know whether they have been told of the evidence that lies against them?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I am not prepared to make any other statement beyond the fact that they have been asked to reply to charges.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: Am I to take it that it is useless to say what the evidence is against these people to which they might reply?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: If the Honourable Member refers to the names of persons who have given evidence and desires this communicated to the world at large, it would result in immediate murder and I would not dream of it; but the purport of the charges have been communicated.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: I am afraid my question has not been understood. I want to know whether the persons who are now under detention have been told of the evidence which is against them, so that they might be in a position to meet them.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: They have been told of the charges brought against them and of the general scope of the case. They certainly have not been told of the names of persons who gave information, nor do I intend to tell them.

Mr. Chaman Lall: With regard to part (d) of the question, may I know whether the decision of the Judges will be available to this House?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The finding of the Judges would be available, not the terms of the decision.

Mr. Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable Member place it on the table?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I have already stated that the Judges found there was reasonable ground for believing that these detainees were concerned in a terrorist conspiracy.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know whether the Government have so far had any communication that it would be possible for them to put any of them on trial?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: With reference to that question, it is obvious I cannot give a detailed answer, but I can give this assurance that, compatibly with the public interest, if we can bring these people to trial they will be brought to trial.

Mr. Chaman Lall: Arising out of the Honourable Member's reply, may I ask whether he will be prepared to make a statement before this House as to the evidence, leaving out the names of the witnesses who have given the evidence in each one of these cases?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Most certainly not. Disclosing facts would be as bad as disclosing names. To disclose facts would undoubtedly lead to outrages at once.

Mr. Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable Member give this House information as to the number of witnesses murdered in such cases?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The Honourable Member should put down that question.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MERCANTILE MARINE COMMITTEE.

184. ***Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray:** Will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, are the Government going to take to give effect to the recommendations made by the Mercantile Marine Committee in their report and when are they going to do it?

REPORT OF THE MERCANTILE MARINE COMMITTEE.

207. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to unstarred question 455 in the Assembly on the 22nd September, 1924, *re* "the Conversion of the Royal Indian Marine into an Indian Navy", will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have considered the report of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee?
- (b) If they have, will they please communicate their decision to the House?
- (c) If not, by what time is it expected that they will consider the Report?

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MERCANTILE MARINE COMMITTEE.

444. ***Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan:** Have Government considered the recommendations of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee?

Are Government in a position to say which of the recommendations (if any) they are likely to adopt and put into effect in the immediate future?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I shall take up questions Nos. 184, 207, and 444, together, for the sake of convenience as they relate to the same subject.

The Report of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee is being considered by the Government of India, but no definite decision has yet been reached on the various recommendations made by the Committee.

TRIBUTES TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE MR. EDWIN
SAMUEL MONTAGU.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer (Madras: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, with your permission, I desire to make a reference to the loss sustained by this country in the sad and untimely death of Mr. Edwin Samuel Montagu and to pay a tribute of appreciation to his work and worth. India has had many friends and benefactors among Englishmen, but of none of them could it be said that he was a truer friend or a greater benefactor than Mr. Montagu. Since the assumption of the Government of India by the Crown there have been several Secretaries of State; there have been among them able men, upright men, men who strove to do their duty by this country to the best of their lights. But their lights were generally coloured by the atmosphere of English interests. In the history of Indian constitutional progress, two names will stand out as shining landmarks, the name of Lord Morley and the name of Mr. Montagu. But in the case of Lord Morley, philosophic radical as he was and the gifted man of letters that he was, he never succeeded completely in carrying out his own advice of getting into the skins of other people and understanding them. He confessed he could never be anything but an Occidental and he could never fully enter into the aspirations of the Indian people. He confessed that he could not visualise any date when Parliamentary institutions could be introduced into India. But in the case of Mr. Montagu, he loved India, and he understood India. The uplift and advancement of India in the path of political progress were the tasks which he set before himself and to which he dedicated his life. India filled and fired his imagination and absorbed his sympathy, as it did in the case of Edmund Burke. He believed in a noble destiny for India and he identified himself with that destiny. The sacrifice of his brilliant career was brought about by his desire to heal the wounded feelings of the millions of our Mussalman fellow-countrymen by procuring a revision of the treaty of Sevres. It is doubtful whether but for his masterful personality and his untiring championship the spacious promises which were made by British statesmen in the early years of the war would have been translated into action to the extent to which they have been. Opinions may differ as to the merits of the scheme evolved by Mr. Montagu, but there can be no doubt that the feet of India have been firmly planted on the path of constitutional progress and I would ask which constitutional experiment has been free from imperfections and whether it was possible to have introduced and carried through a measure of larger scope than the one which was carried through by Mr. Montagu. Sir, the term Empire builders has been applied to many who have extended the geographical boundaries of Greater Britain, but I think the term would be more truly applied to the statesman who strives to extend the hand of fellowship and the moral influence of Britain and draw together the hearts of people of distant countries and of different races and creeds. Such an Empire builder was the late Mr. Montagu. I would ask you, Sir, to convey to the members of his family our feelings of profound sympathy and sorrow and to express to them the sentiments of affection, admiration and gratitude with which the name of Mr. Montagu will continue to be cherished by the people of this country.

Pandit Motilal Nehru (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I associate myself and the members of my Party with the remarks which have just fallen from Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer. However much we may be dissatisfied with the constitution that the late Mr. Montagu gave us, there can be no doubt that he did his best and

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that against enormous odds. We honour the memory of a friend; we respect his good intentions; we grieve at his loss, though, at the same time, we deplore the legacy he has left behind.

Sir Campbell Rhodes (Bengal: European): Sir, I desire to associate myself and my European colleagues with the tribute to the memory of Mr. Montagu. This is not the time to enter into the merits of his Reforms Scheme. Time will be the judge. But we have always felt that he was guided by a genuine desire to further the political progress of India and with that belief the community to which I have the honour to belong have done their best to make the Reforms a success. Surely, Sir, that is the finest tribute we can pay to his memory.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I beg to associate myself with this motion. We are not concerned so much on this occasion with regard to the achievements of Mr. Montagu. What we feel, Sir, is that Mr. Montagu was a statesman in the forefront of the statesmen of Great Britain. He was the Secretary of State for India and I am convinced from my own personal knowledge that he was a true and loyal friend of India. He endeavoured to the best of his ability to advance the cause of India. He was the Secretary of State for India who felt for India as much and as keenly as any Indian did. Sir, Great Britain has lost in him a great statesman and India has lost in him a true and a great friend.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member): Sir, when the sad news of Mr. Montagu's premature death was received in India the Government of India despatched a telegram to the Secretary of State in which they expressed their deep regret at his death and their appreciation of his services. That telegram was published at the time and I will not detain the House by reading it. But I feel that, as the Leader of this House, I should say a few words on this matter. And if the House would give me a little indulgence I should like to deal with it from a somewhat personal point of view. At one period of my career I was somewhat intimately associated with Mr. Montagu. It was the period during which the Government of India Bill was being prepared at home and the period during which it was being passed through the Houses of Parliament. During the later period, at any rate, it was my duty to see Mr. Montagu at all times of the day and frequently late at night. I saw him under all the conditions of that very wearying time. I was very greatly impressed by his personality. I think anybody who was brought into that intimate relation would have been so impressed. He was a man of marvellous industry, of remarkable grasp, with a most versatile brain. It was said at the time that he could recite the amending Government of India Bill by heart. He certainly knew it better than any body else. He was often subjected to attacks of pain which greatly handicapped him. In spite of this he was always alert and always devoted to his task. I cannot help feeling indeed that his premature death was very probably hastened by the great strain which he underwent during those trying weeks. Honourable Members have said that the late Mr. Montagu was a friend of India. They have said less than the fact. No one who was associated with him could ever doubt that he had an enthusiastic devotion to India and to her interests which amounted almost to a religion. He lived to see the Act pass. He has not lived to see the final working of the Act. But I have no doubt that, when the time comes to write the history of India—and that history can be written judicially only when the dust of

[Sir Alexander Muddiman.]

debate has died down—the name of Mr. Montagu will be found written large in that history.

Mr. President: After what has been said it only remains for me to endorse the tributes that have been paid from all sides of the House. In view of the personal relation that I had with Mr. Montagu, perhaps the House will bear with me if I add a further word. The Honourable the Home Member's speech was more of a personal than of a political nature. I sat with Mr. Montagu in the House of Commons for 9 or 10 years. I had the interest and the pleasure of watching him serve his apprenticeship in Indian affairs when he was Under Secretary of State for India with Lord Morley as his chief in the office of the Secretary of State. At the end of the war, when many of us in England were casting about trying to find a clearer outlook into the future, Mr. Montagu was still then the Secretary of State for India and was devoting himself with a single mind and wholeheartedly to the interests of his great office. The particular personal interest that I have is that in the summer of 1920—and here I am revealing what I may call a public secret—it was on Mr. Montagu's personal recommendation to His Excellency the Viceroy that Lord Chelmsford invited me to take up the office which I now have the honour to hold. Therefore, in a special degree both as a friend and a colleague of Mr. Montagu in the House of Commons and as one who owes to him the nomination to a post which I regard as a pride and honour to hold, I think I am well justified in adding my personal tribute to the memory of the late Secretary of State. Many tributes have been paid to his memory, but the essential of his memory to India is that to which Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer and others have referred, namely that remarkable quality, which was more an instinct than an intellectual quality, which enabled him to appreciate the minds and thoughts and aspirations of men very different to himself, the proof of which we have seen to-day in the remarkable tributes which have been paid to his memory from all sides of the House. I shall make it my duty to send an early copy of these proceedings to his relatives, and accompany it with a letter in which I shall endeavour to describe the genuine sincerity and emotion which animated the speeches which have just been made. (Applause.)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MANŒUVRES.

Mr. President: The House will remember that at the close of the questions yesterday, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer invited me to address to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the appreciation and thanks of those Members of this House who witnessed the manœuvres and the review. I have received from His Excellency the following letter, which the House will be interested to hear:

“ ARMY HEADQUARTERS.
Delhi, 22nd January, 1925.

From—General Lord RAWLINSON, Commander-in-Chief in India,

To—The Honourable Sir FREDERICK WHYTE, Kt., President of the Legislative Assembly.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of to-day, and to express to you, and through you to the Assembly, my grateful thanks for their expression of appreciation in regard to the arrangements made for them to view the recent military operations.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MANŒUVRES.

I shall have great pleasure in conveying to those officers of the Army Department and Army Headquarters, who were responsible for the arrangements, the kind message of appreciation which your letter so courteously expresses.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

RAWLINSON.”

I see His Excellency is present and I think we may repeat in his presence what we said behind his back, that we are very grateful to him.

Mr. Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): May I take the opportunity of asking you, Sir, to convey the sympathy of this House . . . ?

Mr. President: Order, order

Mr. Chaman Lall: What I am about to say will appeal to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

Mr. President: Order, order; if the Honourable Member is prepared to reconsider what he said yesterday, I shall be very glad to give him an opportunity.

Mr. Chaman Lall: I am merely requesting you to convey the sympathy of this House to the soldier who, I understand, was wounded during the manœuvres, and who is reported to have lost a limb as well as the sight of both eyes.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief: I am very grateful for the expression which has fallen from the lips of the Honourable Member who has just sat down, and perhaps it will be of interest to the House to know that the soldier who was wounded, and who it was stated in the press was likely to lose his sight, is progressing very favourably. One eye is quite right, and the other there is great hope of saving.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

Mr. President: Under the Standing Order, I appoint the following Panel of Chairmen;

Mr. K. C. Neogy,

Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah,

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, and

Mr. Darcy Lindsay.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS BILL.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar (Madras ceded districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I owe an apology to this House for not having been present yesterday, so that a slight dislocation of business seems to have been caused by this Resolution not having been moved yesterday. However, with this apology, I beg to move that the Select

[Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar.]

Committee to which the Bill to give effect to certain articles of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Circulation of, and Traffic in, Obscene Publications, has been referred, do consist of the following members, namely:

The Honourable the Home Member,
Mr. K. C. Neogy,
Pandit Shamlal Nehru,
Maulvi Abul Kasem,
Mr. K. K. Chanda,
Mr. M. C. Naidu,
Kumar Ganganand Sinha,
Mr. K. Venkataramana Reddi,
Pandit Shambhu Dayal Misra,
Pandit Nilakantha Das, and
my humble self,

and that the number of Honourable Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be six.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: I desire to add the name of Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar to the Committee.

Mr. President: The question is that the name of Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar be added to that Committee.

The motion was adopted.

(At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was taken by Mr. K. C. Neogy, one of the Panel of Chairmen.)

RESOLUTION *RE* RE-TRANSFER OF SYLHET AND CACHAR TO BENGAL.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): Sir, I move the following Resolution:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to be pleased to take early steps to give effect to the Resolution which was passed by the Legislative Council of Assam in July last asking that the Districts of Sylhet and Cachar be re-transferred to the Bengal Presidency."

I will not detain this House with a very long speech in support of this Resolution. Many of my friends in this House expressed a surprise that I should be the person to move a Resolution in regard to a subject in which I am not personally interested, and which is not one of an all-India character, but I will say this much in regard to that. Barring the Members from Assam and Bengal there is probably none in this House who is better qualified to appreciate the feelings of the people of Sylhet and Cachar than I who come from Berar. The Members of this House probably know and

the readers of the Montford report must be fully aware of the fact that the people of Berar have been clamouring for the last twenty years against the very grievance under which the people from Sylhet and Cachar have been suffering. Thought or idea is something like a wave that runs through the ether and seeks to find its own station of sympathy, so similar ideas running through all the Indian atmosphere have found sympathy in Berar, as it is charged with a similar sentiment. So it is not inappropriate that the Resolution should be in my hands. Secondly, Sir, though the Resolution in its concrete form is no doubt of a somewhat local nature, the principle underlying that Resolution is of very great importance to the people of this country. The principle underlying it is this. In the form of this Resolution I am asking this House to consider the big and important thing on which the success of the Reforms was made to depend by those who were the Authors of the Report. The principle was that for the success of these Reforms, the present arrangement of the Indian Provinces required to be changed. The present Provinces are more or less formed not on any scientific principle recognising the claims of racial or linguistic affinity, but they are mere groups put together in the name of Provinces on a principle which only recognises the claims of administrative convenience or financial expediency. In fact the formation of Indian Provinces had generally followed the lines of the military conquests of the British arms and the territorial achievements of the British people, that is diplomacy rather than any other well recognised principle. That being the case and the success of the Reforms to a large extent being dependent upon the creation of properly manageable units upon the principle of linguistic and racial affinity as well as consequential transfers of districts to different administrations on the principle formulated there, I think it is necessary that the Members of this House, when they have given their acceptance to the principle, should insist upon seeing that that principle should at least be given effect to as regards a territory where a clear case has been made out. Now, so far as these two districts are concerned, it is known to every one that long before the era of Reforms when Assam was not carved out of the Bengal Presidency, they formed part of the Province of Bengal. The facts are known to every Member of this House who is at all well informed. I will only say this much. These two districts were tacked on to Assam not because there was anything in common between them and Assam. There are two groups of districts there, one known as the hill tracts and the other which is called the Assam Valley. From these two tracts Sylhet and Cachar are separated geographically. They form a unit by themselves, and that is known generally by the name of the Surma Valley. The position of these two districts is entirely apart from the remaining districts of Assam which form a province by themselves. If you know something of Assam, as I have endeavoured to do during the last three or four days—and I must admit that my knowledge of Assam and its geography has very much improved during that time—you will know that, when the new province was being set up there, these two districts in the Surma Valley were naturally tacked on to it just to support the administrative machine newly set up. That was in 1874. But when that was done the people of these two districts had a very serious grievance against the Government. A deep injury, a deep wound had been inflicted on them; and although in those days of the early seventies public opinion was only half formed—we find that even in those early days the people presented a petition to the Viceroy asking, praying on their knees, that they should not be tacked on to Assam. They felt it a great grievance, and a great wrong had been done to them and ever since that time, since 1874, they have kept

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

up this agitation to this day. Those who have followed the course of this agitation, the history of which is given in the pamphlet circulated to Members, know that for the last 50 years the people of these two districts have been continuously agitating over this question in one way or another, through the press, the platform, the Provincial Council, and the Imperial Legislature. The services of all these institutions have been requisitioned by them ; and through all these various agencies they have been trying to convince the Government of India that the people of Sylhet and Cachar do not desire to remain as part of Assam. They want to go back to Bengal. What has been the historical position? I do not want to tire you with the arguments which make up the case of the Sylhet and Cachar districts or the grounds on which they seek reunion with Bengal. I will only read out to you one or two paragraphs from the little pamphlet I have here which is really more illuminating than anything I may venture to say :

" Sylhet contains full one-sixteenth of the total Bengali population. Its affinities, religious, social and linguistic with the Bengali-speaking population of Bengal are of the closest kind. Its ancient history and culture have from time immemorial been organically bound up with those of Bengal."

They feel their present position very much. And not only that, but they are ethnologically and racially quite distinct from the rest of Assam, which has been practically conceded by the Government of Assam itself as also by the Government of India. The Government of India in their despatch of the 5th June 1919 gave expression to the following view :

" The problem is also complicated by the cleavage, geographical as well as religious, social and political, between two valleys which comprise the more advanced portion of the province. The Assam Valley is mainly Hindu and animistic. In Surma Valley, Muslims are in a majority. One experienced officer has indeed gone the length of advising that so different are the conditions and interests of the two valleys that separate administration appears necessary, if a real advance towards responsible government is to be made."

Now that is the opinion of an experienced officer ; and I have placed these extracts before you to show that the case for the re-transfer of these two districts to Bengal is very strongly made out. That is the position then ; and after that the only thing that was necessary for the Government to do was to retain these two districts with the rest of Bengal when the partition was revoked in 1911 ; but unfortunately the Government did not want to do anything of the kind, although the principle behind their action at that time was this—that Government wanted to organise entire Bengal into a solid unit. Now, if they had been true to that principle, one of the things necessary was to retain the two districts of Sylhet and Cachar with Bengal and not to send them back to Assam again ; but unfortunately that was not done. A very great agitation on the part of the people of those two districts was got up at the time and the Viceroy was petitioned ; but to their great disappointment Lord Hardinge expressed his inability to do anything. However the people did not remain silent there. They went on agitating till the present reform policy was clearly enunciated. Honourable Members will find that in the Reform Act itself it has been recognised that the present Provinces are certainly not the proper sort of units for the purposes of responsible government. But what they declared was this, that the proper time to consider the question of the redistribution of provinces on a linguistic and racial basis was after the Reforms were introduced and not

before. That was the reason why the grievance was not considered and remained unheeded till the Reforms were introduced. After the Reforms were introduced, they made another effort and questions were put several times ; and at one time, Mr. Latthe moved a Resolution on this point, namely, the redistribution of provinces on a linguistic basis. The then Member for Assam in this Council had specifically urged the claims of Cachar and Sylhet ; but the reply then given by the Honourable the Home Member, Sir William Vincent, was that he was unable to understand that the public opinion of Cachar and Sylhet was just as was explained by that particular Member, that the Resolutions adopted by public bodies and in public meetings were vague and intangible and there was no substantial or real evidence on which he could act. He wanted it to be proved by some other method and the method he suggested was that the people of Assam should ask their representatives in the Assam Council to move a Resolution on the subject and that would be a proper occasion when he could take their verdict seriously into consideration. But, Sir, you can easily know the difficulties of people in a little tract tagged on to another tract who have a majority in the Council in securing the consent of those who are separated from them. The Joint Parliamentary Committee realised the difficulty of the position and they therefore specifically recommended, while dealing with the subject, that people who wanted to have a separate existence in a separate province or sub-province ought not to be kept dependent upon securing the consent of the other members who are probably interested in retaining them as part of their own province. The Committee said that their case should be considered and decided by the Government ; if they found that the representatives of the particular tracts who suffered under the evil were unanimous, or practically so, their wishes ought to be considered. That was the position taken up by the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The Home Member imposed a little harder test upon them. It was really the test imposed upon them by His Excellency Lord Chelmsford in his Goalpara speech. Now, you find that even this harder test the people of Cachar and Sylhet have faced. The debate that took place in July last in the Assam Legislative Council is very important. It was a full dress debate in which the question was thrashed out from all points of view and every point that was raised in opposition was fully met by the Mover of the Resolution. The Government tried to get behind the clear policy laid down in the Parliamentary Committee's Report and the repeated statements made by the Home Member in the name of the Government of India. The Finance Member of Assam tried to persuade the remaining Members to vote against the proposition ; but you will find that after all the majority carried that Resolution ; and one thing that you will particularly take note of is this, that the Muhammadan and Hindu Members were practically unanimous. The Assamese Members also gave their consent and they voted for the Resolution. The people of Sylhet and Cachar do not want to be part of Assam and the Assamese Members have no objection whatsoever to their being sent back to Bengal. That is the position. So far as the voice of the people is concerned, therefore, there is no difficulty in ascertaining their opinion. Public opinion has been so clearly stated and indicated that every possible condition that was imposed upon them to give proof of their genuine desire to go back to Bengal has been satisfied. What remains is this. There is what the Government of India have promised to do. The Government of India wanted them to fulfil these conditions. Those conditions have been fulfilled. It is now for this House to ask the Government of India whether they are going to take into consideration the

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views expressed by the people in so clear and unequivocal a manner or whether they are going to keep the question hanging like that. It is due to this House that the wishes of the people so clearly expressed must be translated into action and this House must therefore move the Government to take the necessary steps to translate those wishes into action and not merely give an academic assurance. The only matter which this House has to consider in a question like this is this. You need not go into the merits of the case at all; those who are competent to form a judgment on this point, those who are most vitally interested in the question, have given their clear opinion on this point; and after this opinion has been ascertained and unequivocally expressed the Members of this House must see that the partial principle of self-determination in the reform policy is translated by the Government of India into action; it must not remain as a mere academic assurance which is not meant to be acted upon. The only principle which has received recognition in the reform policy is as regards the right of the people to form themselves into a sub-province or remain part of this province or that. In other matters of course we know what our position is; but in this matter it has been accepted and recognised. Now it is for us to see that the Government of India do not at any rate go back on this partial principle that has been recognised, and that they make every possible endeavour to translate that principle into action. Nothing more has to be done by us in this matter. I hope, therefore, that the House will see every reason to carry this Resolution in the form in which I have put it and ask the Government of India to redeem their pledge given to the people of Sylhet and Cachar. You will also find, gentlemen, that . . .

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The Honourable Member should address the Chair and not the Members of this House.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Sir, Honourable Members will also that the claims of the people of Sylhet and Cachar have been practically recognised as perfectly justifiable by the Governor of Assam himself. After the Resolution was carried in the Assam Council, there was a speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor on the 17th September last and in that speech he stated that personally leaving sentiment aside there would be no difficulty from the financial or administrative point of view if Sylhet were transferred to Bengal; so far as Sylhet was concerned, it was clearly recognised that there was a clear case and an undeniable claim. But it was the case of Cachar that gave rise to misgivings in the mind of His Excellency the Governor. But having read his speech I find there is really no substantial argument which he has given to exclude Cachar from the claim which he recognised and conceded in favour of Sylhet but only an apprehension that he had in mind that if Cachar goes away possibly another district would make a similar claim and Assam would gradually be depleted of its territory and reduced to a very narrow area, or at any rate to such a narrow area that it would not be able to sustain the status of a Governor's province, and the position of Assam would be one of inferior dignity. That is the sort of thing the Governor had in mind. As regards that I want to say with some degree of confidence that the existence of a Governor's province or no Governor's province ought not to be a criterion in judging the case on its merits. If there is justice in the demands of the people of Cachar, I am sure that it ought to be met; and, secondly, his apprehensions are to my mind unfounded. The size of a province or the size of a tract or the numerical strength of a population is certainly not laid down anywhere. There is

no mechanical standard like that to fix the limit of an area of nation. A nation is a compact whole as it is. You cannot make any accretion to it and make it a mechanically bigger one. You cannot deny a people the right to autonomy. That being the case the right of Assam to existence as an autonomous province will be undeniable, whatever may be its numerical strength. It deserves to live as a nation. Are there not even smaller nations in Europe to-day? I am sure, whatever be the size of Assam, Assam will be several times bigger than those small nationalities whose existence has been safeguarded during the last few years in Europe. So the size of a nation should be no consideration in considering the rise of a nationality. Therefore, these apprehensions which were entertained by His Excellency the Governor and which alone were responsible for his not giving his consent to the motion passed by the House ought not to deter you from forming an independent opinion on this question. Let us give an assurance to the people of Assam that this House shall be the strongest bulwark to support their claim in any calamity that may befall them as a consequence of our act to do justice, namely, to have the two districts re-transferred to Bengal. I am confident that this House will carry the Resolution and compel the Government of India to redeem the pledge which has been given to the people of Sylhet and Cachar times out of number.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member): Sir, I must congratulate my Honourable friend on the result of his two or three days' study of the position as regards Sylhet and Cachar, and the admirable speech at such short notice which he has made in support of his motion. He mentioned that he had distributed a pamphlet to most Members of the House. He might perhaps have included me in the distribution list. I did not receive the pamphlet. I also notice that he drew some analogy between the Berars and the case of Sylhet and Cachar. I did not quite follow him on that point. We are fortunate in having in this House an officer who has not devoted two or three days' study to the question of Sylhet and Cachar but has served in one of those districts for many years, and I hope later he will be able to give you local information which may be useful in enabling this House to come to a correct understanding as to local conditions there.

Before I turn to the subject generally I should like to take up one or two points. It has been said that the cry for the transfer of Sylhet and Cachar has been insistent for a number of years. It is undoubted that the Sylhet question has been mooted from time to time. But I am unable to find that the question of the transfer of Cachar has been raised. It certainly was not referred to by my predecessor, Sir William Vincent, when he dealt with the Resolution in which the question of Sylhet was brought up.

As regards Sylhet, the position is that, when the East India Company got the *dewani*, it passed into Bengal and there it remained till the province of Assam was constituted in September 1874. Sylhet was not first included in that province but it was included some six months afterwards. Cachar passed to the East India Company in 1826 and was included in Assam from the commencement of that Chief Commissionership. That is the position as regards the way in which these two districts have been treated in the past. When Eastern Bengal and Assam was constituted, the two districts went with that province. On the re-partition, Cachar and Sylhet again went back to Assam.

The main argument used by my Honourable friend was not based on local conditions but was of a general character. I do not propose to go

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into that, because there is a Resolution on the paper which if discussed will give a more convenient opportunity for doing so. But I may point out in passing that the general argument he used would require the re-transfer to Bengal not only of Sylhet and Cachar but possibly also Goalpara. The question of Goalpara was raised at one period. I think it was raised in paragraph 13 of the despatch which the Honourable Member quoted. But in that despatch nothing was said about Cachar at all. So much on the points raised by my Honourable friend. Now as to the Resolution generally it is obvious that it raises a very serious question. We are asked to transfer from Assam, which has a total population of 7,600,000, these two districts. Sylhet has a population of roughly 2,500,000 and Cachar has a little over 500,000. The total population of these two districts is something like 3,000,000. That would mean the moving over of 3,000,000 and leaving the province of Assam with a population of about 4,000,000.

Then there is another point for consideration. You have to consider not only the people who want to go over but also the people who are to receive them. They may have something to say in the matter. One of course has to consider what they may have to say, particularly when, so far as I can gather from the figures, it will not be a profitable transaction for the Bengal Government to take over these districts as I fancy they are districts which may be regarded as minus from the financial point of view. That opinion I express with considerable diffidence because I am not quite sure that this has been exhaustively investigated.

I am well aware of the existence of a body of opinions in favour of the transfer and I think all officers who have served in Bengal have considerable sympathy with the desire that all Bengali-speaking people should be brought under one Government. There is undoubtedly a certain racial feeling in that direction and I am not one of those who undervalue sentiment in these matters. In connection with the argument based on language it is the case no doubt that the language of Sylhet is Bengali, though I am told—and I speak subject to correction—that the Sylhetee would find considerable difficulty in making himself understood in the Nadia district. The Sylhetee dialect, I am credibly informed, is a *patois* which is even more difficult than Chittagongee, which is, I am aware, not understood or only understood with considerable difficulty in the west of Bengal. Still there is that argument. It would of course carry us a long way if accepted as conclusive, for it would inevitably raise the question of Manbhum. There is a large Bengali-speaking population in Manbhum.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): There is an Oriya-speaking population also in Manbhum.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: No doubt. There were protests made when Sylhet was transferred back to Assam, but I find that they were not of such an insistent and important nature as my Honourable friend thinks, for I find a contemporary witness noted at the time that "not a single man came forward to raise the question". That is, I take it, when the then Viceroy visited Sylhet although it was put forward as a grievance. Undoubtedly, on the re-transfer in 1912 a considerable feeling existed in favour of retaining Sylhet in Bengal, and on that point, as I have said, I feel that there is a considerable amount of sentiment, but that it is anything like unanimous even in Sylhet itself is improbable. Indeed, I think if you consider the voting in the Assam Council you will see that that was not the case. The voting was 22 to 18

in a Council of 53. There were quite a lot of abstentions. I had translated some speeches in Bengali of the Members of that Council, and they are rather interesting in the fact that they show that there is admittedly a considerable difference of opinion even in Sylhet and more in Cachar. However, the Government of India are not at present in a position to take any final view in this matter and they will be very glad to hear what the Assembly have to say on the question before coming to their conclusions. I have only had a preliminary report from the Government of Assam some time in December which clearly did not go into the matter in any detail and we have hardly had the time to have more than a brief statement from Bengal. But there are points to which I should like to draw attention which merit the consideration of the House.

One of the arguments I have always heard brought forward in favour of the transfer of Sylhet is that the revenue system of Sylhet is the same as that in Bengal, that is, there is a permanent settlement. It is quite true that a large portion of Sylhet is permanently settled. I have got the figures here. In Sylhet proper there are nearly 2½ million acres permanently settled, and there are 400,000 or 500,000 acres temporarily settled. But the permanently settled tracts are not in any way comparable in their revenue arrangements to the Bengal districts except to the neighbouring district of Chittagong. As you are aware, most of the Bengal districts are settled with big zamindars, whereas in Sylhet—I have not got the accurate figures here—there are something like 50,000 permanently settled estates. So you will see that the argument in regard to the permanent settlement is subject to a certain amount of discount and must be considered in the light of what I have said above. There is another thing. If you consider the case of Cachar, so far as I can gather from the papers that I have read and the discussions which have taken place, the inhabitants of Cachar are not so anxious to be transferred as that when Sylhet is transferred they should not be left behind. That is their point. They say "We do not want to be the only Bengali-speaking district left." They are much smaller in their population than Sylhet and they would like, if Sylhet goes, to go with it. Now, if you take away Sylhet and Cachar from Assam, anybody who looks at the map will see that you have to consider the question of taking away the Lushai Hills, because if you take those two districts you cut off Assam from the Lushai Hills. Whatever may be the financial position as regards Sylhet and Cachar, there is no question whatever that the Lushai Hills are a very expensive commitment. Whether the Government of Bengal and the people of Bengal would like that commitment is a matter that would have to receive consideration. It is certainly a matter for this House to consider whether it would be possible to administer districts of the character of the Lushai Hills when you interpose an intervening portion of another province between you and that place. That is a matter for consideration. Then of course the effect of the transfer on the great communities inhabiting those parts is a matter for consideration and the House may like to have some figures. The distribution of the population among the two great religions inhabiting those districts are as follows. They are in thousands. Muhammadans in Sylhet are 14.33 and in Cachar 1.71. The percentage in Sylhet is 56 and the percentage in Cachar is 32. As regards Hindus, the number is 1,100,000 and Cachar 338,000. The percentage is 43 in the case of Sylhet and 64 in the case of Cachar. I do not think I need go into the question of the redistribution that would have to be considered in regard to the legislatures, if any action was to be decided

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on. That is a matter which obviously must wait till we are nearer a decision than we are at present. As I have said, the position of the Government of India is this. We should be very glad to hear what the Assembly has to say on the question. We shall consider it carefully. We shall naturally consult the Government of Bengal and we shall have again to consult the Government of Assam before we come to any final decision. I really do not know that I need detain the House any further but I hope the House will recognise that this is not a matter which can be disposed of offhand or without very good grounds for action. You cannot take away millions of people and make them part of another province, without asking that province whether they would like to have them. I do not think my Honourable friend did argue that there is a unanimous demand even in the districts concerned. But if he did I may inform him that I have received two strongly worded telegrams of protest. I merely mention this to show that there are at any rate some persons opposed to this proposal.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy) in the Chair.

Mr. W. A. Cosgrave (Assam: Nominated Official): Sir, as this is a matter vitally affecting the province of Assam of which I am the official representative in this Assembly, I desire to make some remarks on this Resolution. I hope the Honourable Mover of this Resolution, Mr. Aney, will not mind if I express my regret that the Resolution was not moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Chanda who, I think I am not exaggerating in saying, has been the brains and driving force behind this movement for the last ten years. I feel as an officer who has served in Sylhet some difficulty in following this Resolution which has been moved by a gentleman from Berar. I found it difficult to hear some of his speech, but as far as I could hear he was talking about the inclusion of Sylhet and "Kacha" in the province of Bengal. Well, Sir, we call it Cachar. I know the Honourable Mover has only had three days or five nights or something like that in which to prepare his speech, and though Assam may be a backward province we do not like to hear one of our districts which is to be transferred to Bengal described as "Kacha". Well, Sir, the Honourable the Home Member has pointed out already that the Resolution of the Assam Council to which it is now proposed to give effect was only carried by the narrow majority of 22 votes to 18. I would emphasise another point in this connection, namely, that the Resolution as originally proposed in the Assam Council referred to Sylhet only. An amendment was proposed after the luncheon interval against the protests of the Honourable the Leader of the House, the Honourable Mr. Webster, and the amendment was carried inserting the words "and Cachar" after the word "Sylhet". The consequence was that the Government representatives had no notice that Cachar was going to be debated on that day, and the representative of the Tea Association was not present, presumably because no mention of Cachar was made in the agenda for that meeting. Sir, the population of the Cachar

district is half a million. Half of that population is composed of Muhammadans and tea garden coolies in about equal shares, that is about 120,000 each. The Muhammadan Member for Cachar opposed and voted against the Resolution while, as I have said already, the Member who represented the tea industry was absent from that meeting. I understand, however, from various things I have heard that the tea industry are now in favour of this transfer. Sir, the tea industry in Cachar is of enormous importance, one-fourth of the population of that district being labourers and their dependants living on tea estates. The Muhammadans of that district also number one-fourth of the population, about 120,000 or 130,000, and I received a telegram from the Anjuman Islamiya of Hala-kandi, an important sub-division in the Cachar district, asking me to oppose this Resolution for union with Bengal. Sir, it is true that the two Hindu representatives from Cachar voted in the Assam Council in favour of this Resolution. I would however point out that most of the Hindus in Cachar are immigrants from Sylhet. The original inhabitants of Cachar are mostly Cacharis or Manipuris or the aboriginal and animistic tribes such as Kukis, Nagas and Mikirs who still live in the hills of the north Cachar sub-division. Cachar was only included for a short time in Bengal, and I submit, Sir, that there is no more reason to transfer it to Bengal on account of the Bengali immigrants settled in Cachar than to transfer to Bengal a district of Behar and Orissa where Bengalis have settled in large numbers. Sir, the Honourable the Home Member has already mentioned in his speech the difficulty of the Lushai Hills. I would like to emphasize that Cachar is a frontier district, being the base for the Lushai Hills. The Lushai Hills is an enormous sparsely-populated hilly area reaching down from Cachar to the Chittagong Hill Tracts. It is a most expensive district to maintain, as there is a battalion of military police, now known as the Assam Rifles, maintained at Aijal, the headquarters of that district. All stores, rations and other things for that battalion and for the civil population at the headquarters station have to come up from Silchar which is more than a hundred miles away from Aijal by bridle path. If therefore Cachar is transferred to Bengal, it would follow that the Bengal Government will have to take over the Lushai Hills, which, from the financial point of view at any rate is a peculiarly unattractive district. I do not know how my Honourable friends, financial experts from Calcutta like Sir Campbell Rhodes and Mr. Darcy Lindsay, will appreciate the possibility of such a district being included in Bengal.

Now, Sir, it may be thought by some Honourable Members that because I have not yet mentioned Sylhet, the Assam Government see no objection to Sylhet being transferred to Bengal and that they only object as regards Cachar. Sir, such an impression would be quite erroneous. The Assam Government realise that a considerable number of the educated people of Sylhet do desire re-union with Bengal, but they are not convinced that the mass of the people desire such re-union or that the mass of the people would benefit by any change in the present system of administration. Now, Sir, I have some personal knowledge of the Sylhet district, having served in that district for one year as Sub-divisional Officer, in 1905-1906 in the Habigunge Sub-division, where is situated the home of my Honourable friend Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda. It is also the birthplace of another distinguished member of this Assembly, the Honourable Mr. B. C. Pal. I have also served from 1912 to 1916 as

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Deputy Commissioner or additional District Magistrate of that district. So even if I have not been there for the last 8 years, I possibly may know a little more about the district than the Honourable gentleman from Berar. Now, Sir, I admit there is some force in some of the arguments in favour of the Resolution. Those are the arguments about the similarity of language and racial affinity. As the Honourable the Home Member has already pointed out the dialect spoken in the interior of Sylhet differs considerably from the classical language spoken in the villages of Nadia or Burdwan. In fact, I do not think that anybody can really understand the Sylhet language unless he lives there for a number of years.

I know, Sir, if I argue that the people of Sylhet will suffer materially by being transferred to Bengal that Honourable Members from the opposite side may retort that this re-union is a matter of sentiment and that it is their business if they suffer on account of exercising their right of self-determination. I would like, however, to ask my Honourable friends Mr. Chanda and Mr. Ahmad how the people of Sylhet and Cachar suffer by these two districts being in Assam. They enjoy the same privileges as the people of Bengal as regards the Calcutta High Court and as regards the Calcutta University. Further, last year the Assam Government spent more than 2 lakhs on the important project of converting the Murarichand college at Sylhet into a first grade arts college. Sylhet is a deficit district. The expenditure in 1923-24, excluding the expenditure of 2 lakhs on the Murarichand college, exceeded the revenue by more than one lakh. Sir, I would like to inquire whether the Bengal Government in its present condition of financial embarrassment would be able to finance this important educational project of the Murarichand college. Sylhet, unlike the neighbouring Bengal districts, has few rich zemindars who are able to endow schools, colleges and hospitals. The Sylhet district, therefore, stands to gain far more by being united with the temporary settled districts of the Assam Valley with their steadily expanding revenue than by being allied with the deficit permanently settled districts of Bengal. Now, Sir, I understand that one of the arguments in favour of Sylhet and Cachar being transferred to Bengal is that by being included in Assam the people have been deprived of the increased scope of self-evolution. I am not quite sure what that exactly means, but that was one of the arguments put forward by the Mover of the Resolution in the Assam Council. I would ask the Honourable gentleman to my left, the Honourable Mr. Chanda, how the people of Sylhet have suffered as regards self-evolution by being included in Assam. It is an accepted axiom that any sound form of self-government must be built up from below and not constructed from above. The Sylhet district at present is fully decentralised in respect of local self-government. Each sub-division has a Local Board, an independent unit, with a considerable income and real spending powers. On the other hand, in Bengal the Local Boards have little or no power for everything is concentrated in the District Board at the headquarters of the district. Sir, in a question like this, in which sentiment is admitted to be the main consideration, it is needless for me to explain in detail how far the district administration in Sylhet has been decentralised to the great convenience of the people. May I, however, give one example? In Bengal all land revenue has to be paid in at the headquarters of the district. In Sylhet, where there are no less than 50,000 permanently settled

estates paying an average land revenue of Rs. 7, land revenue is paid in the case of permanently settled estates at the five sub-divisional headquarters, while in the case of the temporarily settled estates the land revenue is paid at the Tahsil offices conveniently situated to the areas in which the temporarily settled estates are situated. Does the Honourable Mr. Aney from his experience of Berar think that the decentralised system of administration in Sylhet should be abolished so as to bring it into line with Bengal districts? I question very much if in this matter he would have the support of the innumerable holders of 50,000 permanently settled estates of Sylhet. On the other hand, if Sylhet goes to Bengal, can the Bengal Government be expected to maintain in the Sylhet district the Assam Land Revenue Regulation of 1886 under which the land revenue system is decentralised? Now, Sir, I venture to describe this movement for re-union with Bengal as an unreal agitation. I do not want to labour the fact that the only gentleman who has spoken so far on the non-official side was a gentleman from Berar and that so far no gentleman has spoken from Assam on this subject; but I cannot describe this as anything but an unreal agitation. If the Honourable Mr. Chanda really expects or desires Sylhet and Cachar to go to Bengal, then I would inquire why, after the Assam Council passed their Resolution in last July, does he correspond with Assam Government asking them for their support in his proposal to move the Railway Board at Delhi for a railway to connect Sylhet with Shillong? Again, why in the present month has he moved the Assam Government to participate in the Bengal project for the Grand Trunk Canal? Sir, it is argued that most of the elected representatives of the Sylhet district voted for the Resolution passed by the Assam Council. I would like to point out, however, that in August 1924, after the Resolution was passed in the Assam Council, there was so much difference of opinion between Hindus and Muhammadans in Sylhet on this question that the Surma Valley Conference, sitting under the presidency of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, found it necessary to omit from its agenda a resolution for the re-union of Sylhet with Bengal.

To sum up, Sir, I urge that no case at all has been made out for disturbing the existing arrangements of administration as regards Cachar. If, however, the Bengal Government raise no objection to take over the unwieldy deficit district of Sylhet, then, Sir, I urge, that before any action is taken on this Resolution, an inquiry should be made in that district to ascertain the true wishes of the people.

Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan (Assam: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution which has been so ably moved by my friend Mr. Aney. Before I proceed to deal with the subject matter of the Resolution, I desire to convey my thanks and the thanks of my friend, Mr. Chanda, to the Honourable the Home Member for the sympathetic way in which he has dealt with the subject matter of the Resolution. The Honourable the Home Member in the course of his speech practically admitted that the case for Sylhet stands unanswerable. He admitted that there has been agitation going on ever since 1874 against the separation of Sylhet from Bengal.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member, but I would like to say that I did not say the agitation had been going on from 1874 to 1912. What I did say was that there was agitation in 1874 and there was no recrudescence of that till 1912. That was my point.

Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan: Anyhow I can point to facts to convince the Honourable the Home Member that an agitation has been going on ever since 1874. I will refer him to the memorial presented to Lord Northbrook, the then Viceroy of India. Furthermore the press had taken up the matter, and I will quote just a small passage from the *Hindu Patriot*, voicing the feelings of the people on the question. The passage runs thus:

"The people of Sylhet, it seems, cherish almost the same feeling on the subject of the annexation of their district to Assam that the people of Alsace Lorraine did on the absorption of their country by Germany."

So both on the platform and in the press an agitation had begun as early as 1874, coming down to 1912. This is also by way of an answer to what Mr. Cosgrave says that the agitation is unreal and I suppose got up just for the occasion. In 1912 various meetings took place in Bengal and elsewhere, and as a result of various meetings held in the sub-divisions of Sylhet a memorial signed by all the members of the then Provincial Council was submitted to Lord Hardinge. That was in 1912. I will add that a Resolution for the inclusion of Sylhet was passed by the Indian National Congress in its session of 1911; and furthermore that the people of Assam also held a very important meeting with the object of supporting the Resolution for excluding Sylhet from Assam. So the position is this—that we are not anxious, we do not want to remain as a part of Assam nor are the Assamese very keen to have us in Assam. In December 1917, on the eve of the Reforms, a deputation waited upon the Viceroy and the Secretary of State to present an address renewing the prayer for re-transferring Sylhet to Bengal. These facts prove conclusively that an agitation had been going on, had been very insistent and do not substantiate what my Honourable friend Mr. Cosgrave said, namely, that the agitation was unreal. It is an agitation of long standing, supported by both Hindus and Muhammadans. There was a feeling, however, that if this question of separation unduly passed, there might be some difficulty in connection with the grant of reforms to Assam. I may be permitted to say that in a matter of territorial redistribution there can be only three tests. The first is whether the people desire a change; secondly, whether the people who desire it are sufficiently numerous; and, thirdly, that they speak the same language. I submit that all three tests have been satisfied in the case of Sylhet. My Honourable friend Mr. Cosgrave has drawn the attention of the House to the voting. He stated that whereas only 21 Members voted for the Assam Resolution in the Assam Council as many as 18 voted against it. The House must bear in mind that the 18 consist of the official Members barring three, of whom two are elected and one nominated; so I may say that the sense of the House was unanimously in favour of the re-transfer both of Sylhet and of Cachar to Bengal.

Certain points were raised by the Honourable the Home Member and by Mr. Cosgrave, and I desire to address myself to them next. The Honourable the Home Member stated that a large portion of Sylhet was permanently settled but there was a certain portion which was not permanently settled. I take it he refers to the Jaintia Hills. Well, those are hill tracts and I suppose they do not form an integral portion of the district of Sylhet though for purposes of administrative convenience they have been brought in as such. Further a great deal has been made of the fact that the people of Sylhet do not speak the same language as that spoken by my Bengali friends in Nadia. The same might be said about the Mymensingh and Tipperah districts also. The language spoken in Mymensingh is not the language spoken in Nadia; but the fact remains that the court language of

Sylhet is Bengali, whereas the court language in other districts in Assam is Assamese. It has nothing in common with the Bengali language. Furthermore, there is another point of difference over and above the difference in language between the people of Sylhet and the people of Assam and that is the administrative difference. Whereas in Sylhet we have subordinate Judges and Munsiffs, doing the work of the civil courts, in the Assam districts we have executive officers doing the work of the civil courts. It seems to me no great objection, if objection it can be called, to Sylhet being taken back into Bengal—but there has been an attempt to frighten my Honourable friends from Bengal by saying that if you take Sylhet back you will be taking a beggar into your fold. Well, I question that. Of course there has been a deficit of a lakh of rupees. What that is due to we do not know; it may be due to floods or any one or more of a variety of causes. I am informed by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chanda, that there has been a deficit in one year only, and it seems to me that a trivial matter like this ought not to be allowed to determine the main issue whether Sylhet should remain in Assam or go back to Bengal, simply because there has been a deficit in one year of one lakh of rupees. We are all aware that in Sylhet—and I am also speaking for Cachar—we suffer from great disadvantages in the matter of a University, High Court, Medical College and Engineering College. We have none of those things there; for all those purposes we have got to go to Bengal; and I believe there is no chance of ever having any University, Chief Court or High Court in Assam itself. The province as constituted now is too small and not sufficiently rich to indulge in the luxury of a Chief Court or a High Court or a University for itself

Pundit Shamlal Nehru (Meerut Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I put a question, Sir? I want to know this: if it is a fact that there are no colleges in Assam, is it not a further reason that there should be no separation?

Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan: I only state to the House the difficulties under which we are labouring by being kept a part of Assam, difficulties from which we would not be suffering had we been a part of Bengal. The original purpose for which Sylhet was taken away from Bengal and joined to Assam and made a part of the newly created province of Assam was for financial needs. It was then felt that the newly constituted province consisting of unsettled tracts, vacant lands thinly peopled, could not support the burden of administration, the expenses of a costly administrative machinery, and therefore Sylhet being a contiguous district was joined to Assam. I submit that that reason no longer exists now. The Assam districts can very well stand on their own legs and they too like ourselves need to be constituted into a homogeneous administrative unit. It seems to me that the Honourable the Home Member and Mr. Cosgrave have not adduced any valid ground, not given to you any sufficiently strong ground, which would influence you against accepting the Resolution as it stands. I may say frankly that I have dealt exclusively with the case of Sylhet. I appreciate the difficulties that stand in the way of Cachar being also joined to Bengal, but the fact remains that Cachar is very closely allied to Sylhet. There is the hill portion there, peopled by hill tribes, in a very low state of educational development. That is a problem no doubt. But if Sylhet is to go to Bengal, as His Excellency the Governor of Assam has indicated, Cachar must also go along with Sylhet to Bengal, because Cachar's social and racial connections are with Sylhet and not with Assam. I admit that the case for Cachar is not so strong as the case for Sylhet.

[Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan.]

but nevertheless Cachar is in that peculiar position that it has to go where Sylhet goes.

May I, Sir, in concluding my speech say that, in addition to the advantages that I have enumerated from Sylhet being transferred to Bengal, we hope to have a bigger field for our activities. It may be pertinent to remark in this connection that not a single provincial officer to my knowledge has held charge of a district and I should be meeting the wishes of the Civil Services in saying that they too would welcome the change. In view, however, of what fell from the Honourable the Home Member's lips when he told us that he is not in possession of as complete a report as he would desire to have, I would ask the indulgence of the House to have the debate adjourned till the September session.

Mr. Chairman: May I take it that the Honourable Member moves that amendment formally:

"That the further discussion be adjourned till the September Session?"

Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan: I do so.

Mr. Chairman: The original question was:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to be pleased to take early steps to give effect to the Resolution which was passed by the Legislative Council of Assam in July last asking that the Districts of Sylhet and Cachar be retransferred to the Bengal Presidency."

Since which an amendment has been moved:

"That the further discussion of the question be adjourned till the September session of this House."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was adopted.

(At this stage Mr. K. C. Neogy vacated the Chair, which was taken by Mr. President.)

RESOLUTION *RE* INQUIRY INTO THE QUESTION OF CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju (Gunjam cum Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Resolution which I have the honour to place for the consideration of this Assembly runs as follows:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Committee with a majority of Indian non-officials on it, and with an Indian Chairman be immediately appointed to examine the whole question of exchange and currency in the light of the experience gained since the date of the publication of the Babington-Smith Report, and to make recommendations as to the best policy to be pursued to secure a system of currency and exchange best suited to the interests of India."

Sir, yesterday the Honourable the Finance Member gave us a warning that laymen ought not to read where economic angels fear to tread in dealing with this thorny subject. I do not represent either a financier or an economist but I represent only the poor tax-payer of India. The poor tax-payer needs a good exchange—a good monetary standard—as much as the merchant who exports goods or the merchant who imports goods, as

well as the Government. As the currency problem is a vital problem in the interests of the country I do not propose to rouse the ire of my friends on this side or on the other side or to import passion into its discussion in any manner whatsoever but to place facts before the House whether we have had a satisfactory currency system at all since the year 1893. Sir Basil Blackett started with 1912 yesterday. I would take the House to a much earlier period. Perhaps everybody is aware that till the year 1893 we have had some sort of standard which could be called the silver standard, when under the old Act of 1870 Government permitted the free coinage of silver and the people took the consequences of the rise in the

price of gold, and up to 1893 both the advantages and disadvantages were shared by the people as well as by the merchants. On account of the fall in the price of silver prior to 1893 Government thought that they could not get on unless some steps were taken to prevent the free coinage of silver so as to raise the gold value of silver and they have effectively done it after they stopped it. The people complained that the Government ought not to interfere with the monetary standard of the country by raising artificially its value. Merchants naturally complained that they must have a stable exchange in order to have monetary dealings with other countries, and the Government felt that in order to meet their own charges they could not afford to receive less value for their peoples' tribute which they had been accustomed to receive till then. But one thing is apparent from the speeches made by the Members in the old Imperial Legislative Council at Simla as well as by His Excellency the Viceroy then—and it is unfortunate that no additional Member was present on that occasion—that their objective was to have a real, effective, genuine gold standard followed by gold mint and gold currency. That was their objective and they have definitely stated it, but for the time being they were satisfied to raise the value artificially though they expected that one day or other they would reach that goal. Not only on that occasion but even later, even in the year 1910, Lord Meston used words to the same effect. Let me read what he said:

"We have linked India with the gold currencies of the world. We have reached a gold exchange standard. The next and final step is a true gold currency. I trust that it will not be long delayed, for when it comes it will obliterate all the mistakes, all the inconveniences, all the artificialities of our present system."

Now we have had a number of Committees beginning from the year 1866. We had the Mansfield Commission which recommended that gold coins should be made legal tender. Even then, though the Government of India were with the people and the people's representatives, somehow or other the people were not able to carry the sympathy or the support of the home authorities. Even in 1866 the Home authorities did not approve the proposal. Even later on, when the Government of India suggested in 1876 and also in the year 1882, the Home authorities did not agree. Even as late as 1902 when the Government of India strongly pressed for opening a mint, all sorts of imaginary objections were raised by the Home Government and it was shelved and ten years later again when it was moved by the India Government, then also the Home authorities objected to opening it. It was natural for the people to understand that there must be some underlying reason why the Home authorities are standing in the way in spite of the fact that European merchants and Indian merchants and representatives like Mr. Gokhale and Sir V. Thackersey pressed for opening the mint. The only reason suggested at that time in the papers was that financiers of those countries did not like that India should absorb all the gold as it would disturb the gold

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any improper motive. The only fact referred to by the Judge is that the consideration for document A was Rs. 30, whilst the price of the land is at present Rs. 200. The present price of a moiety would be Rs. 100 and a deduction must be made from it on account of the land reserved for the vendor. But in deciding whether the transaction was *bonâ fide* or otherwise with reference to inadequacy of price, regard should be had to the state of things as it might have appeared to the contracting parties at the time when the transaction was entered into; for, even a *bonâ fide* purchaser who takes upon himself the risk of litigation and consents to lose what he pays in a specified event, would ordinarily hesitate to pay the price which the property would fetch when the litigation proves successful. We are unable to concur in the opinion of the Judge that the transaction is champertous because the respondent No. 1 accepted an inadequate price on account of his need, and we shall therefore ask him to return a finding on the first issue, and, if it is in the affirmative, also to return findings upon the evidence on record on the other questions raised by the memorandum of appeal filed in his Court within six weeks from the date of the receipt of this order, when ten days will be allowed for filing objections.

ORIGINAL CIVIL.

Before Mr. Justice Kernan.

1889.
February 20.SHANKS v. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA
IN COUNCIL.*

Civil Procedure Code, s. 257—Practice—Order for payment of costs of day—Payment into Court or to party.

Where a party to a suit was directed by the High Court to pay the costs of the day, and his solicitor paid the money into Court under s. 257 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

Held, that section was not applicable as the order was not a decree:

APPLICATION made on 20th February 1889 before Mr. Justice Kernan in Chambers for leave to execute an order passed on 18th October 1888 that defendant should pay the plaintiff the

* Civil Suit No. 174 of 1887.

costs of the day. The defendant, instead of paying the amount to the plaintiff, paid it into Court under s. 257 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

The plaintiff's attorney (*Champion*) contended that plaintiff was entitled to have the money paid to him direct, and that the money ought not to have been paid into Court, and that plaintiff was not bound to go to the expense of applying for payment out of Court.

The Acting Advocate-General (Mr. *Spring Branson*) for the defendant contended that the course adopted by the defendant's solicitor was correct, as the order of the Court amounted to a decree within the meaning of s. 257 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

KERNAN, J.—An order was made, under s. 218 of the Civil Procedure Code on the 18th of October last, that the defendant should pay the costs of the day. The taxed costs, including Rs. 45 for costs of execution, amounted to Rs. 189-8-0. The defendant's attorney lodged the amount in Court, treating the order as a decree under s. 257. Section 257 provides that all moneys payable under a decree should be paid as follows: 1st into the Court whose duty it is to execute the decree, &c. The present is an application to me in Chambers to decide whether payment into Court was the proper course for the defendant's attorney to adopt. A decree is defined by s. 2 of the Code to mean the general expression of an adjudication upon any right claimed or defence set up in a Civil Court, when such adjudication, so far as regards the Court expressing it, decides the suit or appeal. Certain orders are in that section specially referred to as within the definition. But the order made in this case is not one of those included in the definition. Amongst the orders excluded from the definition are orders mentioned in s. 588, several of those excluded orders are marked under sections of the Code mentioned in s. 588, which enable the Court to award costs. The result is that orders for payment of costs under the following sections are clearly not decrees, viz., 47, 53, 103, 108, 116, 294, 366, para. 2, 370, 371, 454, 455, 458, 473a, 475, 476, 558, and 560. The order for payment of costs was awarded, in disposing of an application, under s. 218. It was not an expression of adjudication on any right claimed or defence set up, when such adjudications decided the suit. That definition in s. 2 must be applied as the

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trade conditions in that country. How far that has got real foundation it is for Sir Basil Blackett to say. For my part it is enough to state that although European merchants who live in India and share our aspirations in some ways, Indian merchants and the people's representatives and Finance Ministers, one after the other have agreed to it that it is the home authorities that stand in the way of our realising our wish. When they appointed the Fowler Committee, even that committee stated the same thing. Then why should anybody object if we want to have a gold mint? The only thing suggested was that they wanted to adopt what was called Mr. Lindsay's scheme for the present gold exchange standard and they wanted to lull us into accepting it by stating that "not only you but several other countries have adopted it." I shall just mention what other countries have adopted it. The countries that have adopted it are only countries which have no independence and who are subject races. No country which can claim authority in its own domestic affairs ever had it. They referred us to the Phillipine Islands. Perhaps you are aware that the United States have control over the Phillipine Islands. The Dutch have control in Java and they have introduced it. The French have control in Indo-China and they have introduced it and in the Straits Settlements the colonial office have introduced it. Are we to be satisfied with this second-hand compliment of having a monetary standard which is adopted only in slave countries? Why should we not adopt what is in force in countries which are independent, who know how best to manage their own affairs? Sometimes it is stated that in Japan they have adopted this in practice though not in theory, which is different. But neither in theory nor in practice have we got any real standard at all. We have silver rupees circulating which have been coined to the extent I suppose of 600 crores in all these years which are full legal tender. I do not understand how any economist could approve of a token coin being of unlimited legal tender. It is a curious hybrid system which adopted a subsidiary coin for its unlimited legal tender. That has been the case in India. But can you find any real value in the rupee? Absolutely no, except what is dictated by Sir Basil Blackett or laid down by his predecessors in office. It has no other intrinsic value except the value of the silver, because they can put their own value and we have to look to its value in the sterling drafts which are sold in England. Perhaps that is suitable enough for trade purposes to a certain extent; it is suitable for home charge remittances to a certain extent. But is that our idea? Should we have currency only for those two purposes? Should we not have currency for internal purposes which do not depend upon the will of any executive officer? Formerly there was at least a silver standard. A man could purchase silver in the world's markets and take it to the mint and get it coined. Can we do it now? No. Can we do it even with regard to gold? No, for they have put an artificially high value on gold. They say they are prepared to give Rs. 10 for a gold sovereign. I do not think anybody, at any rate at the present time, would be so charitable as to give a gold sovereign to the Government to secure Rs. 10. Perhaps we might have done so in the old days when the Government offered gold sterling drafts for Rs. 7. But that is another story, where by depleting 55 million pounds Sterling by the sale of Reverse Councils we have lost 35 crores. Sir Malcolm Hailey who once eloquently pleaded in support of Reverse Councils at last admitted that it would have saved the depletion of sterling drafts if they had adopted a different course than that actually adopted. That means they committed a mistake. I do not mean to say that nobody should commit mistakes.

To err is human, but our difficulty is that when people think that they never err and that whatever they consider right should be carried out, there it is that the danger lies. That danger is not confined only to administrators but also to experts. It is certain that we are liable to error and when so many factors have to be taken into consideration there are some that might escape our notice. But we are thankful even for little mercies. His Excellency the Viceroy the other day and Sir Basil Blackett yesterday stated that they are willing to appoint a Committee not later than a year, perhaps some day earlier than that even. We are thankful that they have felt the necessity of finding out by proper examination the real and appropriate nature of the currency that suits India after the short experience they have gained of the Babington-Smith Committee's Report. And we have seen a variety of things since that date. Perhaps that Committee never conceived that we would be driven to such an extent as not to be able to fix any ratio which is close to the marketable ratio. They have fixed it at 2 shillings, which is practically not at all within the marketable ratio. Perhaps the Government now think that it is better that a Committee should be appointed. But what we are anxious about is that in the statement made by Sir Basil Blackett it is stated—I will quote his own words:

"We will appoint an authoritative Committee fully representative of Indian opinion to consider an improved method of the gold exchange standard."

What I did not quite understand is whether Sir Basil Blackett means, "what improvements are to be effected in the gold exchange standard." Those were the words used. We felt and some of my friends who have given notice of various amendments felt a doubt whether the Government wanted to confine the reference, as they had done when they referred the matter to the Babington-Smith Committee, and that they should only consider the existing gold exchange standard system and suggest improvements, without giving scope to consider whether any monetary standard should be adopted—whether it should be gold, and whether we should have a genuine gold standard, whether there should be a gold mint at all, whether they should consider the feasibility of a gold currency, whether they should consider that the reserves of the Gold Standard Reserve should be kept in London or in India, whether the sterling drafts should be confined only to remittances for the Home charges or should also be utilised for the benefits of merchants—whether all these things should be considered by that Committee, or they should only report how best either to fix the ratio at 1s. 4d., as suggested by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, or at 1s. 6d. as perhaps the Government might wish it, or whether we should ask this Committee to go into the question and come to a conclusion, if they desire it, that a genuine gold standard is absolutely necessary; whether there should be a gold currency in India, whether there should be a gold mint in India, and so forth. If the Government were to say, "We just wanted only an administrative recommendation in order to facilitate our work," I for my part would say, I have nothing to do with such a Committee. The Committee which I want should go into all these questions. We say we want a Committee, not because we have not made up our mind. If it is left to us, I am sure most of the Members, the majority, would certainly vote for a gold standard, a genuine and effective one, with a gold mint and a gold currency. But, as we have to carry the Government with us we suggested a Committee to consider all these points, and therefore I wish that there should be no restriction in the reference that is to be made to any Committee that the Government may choose to adopt. That is my main point. It is true in his yesterday's speech Sir Basil Blackett stated

[Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju.]

that there should be adequate and full representation of Indian opinion or in other words adequate representation is what he means. But there is this difficulty. On the last two occasions in previous Committees they had only a solitary Indian while the rest were Europeans. After all the persons who will be affected will be a few merchants and many millions of Indians. If a similar question were to be raised in Canada or in New Zealand or in Australia, how many Englishmen from England would be allowed in order to consider what sort of exchange should be introduced? In a Committee recently appointed in South Africa how many men from England were appointed? I think we must have the guidance of the best experts available. I do not dispute it; and that is what Government mean when they say that they want an authoritative Committee. But we want more than that. The world is not always controlled by experts. There is something like reality which will escape the attention of the experts. The persons who actually feel and suffer or take advantage of it are Indians. Should they not have a preponderating voice in the Committee? They cannot have a preponderating voice unless they have a majority. After all the persons will be selected by the Government and not elected by the people; they will be selected by Sir Basil Blackett or by His Excellency the Viceroy. Does Sir Basil Blackett find it impossible to select 5 Indians, say for a Committee of nine, out of 300 millions? If so, the 150 years' rule has not produced even 5 capable Indians to serve on such a Committee. What is the difficulty for the Government to secure 5 such men out of 9? They can have 4 experts. After all, the Committee may recommend some measures and nobody will be bound till they examine them on the merits. It is for the Government to consider them before they place them before the Assembly. What is the difficulty in giving us a preponderating voice in that Committee? We felt that in spite of the recommendations of the Fowler Committee and as well as successive Finance Ministers from day to day we are adopting a policy of drift. We have not stuck to any policy. We want some effective opinion to be expressed by Indians. For that purpose we want a majority and we also suggested a Chairman. For my part I do not attach much value, because out of 9 members selected whoever is the best man might be selected for the chairmanship, whether he was an Englishman or an Indian. I do not mean to attach much value to it. But I attach much value to the fact that in the selection of persons the Government should give Indians a preponderating voice because it is Indians who will be mainly affected. I therefore appeal to the other side and to Sir Basil Blackett. We are thankful to him for inducing the Home Government to agree to a Committee to which but for his persuasion they would not have agreed. There is this difficulty. In spite of all statements to the contrary what would be the effect in other countries if we have gold at our command, if we have a gold currency and a gold mint? If we refer to the report made by Mr. A. V. V. Aiyar as Controller of the Currency for the year 1923-24, we find that except in two years when to the extent of 90 crores we had an adverse trade balance, on all the years we had a balance of trade in our favour. The average of the 5 previous years ending 1913-14 was 78 crores and odd, in 1918-19 76 crores, in 1920 125 crores; only in the year 1920-21 there was 77 crores against us and 20 crores against us in 1921-22. But in 1922-23 we covered it up by 90 crores and in 1923-24 we covered it up by 144½ crores. Supposing we have got the trade balance of, say, 76 to 100 crores, should we not insist on being paid in gold? We sell our articles and we must be paid gold. Those persons who are dealing in gold will naturally pay in gold. Even for those five years during the

war period we have got a trade balance in our favour to the extent of 380 crores. At that time gold was not allowed to be imported on account of the war. But what I say is this. What difficulty is there for India which is exporting so largely and whose trade balance is so favourable to have a gold standard? It has after all been accepted that what you want is about one-fifteenth of the present silver currency if in gold and it ought to be enough for our purposes. But we can command 100 crores of gold in any year. We maintain that we want that and nothing else. The required amount can be raised in a few years. I do not think that is an important point at all. The only thing which I do not want and for the matter of that no Indian would want is that there must not be an extravagant and wasteful luxury by circulating gold unnecessarily. I agree there. But what I say is that, if I want it, I must have a gold currency, not paper or silver. I may not use it because in all gold using countries they generally use paper. We are now using 185 crores of paper currency. It is not because we have not got silver rupees but because nobody cares to have this depreciated rupee in his store. We prefer paper because it is so easy to carry. Why should you carry these rupees which have not got real value? But supposing you have got an appreciated rupee, would anybody care to have paper? Then you will experience difficulty in purchasing silver from America or some other place. But all the same if the people want to have coin it should not be in the interests of Government to prevent them from having it. Let them have that privilege. You can, of course, suggest various methods of utilising their money. After all, the money hoarded in India is comparatively far less than what is hoarded in England itself. This fact was clearly proved when after the war England produced her gold sovereigns which were kept back from circulation for several years. I can therefore safely say that comparatively India has not hoarded as much as England has either in coin or art treasures. After all we have taken about 20 to 30 crores during the last few years and before that we took only 10 crores. You cannot possibly dictate the class of people who should use gold and in what form they should use it. We have used it for one purpose whereas the other countries are using it for a different purpose. But all the same, what we want is some stable standard, a gold standard preferably, and if we cannot have a gold standard, it is far better to have a silver standard than this hybrid standard. Nobody understands it and it depends on the sweet will of the executive. I wish the Government would impress upon the Home authorities to agree, if not now, at some future day, to have a gold standard and not merely to be satisfied with the gold standard but, as Lord Meston suggested, also to have a gold mint and currency. Give up all artificialities and coin gold and let the people have the satisfaction of knowing what they have really got.

Sir, I do not propose to take up any more time. I hope that the whole Assembly will carry this Resolution.

Mr. President: Before I call upon Members to continue the debate, I understand the Home Member wishes to take this opportunity of making an announcement.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member): Sir, I am sorry to interrupt the business of the House, and I will ask your indulgence, Sir, and the indulgence of the House for doing so. I had hoped to make a statement at the proper time this morning, but was unable to do so. It

[Sir Alexander Muddiman.]

refers to the business of next week, and the reason I am making it now is that I understand later in the evening a large number of Members will not be here to hear it, so, with your permission, I will make it now. Honourable Members will remember that yesterday the Honourable Mr. Jinnah raised two points. He asked whether a date could be given for the discussion of the Bengal legislation and I promised then that I would do my best to secure an early date. The other request was a request that the business of the House fixed for Monday should be moved on owing to the Convocation of the Aligarh University. I also promised I would consider that. I regret to find that the two requests are mutually incompatible. If I did the one, I should not be able to do the other, and I think there is no doubt which the House really wants. Therefore, much as I dislike keeping to the business of Monday, I find I must do so notwithstanding the Convocation of the Aligarh University. I myself was invited to that and should have been very glad to have gone, but, in the circumstances of the business of the House, I regret I am not able to make any change as regards Monday. As regards the other matter, I propose to put down on Wednesday, which is an official day, a Resolution which stands in the name of my Honourable friend Mr. Duraiswami Aiyangar, which will enable the House to have the fullest discussion on the subject.

RESOLUTION RE INQUIRY INTO THE QUESTION OF CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE—*contd.*

Sir Campbell Rhodes (Bengal: European): Sir, I will endeavour to be brief and avoid those dangers of inflation which seem to affect speeches on currency matters. I regret that I cannot whole-heartedly support my Honourable friend the Mover. In fact, I have to oppose this Resolution on two grounds, the inclusion first of the word "immediately", and secondly, of the words that a Committee "with a majority of Indian non-officials" shall be appointed. I will take the latter first, because it is obviously the one in which the Mover himself has the most interest. He has told us he is not an expert, and he has indicated that his interest in currency matters is as remote as, say, Berar from Sylhet. I personally, Sir, have not the slightest objection to a Committee composed entirely of Indians, but I would like it expressed in the Resolution as a majority of experts and not as a majority of Indians, for I can only assume from the words and from what the Mover has said that what he wants is really a packed Committee to prejudge the issue and to write its report in accordance with the dictates of people outside. He has not told us what this Committee will consist of except that it will consist of nine persons. The majority of five—is it to be drawn from the Cotton Green of Bombay or from those erudite professors who write political diatribes under cover of what they call an economic journal? My Honourable friend has not told us. Now amongst the four members you will undoubtedly have to have, as the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett told us yesterday, an international expert from some part of the world outside India. You will obviously have to have one of the leading officials of the Imperial Bank and a representative of the Exchange Banks. Then Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas will insist on a representative from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce (Mr. M. A. Jinnah: "Bengal Chamber of Commerce"?). I think so, because the whole of his speech

yesterday—at least the better parts of it—were culled, including a quotation, from a letter sent by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to the Government of India last July. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta will insist on a representative from the Associated Chambers of Commerce for he quoted them last night as being the last word in everything financial. We shall have therefore no room for the Honourable the Finance Member (Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: "It may be better so.") His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, when he was very courteously discussing with one who was once a corporal in the Indian Defence Force, the position in front of us at the manœuvres pointed out how dangerous would be a counter-attack on the flank by the Khaki Army if it were delivered at the wrong time and that the great danger usually was that the attack was launched too early. I am very sorry to say that even the Government, in spite of past unhappy experiences, want to legislate by the calendar, and have suggested that they can appoint their Committee within a year. I think probably that was only in order to conciliate the House, an attitude which I think is one of the most charming, but sometimes one of the most unfortunate attributes of the Government. But the Finance Member himself yesterday told us how dangerous it was to have your Committee at the wrong time and the Mover himself has hinted at the same fact in recalling the unhappy experiences of the past. The Mover has told us that he is not a commercial man. Well, Sir, I am. I know that these dangers are very real. I know what dislocation in the foreign exchanges mean. In the remote province of Madras they did not feel it very severely, but I remember those wholesale repudiations of contracts which caused loss to so many innocent people and which affected India's good name in the credit of the world; those numerous failures of many Indian firms, those heavy losses which Indian firms to their credit (as well as European) stood up to and were so crippled that even to-day they cannot stand such another shock. The Mover has suggested obviously that we ought to be back at 1s. 4d. He has not told us how we are going to get there. I listened very carefully to hear—and perhaps some of those who support the Resolution will give us some idea—how we shall get away from the present rate to 1s. 4d. without causing another serious crisis. The Mover suggested that he spoke as a poor tax-payer. Well, I must put one point before him. The reversion to 1s. 4d. will mean, I estimate, that we shall have to raise between 5 and 6 crores more in taxation to pay our foreign obligations, and I was listening hard to hear whether he proposed to meet that by a charge of about three annas per head on salt. He has mentioned that only subject countries have token coinage of unlimited tender. I think, if he will go to England, he will find token coinage of unlimited tender. He suggests that he ought to be paid in gold if he so desires. As the Honourable Finance Member pointed out yesterday, the unfortunate fact is that he does demand payment in gold and that he does get gold and the people would be very much better off if they brought in something more useful; but undoubtedly India does demand gold where it would be better demanding more useful things and undoubtedly it does get the gold. I am quite at one with my Honourable friend and Sir Purshotamdas in wanting to get away from 2s. If I saw a way of shifting my ground from 2s. to something else to-day, I would be glad to do it; but I do not know to what point I must shift and that is the difficulty. I quite agree with Sir Purshotamdas that our currency could be legitimately inflated if we could get away from that 2s. by the normal process of revaluing our securities in London. I do not like the present system any better than anybody else in this House. The Finance Member told us that but for

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his operations during the year exchange would probably in his estimation be at about 1s. 8d. I fully agree. From my experience of the exchange market I should say that that statement was absolutely correct. But it just shows the danger we are in at present of being so largely at the mercy of the Finance Member. We cannot always count on having a man of his abilities as head of our financial affairs, and I am with the Mover in wanting to get back as quickly as possible to a gold standard. Evidently there is to be a battle between the 1s. 4d. man and the 1s. 6d. man. To-day, Sir, I could not come down on either side. Price parities at the moment between the two countries—and it is a very important aspect of the question—seem to indicate 1s. 6d., and I would like here to repeat some words I used at Bombay last year:

“A high exchange or a low exchange is merely a relative term; it is the process of rising and falling which causes dislocation. I suppose the price levels of any country theoretically at least could adjust themselves to any ratio you care to fix, but this question of readjustment has to be considered. Readjustment is a very easy term but you have got to consider what lies behind it. For example, the alteration of the family budget of every one of the 320 million people in India is a painful process and a process which would add to the distress in the country, which would cause unrest and might even cause worse troubles, because, as I recently said in quite another connection, people may not know who hit them but they will be fully conscious of the blow.”

I am not at all certain that exchange can be permanently kept at 1s. 6d. even if it is desirable to do so. Not only during the last three years have we had a very brilliant financial man as our Finance Member but Heaven has showered its blessings on him and given him three good monsoons. We are not at all certain that exchange can stand up against one or possibly two bad ones, and two successive bad monsoons are not an uncommon occurrence in the history of India. Sir Purshotamdas told us yesterday that the time was ready because sterling had reached gold parity and was now in definite relationship with the dollar. And he proved this by quoting from a circular issued by the Postmaster General in the United States. Certainly sterling has touched gold, largely helped however by sentiment, which is such a strong factor, as every commercial man knows, in temporary movements of the market. It may stay there. We hope it will. But if it does, it will not be because the Postmaster General has issued a circular. I doubt even if our own brilliant and be-knighted Director General of Post Offices could effect that result. It cannot be done by the *ipse dixit* of any man. Sir Purshotamdas told us yesterday and the Mover told us to-day that now is the acceptable time. I have heard that cry so often and we have thought we have had stability and we have found that our stability was only that of a performer on a tight rope. I do believe with the Finance Member that the time is coming, but I decline to work by the almanac. I believe the time will come within possibly twelve months to appoint a Committee. But in the interests of the country that Committee must contain the very best brains we have and it must not be assumed that because a man is not an Indian that therefore he is not a follower after the light and will not do his duty. I therefore ask the House seriously to consider this question. We are all wanting the same thing. We are all wanting to get back to stability, to that stability which is produced by the natural flow of economic forces, the inflow and outflow of gold, and which is not left to the manipulation of a Treasury Department. But if the attack is made just too soon, we may fail again as we failed in the past. And therefore I ask the House to exercise a little patience.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member): Sir, this is one of those Resolutions on which the general sentiment throughout the House, both on the Government Benches and among the non-official Members, is, I believe, pretty nearly at one. But I am afraid that it is not within my power to accept on behalf of the Government this Resolution in the form in which it stands. The points in it which I should find difficulty in accepting are very nearly the same as those to which your attention has been drawn, Sir, by the last speaker:

“This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Committee with a majority of Indian non-officials on it, and with an Indian chairman be immediately appointed . . .”

I share to the full the desire that has been expressed by the Mover of this Resolution to-day and by other speakers at other times that any Committee that is appointed to deal with this subject should be fully representative of Indian opinion, and if it is an expert Committee, it ought not to be a Committee of experts who have never been to India but should be a Committee composed mainly of people who know the Indian atmosphere and can visualize their expert problems in the light of Indian conditions. But I could not agree on behalf of Government that it should necessarily be a Committee consisting of a majority of Indians and still less that the majority of Indians should be entirely non-official. The Mover quoted from the Controller of Currency's report for the existing year. Those who know Mr. A. V. V. Aiyar know that there are few people in India who know more about Indian currency than he does, and yet this Resolution would exclude him, supposing he were available to serve. Similarly, when it comes to the question of chairman, the Mover himself recognised that the problem of the chairman depends on the sort of Committee you can get together. It would be unfortunate, I think, if you were necessarily tied in advance to exclude from the chair any but an Indian. Government, therefore, are not in a position to commit themselves to acceptance of a Resolution which contains those words. Then the other word to which Government must necessarily take exception is the word “immediately.” You will remember that His Excellency the Viceroy three days ago made a clear statement in regard to the view held by the Government of India on the matter of the date at which such a Committee, if appointed, should be appointed. He said:

“It is the intention of the Government to appoint an authoritative Committee to consider the question as soon as world economic factors appear sufficiently stable to justify the formulation of a new policy. They anticipate that if the movement towards more stable conditions which has lately manifested itself continues, the appointment of such a Committee should be possible not later than twelve months hence.”

I am afraid that the word “immediately” would not be possible of interpretation in the sense in which Government would necessarily require to interpret any Resolution they might accept. Therefore, as the Resolution stands, I am afraid that I have no option on behalf of Government but to express my regret that I must oppose it. But as I say that is largely a question of form. On the question of substance we are agreed, I think, very nearly throughout. I must confess that when Mr. Venkatapatiraju was speaking I was a little saddened, because I do honestly feel saddened when the sort of charge that is implied in some of the things that he said is made against the Government of India of the past or the Government of India of to-day. He spoke about the Indian Currency system as being a monetary standard adopted only in

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slave countries. Why import that sort of thought into this sort of question? I deny absolutely that the gold exchange standard system as worked in India was a system which was worked only in dependent countries. The nearest parallel, as a matter of fact, to the Indian currency system before the war was, I always believed, Austria-Hungary, one of those autocratic empires which has been swept away by the war. It is largely, as usual, a question of words and in India we are sometimes, I think, inclined to get words on the brain. The real difference between a gold standard and a gold exchange standard is one which I should not feel myself competent to express: it depends entirely on how it is worked. As I said yesterday, I personally am not in favour of the use of gold as currency in circulation. If Lord Meston is quoted against me on that matter I must respectfully ask to be allowed to differ from Lord Meston. But a gold currency does not seem to me to be in any way an essential feature of the gold standard. As worked in the United States for many years, the gold standard was worked without gold appearing in circulation anywhere except, I believe, on the western sea-board. Throughout the east of the United States the country was content to accept bits of paper as legal tender. I would also like to quarrel for a moment with my Honourable friend, Mr. Raju, on his statement that there is something abhorrent in the thought of the rupee being an unlimited legal tender. The rupee, after all, is in essence a note printed on silver. It differs only in essence from a currency note in that whereas it is intrinsically worth a considerable number of annas, a currency note is intrinsically worth practically nothing at all. But in essence the two are very much the same. Therefore, I would ask what it is in the gold exchange standard as worked in India before the war that differs from the gold standard as desired by the Mover when he asks for an effective gold standard now. It is not, I claim, in the introduction of gold into the currency for the purposes of circulation. What I think is the essence of it is that the holder of a rupee or a currency note should be able on demand to obtain foreign exchange—that is much the same thing as gold for his purpose—should be able to obtain exchange at a fixed minimum rate or should be able to obtain rupees in exchange for a foreign exchange at a fixed maximum rate. If you have that, you have exactly the same position as that which arises if you can bring gold into the country and obtain rupees for it, or if you take rupees to the mint and get gold for them and export it. That is, I believe, the essence of the gold standard as desired in this country, that you should have an absolutely fixed relation to a gold currency or the currencies of gold standard countries. Practically that is the way in which the gold standard works throughout the world.

4 P.M. In England the number of times people actually took gold to send abroad was negligible as compared with the number of times that they used the currency system to obtain foreign exchange at a point just above what is called the gold export point. There is really no essential difference between the gold exchange standard and the gold standard if there is a fixed minimum and maximum point at which you can get foreign exchange. The Mover of this Resolution has been regarded evidently by others as being insufficiently definite in the demand that he makes and there are amendments down (I do not know whether they are going to be moved) asking for a change in the wording. There is one by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer which attempts to set out at length what is presumably the intended content of the phrase used by the Mover in regard to examination of the whole question of currency and exchange. For myself I can say at once that I see

very little difference between Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer's Resolution and Mr. Raju's. On the whole I should prefer the terms of reference as given by Mr. Raju because I think they are more comprehensive, and that brings me to the question asked by Mr. Raju as to what was the Government's intention in regard to this Committee. On that I have to say first of all that the exact terms of reference have not hitherto formed the subject of any discussion because it was our view that the time had not yet come at which a Committee should be appointed, but I can say for myself, as I said yesterday, that my view is this. I will read the words:

"When the Committee is appointed, the Government of India will certainly not lose sight of the obvious desirability that it should be fully representative of Indian opinion, but it must also take into account international factors. There will be many cognate questions to be dealt with by the Committee besides the question of the ratio. We shall have an opportunity of considering what improvements can be made on the gold exchange standard system as worked up to 1914."

When I used those words I had no intention to use them in a limiting manner. For myself I should regard the question whether a gold currency should be introduced at once as quite germane to the terms of reference of the Committee, though I hope that they would not come to that conclusion, and all the questions raised by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer's amendment would be entirely germane so far as I can see. There is no desire on the part of the Government of India to limit the terms of reference of this Committee so as to prevent a full examination of what currency system would best suit Indian needs, whether it should be a gold currency in circulation or a genuine gold standard, which I believe to be identical with the gold exchange standard system if you carry it to its logical conclusion, or whether it should be the gold exchange standard system as worked before 1914. All these would be questions which would be naturally discussed by that Committee.

I will not attempt to follow Sir Campbell Rhodes in his discussion of the question of the ratio. We shall have another opportunity during this Session of discussing the ratio, as to whether the moment has arrived for introducing the ratio of 1s. 4d. at once. I will only say two things in regard to that. First of all I entirely sympathise with the desire of Sir Campbell Rhodes that the time during which the Finance Member is responsible for the rate of exchange from day to day shall be curtailed as soon as possible. It is not a desirable position, nor is it a position which I in any way covet. But as I said yesterday, I do not think that the time has come yet when any ratio can be finally fixed; nor has the time come when we can determine what that ratio should be. The other thing that I would like to say is that it has come to my notice that the fact that leave has been given to Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas to introduce his two Bills fixing the ratio at 1s. 4d. has been taken in some quarters as implying that the Government of India are in agreement with those Bills. Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas knows very well that the question of leave to introduce a Bill of this sort is a matter which is entirely in the hands of the Governor General, not in the hands of the Governor General in Council, and the reasons for which leave is given to introduce such a Bill can not be discussed here on the floor of the House. But I should like to say at once that they do not imply for a moment either that the Governor General or the Governor General in Council agrees with the contents of a Bill for which leave is given for introduction. The contents of that Bill may be violently opposed by the Government, but leave may still be given. I know Sir Purshotamdas realises this, but I have been told from one or two quarters that the

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action of the Governor General in allowing these Bills to be introduced has been taken as indicating the intention of Government to accept them. I say that merely to avoid possible difficulties.

I do not know what action the Honourable Mover of this motion will desire to take in view of the statement that I have made. I should be loath to have to go to a division for a difference of words, but, at the same time, speaking on behalf of the Government, I must say again that as this Resolution stands it is not one to which the attitude of Government can be anything but that of opposition.

Mr. President: It may clear the position if I say something about all the amendments on the paper first. It appears to me that the amendment standing in the name of Sardar V. N. Mutalik is one which offers a more explicit alternative than any other to the Resolution. The Resolution itself is in wide general terms asking for an inquiry by a Committee of a certain character. I understand from the phrasing of the Sardar's Resolution that he proposes to commit the Assembly by this Resolution now to the principle of a gold standard. That is so? (Sardar V. N. Mutalik signified assent.) In that case it represents a most substantial amendment, whereas the amendment standing in the name of Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, offers merely in one sense an alteration of phrases used in Mr. Venkatapatiraju's Resolution, and in another sense a certain limitation. Therefore I propose, if the Honourable Member wishes to move it, to call upon Sardar V. N. Mutalik to move his Resolution which is to commit the Assembly here and now to the principle of the gold standard and thereby to limit the inquiry into the examination of measures necessary in order to establish it. Does the Honourable Member wish to move?

Sardar V. N. Mutalik: (Gujrat and Deccan Sardars and Inamdars: Landholders): Sir, in view of the statement made by the Honourable the Finance Member, I do not propose to move my amendment and I think the question may be left over, for the present, to the examination of the Committee.

Mr. President: If that amendment is not moved, the amendment standing in the name of Dr. Lohokare offers another alternative in so far as it is an attempt to commit the Assembly simply to the basis of gold as the only unlimited standard of value in currency. I am not sufficiently expert to know the precise meaning.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare: (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:

"That for all the words after the words 'to make recommendations', the following be substituted:

'so as to organize the currency system in India on the basis of gold as the only unlimited standard of value and currency.'"

Sir, the wording seems to be a little difficult and I would take the opportunity of explaining it, to begin with. Before I proceed, I should like to submit my apology for entering into such a field as that of economics and currency and for expressing views on a subject on which perhaps I might be thought not to be entitled to speak. As the Mover of the Resolution has just said, I would express the views more of a tax-payer and just an observer of the economic events in this country. It was after my university education in economics that I had a tendency to look into

it, though I do not profess to be a regular student or in any way concerned with commerce and other things. But I looked into these things more from the point of view of a general citizen. The words that I have incorporated in my amendment do appear to be rather a little more technical, but the necessity for putting them in this technical language has arisen out of the situation, out of the action taken by the Committees appointed to inquire into the currency question by the Government of India, now and then. The words "standard of value and currency", I may at once tell the House, may be replaced here by the words "legal tender". In common parlance, it would be just legal tender. That the medium of exchange need not necessarily be the standard of value is the view expressed by certain economists. What I wish here therefore is that the standard of value and the standard of currency should be the same, that is, in gold; in other words, it means gold currency. A gold currency should be the legal tender, the only unlimited legal tender. By these words I limit the reference to one fact, that the rupee should be a subsidiary coin. These are the two purposes that I wanted to serve, with the words that I have adopted. This fact of making the rupee a subsidiary coin arises out of the recommendations of the Fowler Committee in 1898, which failed in that respect, and consequently by simply introducing gold in the currency the purposes which Indians had really at heart could not be achieved. Therefore, I have translated the words, "an effective gold standard" into "the only unlimited standard of value and currency". In other words, it means simply this, that it should be an effective gold standard with a gold currency. That is first the meaning of the amendment that I have tabled. Secondly, my purpose in limiting the reference to the Committee is obvious. I do not hide that it expresses disbelief in the various Committees now and then appointed to inquire into the currency questions in India. The rupee began to fall in value from 1873, and from 1893, up to 1919, when there was the last Committee, so many despatches and other things have been written and said and so many Committees have been appointed but with an entirely different view to that held by Indians in politics and Indians in commerce. Indians in commerce and Indians in politics expressed one view and the Committee always came to another conclusion. It was as the records show tinged with not only the international feeling but with the feeling of the keepers of the British Treasury—I hope I shall be excused, but it is plain there—with an anxiety that they wanted to keep gold out of India. It has been plainly said even by Indian witnesses before the Currency Committees and it can be found even in the records of the various Committees as well as from the records or the correspondence regarding the subject from the Government of India, and the Secretary of State so far as they are available for perusal by other workers.

The short history of the whole thing is this. From 1873 silver began to fall in price as compared to gold. The fall necessitated so much taxation that not only the Government but people as well every now and then represented to the Secretary of State to take certain action which would definitely avoid this. I must at this stage give my tribute to those financiers of India who placed sincerely the cause of India before the Secretary of State and the British Treasury. But one way or the other from 1872 onwards, from the proposals of Sir Richard Temple in 1872 onwards, every now and then all these proposals have been tried to be shelved so as to make India refuse the share of gold that she would have in the world production in spite of her balance of trade in her favour. In 1872 there were Sir Richard Temple's

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proposals and at that time the demonetisation movement of silver had commenced. That was just the point when India could have taken to the mono-metallic gold standard without any appreciable loss to the Indian tax-payer, but the opportunity was anyhow lost. Then comes in the field the proposal of Colonel Smith, Mint Master of Calcutta, in 1876. He proposed to open a mint to free gold coinage and stopping the coinage of silver, that is, giving silver a subsidiary place since it had failed to keep up its value as currency. In 1876 the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the then Finance Member practically supported Colonel Smith's proposal. But there, again, the Secretary of State set them aside. Government again proposed in 1878 another method of facilities for the introduction of gold coin. They however proposed unlimited silver coinage on terms not favourable to silver so as to put in gold coinage in more numbers and slowly come down to a gold standard. The Secretary of State rejected it and said, as my Honourable friend Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas pointed out yesterday, that he would wait and see with a 'Masterly Inactivity' which the then Secretary of State and a series of Secretaries of State have every now and then advised the Government of India. Then came in the idea of bi-metallism. The Government of India clung to the idea that bi-metallism would come in to save the country. They expected this in vain and offered to do nothing to displease other nations if the bi-metallic system was established. Anyhow, all the four Conferences could not achieve anything in the matter. On the other hand, the British Treasury had on one occasion offered to prevent India from having any share of the gold in order that other countries in the world might not suffer. Thus, in short, the British statesmen have proved themselves, I may be excused if I use a stronger word, faithless to the cause of India. Then came in the proposals of the Herschell Committee in 1892. The mints were to be closed and gold was to be given in exchange of rupees at the rate of 1s. 4d. and the Government were to receive gold as well in satisfaction of their dues. But this, too, after a short time proved to be converted to a single-sided convertibility, Government only receiving gold and not giving back gold when rupees were tendered. In 1898, the Fowler Committee came in and they put in the proposals of a gold standard, but failed or rather had the intention of not limiting silver coinage at all, so that the token currency became an unlimited legal tender. Although the mints were closed, free coinage of token coins was raised to such an excess as to raise the price level and bring down the exchange, or rather keep the exchange and the price level to be manipulated in their own hands for the benefit much more of the British trade than of the Indian tax-payer. Then came the famous Chamberlain Commission. Till then, the Government of India's avowed goal was the gold standard. Somehow or other, in giving evidence before the Fowler Committee, the Lindsay and Probyn schemes came in. The Probyn scheme was to give gold in exchange for rupees, at least above a certain denomination. But the Lindsay scheme was meant to prevent an outflow of gold to India. He wanted to keep two funds, one in England and one in India in silver out of which he would balance, as it were, the foreign remittances. But he wanted to create these funds on loan bearing interest so that the rate of interest might control what amount might be set aside for the purpose of exchange. The Government of India, unawares, or even awares, I cannot say which, took the idea out of it that the profits of coinage should be set aside in the Gold Standard Reserve and the Paper Currency Reserve, and the currency reserves should form the basis of manipulating exchange. So the operations of exchange were behind

the curtain and even economists failed to realise what was being done behind the curtain. It is a fact that economics and the question of currency are not understood by many men, and yet behind the curtain the operations were to be conducted uncertain, hidden and unknown to the general public or even to the politicians of India. Anyhow the imitation gold standard, if you call it so, the gold exchange standard, came in by the year 1900-01. All along to 1908, though the gold exchange standard and the keeping of reserves in two countries was the practice in force since 1900, the Government said the gold standard was their goal. The Chamberlain Commission at last disavowed it, and now we find another Finance Member advocating the stability of prices standard. The present theory of stabilizing the prices is the purpose of the currency policy advocated now. Neither the stabilising of exchange nor the bringing of the currency to the gold standard is the object now; both these have disappeared now from the official records and official statements, and the price level parity is the attempt now. One way or the other, it has come down to this and history shows it, that something comes in the way which prevents India from taking her due share of gold and utilising it for the sake of the currency. It is therefore that in my amendment I try to limit the powers of the Committee. It is not myself alone who has been proposing this. Many Indian politicians have in and out of season expressed themselves in its favour. Almost all professors of economics in India have done so. Economists in India who have issued books on the subject, have been unanimous in saying that the gold standard is the only cure of this evil. Even Professor Edward Cannan of Cambridge has supported the idea very strongly. I may at the same time mention the names of Sir Vithaldas Thackersey and Mr. Gokhale, and even men like Begbie and Reed. It is from the standpoint of the experience of the last 30 years, as we have been refused a gold standard, one way or another, even when our economists were sure that the gold standard was the only cure for the evils that I propose this limitation to-day when a reference is being made to a Committee. We are sure that a fresh Committee will decide again that gold should be set aside somewhere in a central reserve so that it might be more useful, reserves being placed somewhere else and utilised for others. These are the motives, possibly I say, which might have been coming in our way. It is therefore that I wish to limit the terms of reference to this Committee. Secondly, the argument

Mr. President: I draw my Honourable friend's attention to the fact that he has already exceeded his time, and I must ask him to draw his remarks to a close.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare: With your permission, Sir, may I continue a little longer as I have left out the establishment of one argument, that a gold standard is the only remedy?

Mr. President: I must point out to the Honourable Member that the time for the establishment of his argument is now very limited.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare: I will take only two or three minutes, Sir. I will cut short the rest of my arguments. We were told yesterday that utilising gold currency for our purposes would mean a dreadful thing. I put another question here. The profits of coinage are set apart to be utilised for the purpose of exchange. Now the total amount of profits of coinage from 1893 down to 1919 or 1920 would be something like 35 millions of pounds. If you add to this sum interest at a modest rate of 3 per cent. you will have

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got nothing less than 60 millions; while actually the Gold Standard Reserve to-day is 40 millions. Where are those 20 millions? The amount of gold that was set aside for the purpose of currency has not only swallowed the interest but a part of the saving as well. Consequently if it is said that that currency is cheaper, I should like to challenge it.

The second argument is that we have attained stability of prices. If you refer to Mr. Findlay Shirras's book you will see it clearly stated that the level of prices in gold-using countries is far lower than the level of prices in India. I will quote certain price indexes here. Taking the index figure for 1890 to 1894 as the standard, in 1897 India had 110 while England had 90. Coming to 1902 India had 108, while the level of prices in England and gold-using countries was 91. Then we come to a period when the exchange had absolutely failed and you find that the index figure for India going higher and higher till it reaches the figure of 140, while the English figure for the same period has been 112.106 and 117. Apparently then, if the level of prices argument is to be used, I put it to the House whether India could maintain the level of prices by this mechanism of a gold exchange standard better than by actual gold currency. Silver is bad but that the gold exchange standard is not as good as the gold standard itself can be seen from this argument of the level of prices.

The third argument is the stability of exchange argument which for the sake of brevity I will leave out because my Honourable friend opposite does not assume it.

Lastly, there are certain objections to hoarding gold and such others. How much gold have we absorbed till now from 1835? The total production of gold is worth in this period 3,562 millions of pounds. The total amount of gold absorbed in the form of bullion and coin is 251 millions only—7 per cent. of the total production, not even 11 per cent. as some have tried to make out. The population of India is something between 17 to 20 per cent. of the whole world. The gold that India has absorbed, the hoarding of gold that is being so much made of, is only 7 per cent. In spite of a favourable balance of trade, the gold exchange standard has prevented the coining of gold to India and has prevented the country from taking her natural share in the markets of the world.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Will the Honourable Member tell me from what date he gives that figure 1835?

Dr. K. G. Lohokare: I take it from 1835 up to 1919. I therefore think and recommend it to the earnest attention of the House that the mechanism of the gold exchange standard has absolutely failed; it is not cheap; it is not automatic; it is not automatic in the sense that the sale of Councils and Reverse Councils does not have a greater effect in contracting the currency, it can contract currency only as far as the gold standard reserve is concerned; since the other reserves are appropriated reserves nobody can take out of it or add to it without having a corresponding replacement. Consequently the only thing that you have there is the Gold Standard Reserve that you can manipulate. The contraction of currency that can at most be effected is therefore only limited to the amount of the Gold Standard Reserve that you have with you. The automatic expansion or contraction of this inconvertible money is therefore not present here. For the trade

requirements you can put in money; you cannot take it out; as the Honourable Mr. Gokhale once said in his speech on a Finance Statement it is as it were a water-logged field—you can put in coinage in any way; you cannot take it out.

I am sorry that the limited time prevents me from developing the argument further, and I therefore say that the currency as it is to-day is neither cheap nor automatic nor stable in exchange; it cannot even stabilise the level of prices and cannot therefore be continued *ad infinitum* to the detriment of the Indian nation. I therefore appeal to the House to take up this point of limiting the powers of the Committee to recommend measures and ways and means for having a gold standard as early as possible, so that we may not find ourselves in trouble again and again. That is the experience of our past Committees, and I request my Colleagues not to be afraid of limiting the powers of this Committee in the manner I have indicated in my amendment.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That for all the words after the words 'to make recommendations' the following be substituted:

'so as to organise the currency system in India on the basis of gold as the only unlimited standard of value and currency.'"

Sir Parshotamdas Thakurdas (Indian Merchants' Chamber: Indian Commerce): Sir, the good example set by the Honourable the Finance Member yesterday in widening the field on which he was to address this House in connection with his Bill appears to have been fairly infectious even to-day. The Resolution before the House concerns two things, firstly, the personnel of the Committee which His Excellency the Viceroy has announced and, secondly, the time when that Committee may be set to work. Instead of restricting the discussion to these two points, I see that the Honourable Members who preceded me have taken the Assembly back to the year 1835 and even a little earlier. As I taxed the patience of the House fairly fully yesterday, I do not propose to follow the example of the Honourable Member who has just preceded me. I would like not to refer to any of the remarks from the Honourable Sir Basil to-day except to one with which he wound up his speech. The Honourable Sir Basil referred to the impression which he said appeared to him to have been caused by the announcement that His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to assent to my Bills being discussed in the Assembly. Some persons, I do not know whether they are Members of this House or not, apparently have informed Sir Basil that that announcement, which has come in the ordinary course by the way, has been construed as meaning that the Government of India are prepared to accept a 1s. 4d. gold basis. I do not know who those dignified persons are, to whose opinions or impressions the Honourable the Finance Member has given all that importance that he chose the floor of this House to make a statement in order to remove those impressions, but I cannot help feeling that those gentlemen whose impressions the Honourable Finance Member is anxious to remove must either be absolutely ignorant of the tendencies of the Government of India or must be great simpletons. For it is very rarely, Sir, that the Government of India take any cue from a non-official Member of this House, and it is still more rare for the Government of India in the Finance

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Department to take a cue from a representative of the Indian commercial community. If the Bills were to be moved by my Colleagues from Bengal I could have understood that impression but most important of all, Sir, is that it was only yesterday that the Honourable the Finance Member criticised my Bills and I had the temerity to throw out to him a very mild but a very firm challenge that, if the Government of India thought the House would reject the 1s. 4d. basis, the Honourable the Finance Member may as well give me an official day for my two Bills. I therefore cannot have been a party to that impression which the Honourable the Finance Member was anxious to see removed, and I make this statement to begin with in my remarks because I feel it is in fairness due to me that nobody in this House should carry away the impression that I had anything to do with the wrong impression of the Honourable the Finance Member.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: If I may be allowed a word of personal explanation, I desire to apologise at once to the Honourable Member if I have given the impression to him or to anyone else that he was in any way responsible for this rumour getting about. I had no desire to suggest for a moment that he was responsible for it, for the very good reason that I knew that he was not. And, if I have given that impression, I desire to apologise. The remarks I made were made as the result of hearing that the effect of this belief might be undesirable in the market.

Sir Parshotamdas Thakurdas: I very much appreciate what the Honourable the Finance Member has said and all that I will say, Sir, is that the same permission was granted to me by His Excellency the Viceroy last September and that impression somehow or other did not get about then. There is something behind this misimpression which I will try to unearth and tell the Honourable the Finance Member if I can.

Referring now, Sir, to my Honourable friend, Sir Campbell Rhodes, he generally speaks in this House, Sir, with a humour which is all his own. And his speech to-day was characterised by that special monopoly of his. I am afraid I cannot, and I have not the power to, follow him in that humour. But I do wish, Sir, to reply to one or two of his points. Sir Campbell Rhodes asked whether, when my Honourable friend Mr. Raju recommended this House to ask the Government to appoint a committee with a majority of Indians, he intended that the Government should appoint a packed committee. Now, Sir, the day is still to come when an Indian can expect to have a packed committee. The day, Sir, in the past has been when we have had packed committees from the other side. In fact, my acquaintance with my Honourable friend from Calcutta began in the Calcutta Club when I was on a committee, and the first question that my Honourable friend asked me as soon as we were introduced, was whether the report of my committee which had just begun its sittings in Calcutta was in draft, if not in print. If, therefore, of packed committees anybody knows anything at all, I submit that my Honourable friend from Bengal knows first hand about it and I am not sure that he perhaps has not been a party to some of these packed committees. But I will give him the benefit of the doubt, Sir, and I will only say that if my Honourable friend from Madras at all intended to recommend that there should be a committee packed with Indians, the example has only been set to us by similar appointments by Government in the past.

Sir Campbell also asks, Sir, in that characteristic humour of his which cannot imitate, whether my Honourable friend wanted on that Committee which His Excellency the Viceroy may appoint within the course of a year from now a representative from the Cotton Green of Bombay. A reference, Sir, to the Cotton Green of Bombay, of all places in India, has its own significance. I do not propose to imitate my friend in that significance, but I do wish to ask my Honourable friend whether it is not a fact that in Committees in the past India has had the misfortune more often than the good fortune to have representatives from the city of London far too much. Has it not also been at times that India has had on these Committees a little too much of representation, if not from the Cotton Green of Bombay, from the Clive Street of Calcutta? I am sure, Sir, my Honourable friend from Madras had no intention of representation either from the Cotton Green of Bombay or from the Clive Street of Calcutta. All that the Resolution asks for is that Indians who have a stake, Indians whose interests are to be guarded, should have a substantial and a full say on that Committee.

My Honourable friend then referred, Sir, to my reference in the course of my speech yesterday to a letter that was addressed by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to the Government of India last September in connection with the increasing monetary stringency. If those references from me to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce have in the slightest degree pleased my Honourable friend, all that I will say is that I am very pleased myself. However much I may differ from any person or any Association, I would be the last person not to pay them their just due of recognition whenever they say anything which is right, correct and in the interests of India. Just as I have been accused of being bitter against some interests more frankly than perhaps people like it to be, I also like, Sir, to be all the more cordial in paying my tribute of appreciation of and indeed even of admiration for those same interests whenever they speak correctly and in the best interests of India. But I think I owe an explanation why I did not refer to letters to Government from my constituency. To begin with, that may have been construed as a little of conceit, for it is that same constituency which I have the honour to represent here and it is possible that I may at times be connected with letters from that constituency to the Government of India. But there is a still more important reason which tempted me to refer to the communication from the Bengal Chamber in preference to any communication from my own Chamber. It has not been rare in recent years to run down anything said by my Chamber, which may not be congenial or may not be to the taste of the Government of India, as being dictated by political bias. What truth there is for such an allegation is not a question that I propose to go into to-day. But if I can find anything in the letters of anybody from whom the Government of India would take things as gospel truth, is there any reason why I should not use it? I will only say that I will repeat such references as often as I can, and I only wish that I could repeatedly refer to letters from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to the Government of India more often than I have been able to do in the past.

My Honourable friend from Calcutta asked this Assembly to realise the crisis that might come on if exchange were to get back from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 4d. I really wonder if my Honourable friend could tell me, or any of his friends by his side could, in the course of the debate, let us know, if this same apprehension of his would not have been avoided in last September when I gave notice of my Bills and His Excellency had assented to their being

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discussed in this House; if it is not a fact that 1s. 4d. gold then really meant round about the rate that exchange was then ruling in India—round about 1s. 5d. or 1s. 5½d. or 1s. 5¾d.; and if the Government of India had accepted it, *i.e.*, 1s. 4d. gold as the rates for the Statute then, whether exchange would not in normal course have come back to where it should be to-day in sympathy with the gold price. I therefore say that the question of time is of the greatest essence and the sooner the Committee is appointed the better, for, the more time elapses the apprehension which my Honourable friend from Calcutta has tried to put before the House will be more and more marked and the responsibility for it, Sir, can only lie with the Government and with the advisers of Government—my Honourable friend from Calcutta who advises Government still to follow a policy of wait and watch.

My Honourable friend further said that but for the very skilful handling of the whole situation by the Honourable the Finance Member exchange to-day might have been 1s. 8d. I will not differ from him. I paid my tribute of admiration yesterday to the skilful manner in which the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett has handled the whole department in that unenviable legacy which he got from his predecessor. But I will say this that it is not for my Honourable friend from Bengal to make much of this, for he at least should remember that, if the resources of India are to be frittered away in Reverse Council Bills to the extent of rupees 40 or 50 crores in making an experiment, the justification for any wrong step that you may now wish to take should not be laid at the door of India or non-official Indians. In fact, this is the main reason why my Honourable friend from Madras says or recommends to Government that the Commission or Committee should be appointed immediately, which means with as little delay as possible. The more time that elapses the greater will be the danger of disturbing the exchange situation whenever the Committee decide upon a lower figure in the Statute than the one which now prevails. And to-day what is it but the skilful manipulation of the Honourable the Finance Member which can prevent exchange from going high? Indeed, about two months back many parts of India apprehended that exchange might go to 1s. 7d. and even higher. Whilst I again repeat that the reason why the exchange situation has kept at the figure where it now is lies to the credit of the Honourable the Finance Member, the delay and loss that may ensue will always be quoted against the Government of India and against their advisers, or those who support them in this policy of do nothing at present.

My Honourable friend from Calcutta criticised my reference to the return of sterling to gold point. He referred to my Honourable friend who represents the Post Office in this Assembly and asked him about the post offices in America accepting money orders now to various parts of Great Britain on the pre-war basis. I would like the Honourable Member representing the Post Office in this Assembly to tell me if it is usual for post offices even in India, leave aside America which is a better organised country, to make a change to something which prevailed 10 years back for the purpose of changing again, or whether the post offices make a change in order to keep to that change at least for some years. The very fact that the post offices in the United States of America have determined or have notified that they will accept money orders at the old pre-war parity between dollar and sterling should, to my mind, I speak subject to correction by the Honourable international financial expert over there, give the

greatest confidence that the pound sterling will be tried to be maintained at that figure. If Sir Basil Blackett says "No" I will say that I may be mistaken, but I will not take that from anybody else but Sir Basil over there and Sir, that indicates the resolve of Great Britain and the United States of America to try and keep the pound sterling round about the pre-war ratio.

I expected Sir Campbell Rhodes to tell us something a little more substantial than humorous, a little more clearing the air than a few flings at the Cotton Green of Bombay. Whatever fling he may like to indulge in, I do not wish to refer to the happy jutewalla whose dictation is or at least used to be more or less accepted like *jo-hukum* by the Government of India in the past, although I cannot say that it is still to-day being accepted in the same spirit by the Honourable the Finance Member over there. What will help the Assembly to come to a correct decision is not personalities but more knowledge, clearer facts and logical facts. I hope that this will be the last time that I and my Honourable friend over there speak in this House either about the Cotton Green of Bombay or Clive Street of Calcutta.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions; Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has told us that on the general question raised by this Resolution the Government benches and the non-official Members are at one. He has told us that the differences on this Resolution between the Government and the Mover of the Resolution are limited to three facts, namely, firstly, that the Resolution asks for a non-official Indian majority, secondly, that it asks for an Indian Chairman, and, thirdly, that it asks for steps to be taken immediately to appoint a committee. Now, Sir, in view of the immense importance of the questions which have to be considered, is it not possible that the Government should reconsider their position? The proposal to constitute a committee is one which deals with the most vital interests of the country. The Resolution makes it clear that it wants that the Committee should examine the whole question of exchange and currency in the light of the experience gained since the date of the publication of the Babington Smith Report and to make recommendations as to the best policy to be pursued to secure a system of currency and exchange best suited to the interests of India. Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer in his amendment has amplified what the last sentence of the Resolution means and he has suggested that we should substitute for the words beginning from "to examine the whole question" the following words:

"To investigate, and report upon, the whole question of Indian Exchange and Currency, the question of the location and investment of the cash balances, the Currency Reserve and the Gold Standard Reserve of the Government of India and the Secretary of State, and the principles, conditions and limitations governing the issue of Council Bills and Reverse Council Bills, and to make such recommendations as may be best calculated to advance the interests of India, especially in the direction of industrial and economic development".

The Honourable the Finance Member has made it quite clear that the terms of reference of the Committee that will be appointed will not be narrow. In fact, if I understood him correctly, he accepted the view suggested by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer in the amplification which is put in in his amendment. It is thus agreed that whenever the Committee is appointed it will deal with the questions which have been indicated in the amendment of Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer. If that is so, I ask the Honourable the Finance Member to consider again whether the proposal that the Committee should be appointed immediately is not one which the Government should accept.

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I can understand a difference of opinion as to the time when the recommendations of a committee like the one proposed should be put into effect. I can understand the Government desiring to wait for a favourable turn of circumstances, for more stability to which the Honourable the Finance Member referred, in the world factors and to other conditions in determining the time at which the recommendations of a committee like this should be put into operation. But I do ask the Honourable the Finance Member to consider whether, in view of the immensity of the problem,

5 P.M. in view of the immensity of the interests involved, an investigation like what is proposed should not be commenced immediately or as early as may be practicable. I hope, Sir, that no one will argue that the conditions which are being looked for twelve months hence or within a year will be stable for any length of time. No one can feel certain that any conditions which may come into existence within a year will continue for even a month or for a year. Conditions which affect currency and exchange will continue to fluctuate more or less, and if we have to wait for a certain set of conditions being established in order that an inquiry might be inaugurated into the important problems which have to be dealt with, we might have to wait for a very long time. I submit that the inquiry is one which does not depend only upon the factors to which the Honourable the Finance Member referred. It will have to take into consideration so many ramifications of the problems connected with currency and exchange, that the inquiry will necessarily have to be a long one, and it is therefore desirable that it should be begun as early as may be practicable. And after all what does the acceptance of the word "immediately" commit the Government to? It certainly does not mean that the Committee will be appointed to-morrow. We understand that it may take some time to determine the personnel of the Committee. In determining the personnel of the Committee the Government may have to consult the gentlemen whom it wishes to ask to serve on the Committee. Some time must elapse, but is it necessary to refuse agreement, are the Government right in opposing the Resolution merely by reason of the presence of the word "immediately" in it? I hope the Government will reconsider this matter.

Then, as regards the question of a majority of Indians serving on the Committee, I ask the Government, and particularly the Finance Member, to remember the history of this question, to remember the feeling that has prevailed amongst Indians for a long time past, that the question of Indian currency and exchange has not been dealt with as well as it should have been dealt with. We do not wish to impute motives to any Honourable Members who at any time served as the Finance Member of the Government of India. They must have had very good reasons for the conclusions they came to and the course they adopted. But it is an unfortunate fact that the system of our currency has not been put on a sound basis. When we cast back our eyes to the huge losses that the country has sustained by reason of the want of a correct policy in currency and exchange, we feel staggered at them. We therefore desire that there should be an end put to the present system. We desire that we should have an examination of the subject by experts with the assistance of Indians who, though they may not claim to be experts, know where the shoe pinches, and will at any rate understand the general aspects of the problem which will be considered by the Committee. Indians as a whole should be able to feel that the matter has received that consideration at the hands of the Committee, which will certainly contain experts, which they think they are entitled

to ask for it. Suppose there is a majority of Indian members on this Committee, will the majority not represent the huge majority of the interests which will be dealt with by the Committee? Can any experts from London or can any experts in India represent the views and the feelings, the hopes and the fears, the various vital interests of the vast mass of the people as Indians can? We do not ask that there should be a majority of Indians on the Committee from any narrow racial point of view. We know that there are many Europeans in this country, there are many outside it, who are as honourable men as any in the world. We know that in the past we have had many friends among Europeans, even among the officials of Government, who served the people of India honestly, with care and anxious solicitude, and successfully. We honour them. There is no feeling in our minds that no European or no Englishman should sit on such a Committee. We have learnt a great deal from them. We have to learn a great deal more from them, and we are willing, perfectly willing, that they should guide us in our deliberations, correct our mistakes where we are wrong, show us our fallacies and try to convince us and carry us with them in dealing with a problem which is of the greatest interest to us people of India. But I do beg the Government, Sir, to consider whether the proposal that a majority of the members of the Committee should be Indians, and non-official Indians, is such a proposition that it must be rejected by the Government. The Honourable Finance Member mentioned one official Indian, namely, Mr. A. V. V. Aiyar, whom he would evidently like to see on the Committee. I join with him in paying the tribute he paid to him; but the acceptance of the view that there should be a majority of non-official Indians on the Committee need not prevent Mr. Aiyar being appointed to the Committee. Government will have the power to determine how many Members shall constitute the Committee. Government will decide it after considering what the need of the problem is, and they can certainly put in Mr. Aiyar if the Honourable Finance Member thinks his presence will help, and he can certainly put in other people whose presence he thinks will be useful. But a majority of Indians on the Committee is asked for to guard against a feeling which exists in the minds of many of us. I will be frank, I hope I will not be misunderstood. In the past when some Committees were constituted, there was an idea that the Committees were so constituted that it was assumed that their report would be what the Member in charge for the time being expected or wished it to be. Now here my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, has made no secret of the fact that he is opposed to a gold currency being introduced in this country. I do not quarrel with him. In fact he deserves to be honoured because he has frankly repeatedly stated his view that he does not believe in a gold currency. On the other hand, there is a vast body of Indian opinion which does believe in the advantages of a gold currency, which thinks that it has been a great wrong to India that a gold currency has not been adopted and that gold has been kept out of the country to the extent to which it has been. I know a great deal of gold has come into the country, but I wish, I certainly wish,—I may be wrong—but I do think that it is for the benefit of my country that a great deal more gold should come into this country; I think that a great deal more of gold should have come into this country. Everybody knows that if England did not possess gold to the extent it did during the last war, England would not have been anywhere. If the United States of America did not possess the amount of gold that they possessed, the United States of America would not have been able to help England and France and civilization. Knowing that, I feel, and many thousands of my countrymen feel, that it is an indisputable

[Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.]

advantage to have a large amount of gold in the country. Gold will always have a better value than silver. We know too to what condition silver has been reduced and we do not know to what further condition it will be reduced. If, therefore, there is a strong feeling in favour of a gold currency, the fact has to be taken note of. It may be that the feeling is based not upon reason but upon a wrong sentiment. The experts on the Committee to be nominated by the Honourable Finance Member and other officers of Government may be able to convince us, to persuade us, that we are wrong, that we are not asking for that which is for our good; but until the matter has been considered, until our arguments have been examined and answered, you will find that Indian public opinion will not be prepared to endorse the view of the Honourable Finance Member. Now, Sir, the Honourable Finance Member will have a great voice, naturally and rightly, in the appointment of the Committee. Will he guarantee to us that the Committee will be such that Indians need not have an apprehension that the conclusions arrived at will go against the views which they hold? They have that apprehension, and what will the Government lose by selecting a majority of Indians to serve on this Committee? With whom will lie the decision to take action upon the report of this Committee? It is not yet in the power of this Assembly to force the hands of Government by any Resolution that it may pass. Unfortunately it is not. Fortunately for those who differ from us the Government have the power either to accept or reject a recommendation made by any Committee. Assuming that a Committee such as my Honourable friend Mr. Raju has suggested makes a recommendation which the Honourable the Finance Member honestly considers not in the interests of India, I am sure that while he is the Finance Member his voice will prevail, His Excellency the Viceroy will rightly attach great weight to his opinion, and the Viceroy certainly, the Government of India certainly, will not attempt to force Sir Basil Blackett to accept the view of the majority of members of the Committee. On the other hand, the apprehension felt by us is that if the majority of members is of a different complexion, of a different view, the fact that the majority has reported against what is generally the Indian view will be used against our views when the matter comes to be discussed. I therefore request the Finance Member to reconsider this question also.

I now come to the third point, namely, the appointment of the chairman. I submit, again, that this is a matter upon which it should be possible for us to arrive at an agreement. I do not think my Honourable friend Mr. Raju will insist upon keeping the clause relating to it, namely, that the chairman must be an Indian. We should be prepared—I am sure, in saying what I say, I carry him with me—to agree that if the Honourable the Finance Member sees his way to accept the other two recommendations, the Honourable Mr. Raju will withdraw his suggestion that the chairman of the Committee must be an Indian. I recognise that the chairman of the Committee should be a gentleman who should possess expert knowledge, that he should be a man who should carry great weight with the Government and the Assembly, and we are prepared to have any gentleman, either European or Indian, whom the Government in their wisdom and with their larger knowledge, may select for the purpose. We should be able to arrive at an understanding on this point. We should on our side drop the question of the Indian chairman and the Government should accept the Indian majority in the Committee. It will be such a pity if when there is so much

of agreement in regard to all the essential points which are to be discussed by this Committee the Government should not be able to accept the proposal of my Honourable friend Mr. Raju. I hope the Government will reconsider this matter.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: May I ask you, Sir, to adjourn the debate for this reason that we have an important meeting of the Executive Council fixed at half past five and there seems to be no prospect of the debate finishing this evening.

Mr. President: The proposal of the Home Member in this case must be regarded. He informed us yesterday, with the general assent of the House, that nothing should take precedence of the business of this House. I imagine that a debate on currency and finance conducted in the absence of the Finance Member would be a remarkable case of the play of Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark, and, therefore, in the circumstances, I propose now to adjourn and this debate will be carried over to the next day set apart for non-official Resolutions.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 26th January, 1925.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 26th January, 1925.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock,
Mr. President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mr. President: We omitted Mr. Bray's questions the other day which we will take up now. Question No. 126.

QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

126. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to starred questions from 1918 to 1925, asked in the last September session of the Assembly, will the Government be pleased to state whether the inquiry from the Local Administrations has been completed and if completed to lay the information on the table for the information of the House?

Mr. Denys Bray: I am sorry, Sir, that the questions were not answered in the ordinary course on Friday last owing to my indisposition and oversight on the part of my office.

(1) The replies to questions Nos. 1918 to 1925 asked by Makhdum Syed Rajan Baksh Shah in the September session have been furnished to him direct.

(2) The questions to which my Honourable friend refers are largely concerned with the affairs of the little township of Kulachi, and I am afraid their public interest is not so great as to justify the cost of printing the answers. Should, however, any particular question be considered to have a wider appeal I will have the answer laid on the table of the House.

RIOTS AT KOHAT.

161. ***Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether any inquiry has been undertaken by the Chief Commissioner of the N.-W. F. Province, regarding the Hindu Muslim riots at Kohat and also to place the report if any submitted by that Officer to the Government of India, on the table?

Mr. Denys Bray: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the annexures to Government Resolution No. 598-F., dated the 9th December, 1924.

DEPUTATION OF THE HONOURABLE SIR CHARLES INNES TO INQUIRE
INTO THE KOHAT RIOTS.

162. *Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which led to the deputation of the Honourable Sir Charles Innes to inquire into the Kohat disturbances and also to place the report if any forwarded by him to the Government of India on the table?

Mr. Denys Bray: As explained in a communiqué at the time, His Excellency the Viceroy requested the Honourable Sir Charles Innes, to confer with the Chief Commissioner on the results of his inquiry into the Kohat disturbances, and on the progress of his efforts for the resettlement of the Hindus and the restoration of harmonious relations in Kohat. Sir Charles Innes embodied the result of his discussions in a note submitted to His Excellency. It would not be in accordance with practice to publish a note of this character, but I may say that Sir Charles Innes' general conclusions coincided with those of the Chief Commissioner as set forth in his report which was annexed to the Resolution on the subject.

RIOTS AT KOHAT.

163. *Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the value of the property that has been lost in the Kohat disturbances and the value of the property that has subsequently been recovered?
- (b) whether the local officials took any and what steps to prevent the looting of the property during the disturbances and whether any and what portion of the looted property has been recovered from the possession of the police in Kohat and from other local officials; if so, what is the extent and value of the property so recovered?
- (c) whether the Government are satisfied that the local officials have taken proper steps to prevent the disturbances and to prevent the looting of the properties?
- (d) the terms of the settlement, if any, that has been brought about between the Hindus and the Mohammedans and also to state the number of Hindus that have gone back to Kohat in consequence of such settlement?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) to (d). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to Government Resolution No. 598-F., dated the 9th December, 1924.

As regards (a), the damage to house property has been estimated roughly at nine lakhs of rupees. Other losses and the value of property recovered cannot be accurately calculated.

As regards (d), a copy of the terms of settlement made by the leaders is laid on the table. So far few Hindus have returned to Kohat, but many are making arrangements to do so.

Agreement among the Muslims, the Hindus and the Sikhs of Kohat.

We, the representatives of the Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities of Kohat, being desirous of effecting a settlement of all matters among the various communities connected with the Kohat disturbances of September 1924, hereby agree as follows:

- (1) All criminal cases connected with the Kohat disturbances of September 1924 be dropped and given up, and no criminal cases of any sort be put forward in the guise of a civil suit against one another either individually or as a community.
- (2) Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims will raise no objection and put no obstacle in the way of restoration and re-construction of their respective places of worship which existed before the disturbances provided that the Gurdawara at the springs near the Fort shall be re-constructed "Kacha", single-storied, on its old site and no encroachment or extension shall be made in its area. In future the building and use of this Gurdawara shall be subject to the orders which already exist.
- (3) Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs will give each other full and genuine assistance in restoring to its owner any property seen and clearly identified by the owner to be his, and for which he can offer clear and legitimate proof.
- (4) Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs sincerely assure one another that there will be no organised boycott due to the disturbances on either side either in Kohat city or its suburbs and that every effort will be made to maintain friendly relations with each other.

Notes.—1. The case of the pamphlet under sections 153-A. and 505 I. P. C., already taken up by the Government is left at the justice of the Government.

2. Case Crown through Muhd. Afzal Khan of Garhi, Nawaz Khan *versus* Jalal, Nisar, Naqshband, etc., of Bezadi Chikarkot and Kharmatu, under section 307 I. P. C. is excluded from this agreement and this case may be decided by a council of elders.

(Sd.) N. E. REILLY,

Deputy Commissioner,
and by the Representatives of the
communities.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: May I ask, Sir, whether the Government have taken notice of the conduct of any local officials who have had in their possession some of the property which has been lost in the disturbances and to whom the property has been traced?

Mr. Denys Bray: If, I understand the Honourable Member aright, he is referring to certain members of the constabulary and police. Action has been taken against them.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: What action has been taken against them?

Mr. Denys Bray: The Honourable Member will find it in the Annexures to the Resolution. They have been put on their trial.

DECREASE IN THE EXPORT OF INDIAN YARN.

185. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Is it a fact that the exports of Indian yarn by sea from British India to foreign countries during the five months, April to August 1924, were 13,000,000 lbs., as compared with 18,000,000 and 29,000,000 lbs., in the corresponding period of 1923 and 1922 respectively?

(b) If so, will the Government please state the cause of this steady decrease?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Yes.

(b) The cause is the same as it was*on September 10th last when I answered a similar question from the Honourable Member.

ADMINISTRATION OF SHIPPING, LIGHT HOUSES, MAJOR PORTS AND QUARANTINE.

186. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that Central subjects include Shipping, light houses, major ports, and quarantine?

(b) Is it a fact that these are at present administered by Local Governments as agents of the Government of India.

(c) If so, will Government please state whether they are prepared to administer these subjects directly?

(d) If not, will they please give reasons?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). The question of taking under the direct administration of the Central Government the subjects mentioned by the Honourable Member is at present under the consideration of the Government of India.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know when the decision on that matter will be reached?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I am, afraid, I am not in a position to answer that question.

HOLIDAYS FOR MOHAMMEDAN OFFICERS IN THE SURVEY OF INDIA.

187. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Forward* of the 18th November 1924, page 9, under the heading "Grievances of Mohammedan Officers"?

(b) If so, do they propose to remove the cause of the grievances of the officers concerned?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) Yes.

(b) The holidays referred to by the Honourable Member are special holidays and are additional to the ordinary public holidays enjoyed by all communities. The Government of Bengal themselves do not give special holidays to certain offices such as those of the Collector of Customs, Shipping Master, Collector of Stamp Revenue, etc., on account of exigencies of public service, and the Honourable Member will therefore recognise that they cannot be treated as of universal application. The Muhammadan employees of the Calcutta offices of the Survey of India, are largely occupied on map-printing, handling of machinery or similar other work and cannot be spared from it without necessitating a general closing for the day or days involved. Nevertheless, the Government of India have, after careful consideration, decided to instruct the Surveyor General to grant to these Muhammadan employees one day each for the *Akhiri Chahar Shamba* and *Shab-i-barat* and one additional day for *Id-us-zuha*.

STRENGTH AND COST OF MAINTENANCE OF THE REGULAR FORCE LOCATED AT RAZMAK.

188. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to the despatch of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated Delhi, the 18th November 1924, para. 23, will the Government please state:

- (a) the strength of the regular force located at Razmak (Waziristan);
- (b) the annual cost of the maintenance of the force so located?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) 150 British Officers, 1,200 British other ranks, 7,000 Indian officers and Indian other ranks, and 1,050 followers.

(b) Rs. 82 lakhs approximately.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

189. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the entire expenditure incurred by the Government of India and the Local Governments on account of the Empire Exhibition?

(b) Do the Government propose to continue the Exhibition or has it closed the part of India in the said Exhibition?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the benefits reaped by India by the said Exhibition?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state how many of the Indian articles exhibited there will be manufactured in the British Empire outside India and what will be the protection for the Indian industry in respect of such articles?

(e) What amount do the Government expect to recoup by the sale of materials used for the stalls, etc., at the Exhibition?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Figures of total actual expenditure are not yet available. The total estimated gross expenditure on the British Empire Exhibition for the three years ending 1924-25 from Central Revenues is as follows:

In England	...	...	...	£196,000
In India, including the estimated gross expenditure on account of various Railways	...	...	...	Rs. 5,05,000

The total estimated expenditure incurred by various Local Governments is as follows:

				Rs.
Madras	...	...	...	3,08,500
Bombay	...	...	...	72,058
Bengal	...	...	...	3,51,000
United Provinces	...	...	...	3,70,000
Burma	...	...	...	13,00,000
Punjab	...	...	...	3,50,000
Bihar and Orissa	...	...	...	50,000

Except in the case of Madras and Bihar and Orissa the above figures represent gross expenditure and take no account of recoveries.

The following recoveries have so far been made on behalf of the Government of India on account of rent, etc.:

In India	...	...	Rs. 4,00,000
In England	...	...	£ 30,000

(b) The question has not yet been finally decided.

(c) Reports show that most of the private exhibitors have been well satisfied with the result of their enterprise and several have applied to take part in this year's Exhibition. Some have opened branches in London, where previously they were not represented. Others have extended to the Continent. Many report a stimulation in interest in Indian products. The exhibits of the larger and better known products also attracted much attention and stimulated inquiries. The Honourable Member is referred for more details to the reports of Directors of Industries in the Provinces.

(d) The Honourable Member cannot possibly expect me to be able to answer to this question.

(e) The Government are not yet in a position to furnish the information.

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: With regard to the question of India's participating in the Exhibition for the year 1925, will Government give an opportunity to this Assembly to discuss that matter before they come to any conclusion?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I am afraid, I cannot give any undertaking on that point.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW MEASURED RATE SYSTEM BY THE MADRAS TELEPHONE COMPANY.

190. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government of India have given their sanction to the new Measured Rate System proposed to be introduced by the Madras Telephone Company?

(b) Whether before giving their sanction they gave an opportunity to the public and to subscribers to express an opinion on the proposed charges?

(c) Whether it is a fact that bodies which represent the Indian public, such as the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and the Madras Corporation have passed resolutions disapproving of the new scheme?

(d) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the numerous protests appearing in the columns of the *Swarajya* of Madras?

(e) Whether the Government are aware that only in July last the subscription rates were increased and that it is felt by the public that the Madras Telephone Company is abusing its monopoly by periodically increasing the rates to the great detriment of the telephone using public?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The answer to (a), (b), (c) and (d) is in the affirmative.

(e) No. Presumably the increase in the rates of subscription referred to is that which came into effect as from January 1st, 1923. This increase in rates was duly authorised by Government in an agreement, dated 10th October 1922, supplementary to the Company's license. Prior to this agreement being entered into between the Company and the Government,

the terms of the agreement were referred to the Madras Government, the Madras Chamber of Commerce, the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and the Madras Trades Association, all of whom approved of the conditions of the agreement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW MEASURED RATE SYSTEM BY THE MADRAS TELEPHONE COMPANY.

191. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence between the Government of India and the Madras Telephone Company on the subject of the introduction of the Measured Rate System?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The correspondence is bulky and Government do not propose to lay it on the table. I shall be pleased to show it to the Honourable Member in my office, if he so desires.

MEASURED RATE SYSTEM FOR TELEPHONES.

192. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether such a Measured Rate System for telephones is in vogue in any other part of India?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: A Message Rate System is now operative in Calcutta.

THE MADRAS TELEPHONE COMPANY.

193. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state who are the Directors of the Madras Telephone Company?

(b) Its subscribed share capital?

(c) How much of the share capital is subscribed by Indians?

(d) How much is subscribed by shareholders resident out of India?

(e) What are the dividends declared so far from the starting of the Company?

(f) Whether any grants or special privileges have been granted by the Government?

(g) What is the kind and extent of control which the Government exercise over the working of the Company?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Sir James Simpson, M.L.C., Mr. C. E. Wood, Dewan Bahadur Govindoss Chathurbhujadoss, Mr. Hajee Mahomed Ebrahim Sait and Mr. G. W. Bromhead.

(b) Rs. 16,04,197-8-0.

(c) and (d). The Government have no information.

(e) 6 per cent. for the year 1923.

(f) and (g). The Company works under a License from the Government of India, dated 17th March, 1903, and also under two agreements, supplemental to the License, dated 10th October, 1922, and 10th October, 1924, respectively.

Copies of this License and the Agreements are placed in the Members' Library and the Honourable Member will be able to gather from them the kind and extent of the control which Government exercise over the working of the Company.

INTEREST-FREE HOUSE-BUILDING LOANS TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

194. ***Shaikh Mushir Hosain Kidwai:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India used to lend money *without interest* to public servants for building houses, etc., but the concession of interest-free loans has been stopped lately?

(b) Are the Government aware that it was mostly *Indian* officials who profitted by the above mentioned concession of interest-free loans for building houses?

(c) Do the Government propose to reconsider the question of reverting to the old practice of advancing interest-free money to officials for building houses, etc.?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The answer to the first part is in the affirmative and to the last part in the negative.

With regard to the second part the Government have not the required information. These advances are sanctioned by various authorities.

ARRESTS UNDER BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818 AND THE BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1924.

195. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a resolution said to have been passed at a meeting of the Calcutta journalists and published in the *Forward* of the 19th November, to the effect that the persons arrested under Bengal Regulation III of 1818 and the Bengal Ordinance are subjected to a severe cross-examination at the headquarters of the C. I. D. and that improper influences are brought to bear upon them to make incriminatory statements, and the remarks said to have been made by Mr. Nirmal Chandra Sen, Editor of the *Labour*, whose brother has been arrested under Regulation III and is said to have confirmed the same to his brother who interviewed him in jail?

(b) Under what provision of law can the police remove any such prisoner from their place of confinement to the C. I. D. Headquarters or to question them at all after their arrest?

(c) What remedy have the prisoners against such removal and cross-examination?

(d) Are the Government prepared to give them an opportunity of making their complaints, if any, to a mixed body of officials and non-official visitors?

(e) Have the grounds of determination by the authority of the Governor General in Council that the persons recently arrested under Regulation III should be placed under personal restraint otherwise than in pursuance of some judicial proceedings, been communicated to them in order that they may "be allowed freely to bring to the notice of the Governor General in Council all circumstances relating to either the supposed grounds of such determination or to the manner in which it has been executed", in

accordance with the requirements of the Preamble to the said Regulation? If so, when and in what shape were the said grounds communicated to them and have they been allowed to make any submission?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) Government have seen the statement which in some respects is entirely incorrect and in others a distortion of facts. No persons arrested under Regulation III have been removed from jail custody to be examined by police officers. Persons detained under the Ordinance have been examined with a view to the passing of orders either for their release or for further action under the Ordinance. No pressure of any sort has been placed upon *détenus* in order to obtain incriminating statements.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the rules published with the Local Government's Notification No. 10569-P., dated the 25th October 1924.

(c) The orders of the Local Government are, subject to the provision of the Ordinance, final, but *détenus* are at liberty to make representations to the Local Government.

(d) Non-official visitors are specially appointed to visit the *détenus* who are free to make to these visitors any statements which they wish to make.

(e) Yes; in the form of written specific charges. Opportunities of making submissions have been afforded to the prisoners, most of whom have not availed themselves of them.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know whether any complaints have been received so far and how they have been dealt with?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I have received no complaints.

INCREASE OF STAFF IN THE RAILWAY BOARD OFFICE.

196. ***Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda:** (a) Is it a fact that a large number of new appointments have recently been made at Delhi by the Railway Board and increments given to the staff who are not called upon to work more than they used to do—on the ground of increase of work for separation of railway from general finance?

(b) Is it a fact that in one department work which was done by seven men has now been distributed amongst twenty-two with 4 officers and an array of stenographers in addition?

(c) Will the Government say how many such appointments have been made, the qualifications of the persons appointed, stating if they have passed the examination of the Staff Selection Board, their previous service (if any), and the salaries on which they have been appointed?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). No.

(c) The reorganised Finance Branch of the Railway Board's Office consists of 24 posts of which 16 previously belonged to the Board's establishment and 6 were created for the performance of work transferred from the office of the Accountant General, Railways.

Only one additional officer has been appointed. Apart from the men taken over from the Accountant General, Railways, three persons were newly appointed to the Railway Board's establishment; particulars relating to the qualifications, etc., of the men are laid on the table.

Particulars of new subordinate appointments made in the Finance Branch of the Railway Board's Office.

Name.	Examinations passed.	Service.	Previous pay.	Pay on which appointed.	REMARKS.
			Rs.	Rs.	
(1) A. N. Sheopari (Assistant).	Bachelor of Arts, Punjab University. Has also passed the Staff Selection Board Examination for Upper Division of the Secretariat.	Two years in Army Headquarters (Q. M. G.'s Branch), Army Department and Military Finance.	100 p. m.	180 p. m.	Selected on account of his knowledge of financial work in the Military Finance Department. The pay given is the minimum pay of the grade to which he has been appointed.
(2) Jai Narain (Clerk).	Matriculation of Punjab University.	1½ years in a Bank	46 p. m.	75 p. m.	Selected on account of his experience in commercial accounting work in a Bank. The pay offered is the minimum pay of the lowest grade.
(3) Abdul Rahim (Stenographer).	Ditto. Has also passed Staff Selection Board Examination for Lower Division of the Secretariat and also as a stenographer.	4 years and 7½ months as under:— Office of District Sessions Judge, Gurdaspur . . 5 months. Mesopotamia . . 4 years. Home Department, Government of India . . ½ month. Office of Director of Public Information . . 2 months.	150 p. m.	150 p. m.	The pay offered is the minimum pay of the grade of stenographers.

ANNUAL AVERAGE VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FOR THE YEARS 1909-1913, 1914-1918 AND 1919-1923, RESPECTIVELY.

197. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will the Government please make a statement showing the annual average value of exports and imports during the five years immediately preceding the war, namely, 1909 to 1913, during the war, namely, 1914 to 1918, and during the succeeding five years, namely, 1919 to 1923, respectively?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the annual averages of the import and export trade of British India in merchandises (private and Government) for the years 1909-13, 1914-1918 and 1919-1923.

	1909-1913 (average).	1914-1918 (average).	1919-1923 (average).
	Rs. (lakhs).	Rs. (lakhs).	Rs. (lakhs).
Imports	1,47,71	1,58,33	2,64,15
Exports (including re-exports)	2,19,24	2,22,33	2,96,55

POSITION OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

198. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to (1) and (2) of the question of which the Honourable Dr. Sir Devaprasad Sarvadhikary had given private notice and which he asked on the 23rd September, 1924, in the Council of State *re* "Position of Indians in South Africa," will Government please state:

- Whether they have received the text of the speech of the Secretary of State for the Colonies?
- If so, whether they have taken or propose taking any action in the matter?
- If so, what is that action?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) and (c). Government are in communication with the Secretary of State for India in the matter.

USE OF HEAD LIGHTS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

199. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 26th November, 1924, page 13, under the heading "Head Lights"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made therein is correct.

(c) If correct, do they propose to instruct the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities to see to the matter referred to?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). On the broad gauge 3 and on the metre gauge 21 engines are already fitted with electric head lights. It is proposed gradually to fit head lights on all engines employed on the mail and passenger services.

INDIAN TRAFFIC INSPECTORS (TRANSPORTATION) ON THE NORTH-WESTERN, OUDH AND ROHILKHAND AND EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAYS.

200. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to question No. 428 asked in the Council of State on the 22nd September 1924 *re* "Indian Traffic Inspectors (Transportation) on the North Western, Oudh and Rohilkhand and Eastern Bengal Railways" will the Government please state:

(a) Whether the inquiry has been completed?

(b) If completed, will they please communicate the result to the House?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). The result of the inquiry referred to by the Honourable Member was to the effect that since the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das's Resolution was adopted by the Council of State, 7 permanent vacancies of Traffic Inspectors (Transportation) have occurred on the 3 State Railways. Of these 7 permanent vacancies, 5 have been filled by Indians. In addition, an Indian was appointed to one officiating vacancy.

THE NATAL BOROUGHS ORDINANCE.

201. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to my starred question 2039, asked in the last September session of the Assembly, re "The Natal Boroughs Ordinance", and the reply of Government, will Government please state:

- (a) if the Bill has received the assent of the Governor, or is still waiting for his assent?
- (b) the result of their communication with the Union Government on the subject?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) The Bill has received the assent of the Governor General.

- (b) The matter is still the subject of correspondence.

OFFICE FURNITURE AND FITTINGS OF BUILDINGS IN NEW DELHI.

202. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will Government please state if it is a fact that all the office furniture and fittings of buildings in New Delhi at Raisina are being made in Delhi and that the legislative buildings are to be panelled with ply wood made up in the plant at the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The furniture is being made in India, but not all in Delhi. All fittings required which are made in India are being obtained in India, but not all in Delhi.

The ply panels required for the Central Buildings are being made up in the Economic Section of the Forest Research Institute.

EXPENDITURE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DELHI.

203. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will Government please state:

- (a) if the total gross estimated expenditure on the entire scheme of the construction of New Delhi at Raisina is Rs. 1,372 lakhs, and that as much, as Rs. 1,000 lakhs has already been expended?
- (b) if the provision for the Government House is Rs. 140 lakhs, for the Secretariat Rs. 160 lakhs, and for legislative buildings Rs. 83.5 lakhs?
- (c) the correct figures, if those given in (a) and (b) are not correct?
- (d) by what time the Government House, Imperial Secretariat and the legislative buildings are likely to be completed?
- (e) by what time the Government are likely to remove to New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a), (b) and (c). The amount of the sanctioned gross estimate for the construction of the New Capital is Rs. 1,384 lakhs and of the net estimate Rs. 1,325 lakhs. The question of the revision of these figures is now under consideration.

The probable gross expenditure to the end of March, 1925, will be Rs. 1,136 lakhs and the net expenditure Rs. 1,102 lakhs.

The sanctioned provision for Government House, including the buildings on the Estate, is Rs. 147 lakhs; the provision for the Secretariats is Rs. 168 lakhs and for the Council Chamber Rs. 83.5 lakhs.

(d) It is hoped that, unless unforeseen difficulties supervene, the New Secretariats will be completed by the 1st November, 1925, excepting the Porte Cochieres Domes and Towers which will not be completed until 1926.

It is anticipated that the New Parliamentary Buildings and the New Government House will be ready for occupation by the autumn of 1926.

(e) The winter of 1926-27.

INDIAN PILGRIMS TO THE HEDJAZ.

204. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Indian pilgrims that proceeded to the Hedjaz during the last Haj season and the number that have returned to India?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The number of pilgrims, who proceeded from India to the Hedjaz, during the last Haj season was 18,000. The number of pilgrims who returned to India during the same period was 15,758.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally: May I know, Sir, what number of pilgrims was expatriated from the Hedjaz during the last pilgrim season?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I must ask the Honourable Member to give me notice of that question.

HARDSHIPS OF INDIAN PILGRIMS TO THE HEDJAZ.

205. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will the Government please state if Indian pilgrims to the Hedjaz had to suffer any hardships owing to the occupation of Taif and Mecca by the troops of Ibn Saud Sultan of Nejd, and if so, what kind of hardships had they to suffer?

Mr. Denys Bray: No authenticated cases of serious injury to them have come to the notice of Government. In fact the majority had left the Hedjaz before the capture of Taif.

REVISION OF RULES RELATING TO PAY, LEAVE, ETC., OF RAILWAY SERVANTS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

206. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply "The Rules relating to pay, leave, etc., are being revised on State Railways with the object of removing racial discrimination" to unstarred question 435 (a) asked in the Assembly on the 22nd September, 1924 re the scales of pay of European and Indian Loco running staff on the Bengal Nagpur Railway, will Government please state:

- (a) if the Rules referred to have been revised?
- (b) If so, will they please lay them on the table?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Arrangements have already been made to eliminate racial distinctions in respect to rates of pay in all scales of the staff on the lines referred to in the reply previously given. No discrimination is made

in respect to regular leave. Inquiries have further been made in regard to all distinctions remaining in the rules and conditions of services based on racial considerations.

The inquiries show that very few distinctions and those of a minor character still remain and efforts are being made to get rid of them as soon as possible.

(b) It is not understood what the Honourable Member desires me to lay on the table.

207. (Answered on the 23rd January, 1925.)

KOHAT RIOTS.

208. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the settlement of differences which gave rise to the disturbance in Kohat been arrived at?

(b) If so, will Government please make a statement showing what the differences and causes were which gave rise to the disturbances?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) It is hoped that the agreement just concluded by the leaders of the two communities will prove the beginning of a lasting settlement.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the Government Resolution on the subject.

GRANT OF A LOAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

209. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to unstarred question 336 (b) and (c) in the Council of State on 3rd September, 1924 *re* "Grant of a Loan for the development of the Port of Chittagong", will Government please state:

(a) if the exact terms of the loan have now been finally agreed to?

(b) If so, will they please state what those terms are?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) No. The terms for the loan proposed by the Government of India have been accepted by the Government of Bengal but they have yet to be accepted by the local Legislative Council.

(b) Therefore does not arise.

VIZAGAPATAM AND COCHIN HARBOUR SCHEMES.

210. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to question 337 in the Council of State on the 3rd September 1924 *re* "Vizagapatam and Cochin Harbour schemes", will Government please state what further progress with regard to them has been made?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The proposals of the Government of India regarding the Vizagapatam Harbour Scheme have been formulated and have been referred to the Secretary of State for India. As regards the Cochin Harbour Scheme the report of the Expert Committee referred to in the reply to question No. 337 in the Council of State on the 3rd September last has been received and is at present under the consideration of the Madras Government.

CREATION OF NEW POSTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SEPARATION OF RAILWAY FINANCE.

211. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether any and what posts are newly created in connection with the separation of Railway Finance and the amount of salaries fixed and names of persons appointed and their respective qualifications?

Mr. G. G. Sim: A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table.

Statement showing particulars of posts newly created in connection with the separation of Railway Finance.

New posts created.	Pay fixed.	Name of person appointed.	Qualifications.	REMARKS.
(1) Deputy Director of Finance.	Rs. 1,500—60—1,800 plus an allowance of Rs. 300 per mensem when an officer appointed to the Indian Audit and Accounts Service before the 4th of August 1920 is obtained on loan as Deputy Director.	Mr. A. M. Hayman, O.B.E.	Officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.	This post is in replacement of the previous post of Joint Secretary to the Railway Board on Rs. 1,800—100—2,000 which, pending the reorganisation of the Finance Branch, lapsed on 1st April 1924.
(2) Assistant Director of Finance.	Rs. 1,001—50—1,250	Rai Sahib B. D. Puri.	Officer of the Railway Accounts Department.	Attention is invited to the reply to the question on this subject asked by the Honourable Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda to-day.
(3) One Assistant				
(4) One Stenographer.				

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEE COMMISSION.

212. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the views expressed by the Government of India on the recommendations of the Lee Commission after the adverse vote of the Assembly and the orders issued by the Secretary of State thereon?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The Government of India do not propose to place on the table their correspondence with the Secretary of State on the recommendations of the Lee Commission. The orders passed by the Secretary of State have already been published.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare: What about the Medical Services? Can the Government of India give any information on that?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: That is not really my Department and I would prefer the Honourable Member to put down a question.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know with reference to the clauses of the Secretary of State's Rules depriving this Assembly of its powers in regard to passages and other matters, whether any opportunity will be given to this Assembly to discuss the position.

The Honourable Sir Alexandar Muddiman: I am not quite sure that I have understood the Honourable Member's point but he is aware of the rules and orders which enable Resolutions to be tabled.

PROTECTION AFFORDED BY THE STEEL PROTECTION ACT, 1924, TO THE
STEEL INDUSTRY.

213. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- how far the protection given by the Steel Protection Act has been helpful to the steel industry in India?
- how much the country was taxed for the protection already given?
- whether the bounty now proposed by the Government of granting 50 lakhs annually is compensated by ameliorating the condition of the operatives in the Tata Steel Industry?
- whether the Tata Industry has effected any economy in reducing the salaries of highly paid officials and substituting Indians for aliens wherever feasible?
- what profits were made after the inauguration of protection and whether the Tatas are prepared to give to the Government a reasonable share in excess profits when realised?
- whether any and what other firms received benefit by this protection duty?
- whether any and what improvements were effected by the Tata Steel Works in cheapening the cost of production?
- whether the whole product of Tatas Company was purchased by the Railways or the Government and if so, to what extent since July last?
- whether the Government appointed anybody, and, if so, whom, to watch the economic working of the Tatas Company?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) This question is examined in the "Report of the Indian Tariff Board regarding the increase of the duties on Steel" which the Honourable Member has no doubt studied.

(b) Roughly 71 lakhs up to 31st December 1924.

(c) The conditions on which it is proposed to give the bounty are contained in the Resolution of which notice has already been given.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 55 of the Tariff Board's first report.

(e) The Honourable Member is referred to the Tariff Board's recent report, from which he will see that it is not a question of excess profits. The Government make no claim to a share in any ultimate profits.

(f) The Government have no information—presumably any firms which make the classes of goods which were protected in June last.

(g) This is a matter for the Company.

(h) No, not the whole.

(i) No.

THE KENYA IMMIGRATION BILL.

214. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state in what stage the Kenya Immigration Bill is?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply given on the 16th September, 1924, to Sir Hari Singh Gour's question No. 2021 on the same subject.

UNIVERSITY FOR RAJPUTANA.

215. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to question 339 in the Council of State on the 3rd September, 1924, *re* "University for Rajputana", will the Government please state if any further progress has been made than that indicated by the Government reply to the above question?

Mr. Denys Bray: The scheme is still under consideration locally. The Agent to the Governor General suggested in August last to the Darbars concerned that it might be desirable to ascertain more fully the conditions of affiliation with the Delhi University. It was also proposed that a representative deputation might be sent to wait on the University authorities. The replies of certain Darbars are still awaited.

Mr. E. F. Sykes: Will Government undertake not to set up any more Universities in directly administered areas until equipment of the Delhi University has been brought up to a reasonable standard? (Laughter.)

RETRENCHMENT IN AJMER-MERWARA.

216. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to Government reply to starred question 2355 (b), *re* "Retrenchment in Ajmer Merwara", will the Government please state:

- if they have arrived at any decision on the question?
- if so, will they please communicate the result to the House?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) Yes.

(b) A statement giving the information is laid on the table.

Statement showing the savings effected or anticipated in connection with Mr. Campbell's recommendations regarding Ajmer-Merwara.

	Savings effected.			Savings anticipated.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
(i) Ajmer Treasury	8,503	8	0	...		
(ii) Honorary Magistrate's Court, Ajmer	1,464	0	0	...		
(iii) Education	1,440	0	0	3,795	0	0
(iv) Medical	2,196	0	0	...		
(v) Public Works Department (Civil Works, Ajmer-Merwara).	41,247	0	0	...		
(vi) Jails	3,000	0	0	...		
Total	57,850	8	0	3,795	0	0

STRANDED MADRAS COOLIES IN ASSAM.

217. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: With reference to Government reply to question re "Stranded Madras Coolies in Assam" in the Council of State on the 11th September, 1924, page 1008, will the Government please state—

- (a) if they have received the reply of the Local Government?
(b) if so, will they please give the required information?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) The information was given in this House by the Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee on the 15th September 1924.

ADMINISTRATION OF PORTS BY THE RAILWAY BOARD.

218. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Will the Government please state if the Acworth Committee advised that the administration of ports should be entrusted to the Railway Board?

- (b) If so, has the recommendation been carried into effect?
(c) If not, are Government prepared to take the matter into their consideration?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The question of bringing the major ports into closer touch with the Government of India is at present under consideration.

AMENDMENT OF THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX ACT, 1922.

219. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will the Government please state if they are prepared to consider the desirability of amending the Income-tax Act, 1922, in order to admit of appeals to the Privy Council against the decision of High Courts on matters referred to them under section 66 of the said Act?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government are awaiting the result of an application to the Privy Council for leave to appeal against a decision of a certain High Court.

THE SUKKUR BARRAGE.

220. *Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how far the Sukkur Barrage Scheme in Sind is carried out?

(b) What amount has already been spent and what it would cost when completed and how many acres of land would be brought under new cultivation and the cultivation of how many acres would be vastly improved?

(c) Whether it is a fact that it would cost 18 crores of rupees and irrigate 3½ million acres of new land to be brought under cultivation and 2 million acres of land would have improved facilities for irrigation?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Good progress has been made with the survey work and investigations which must necessarily precede the construction of a large project, and the alignment of the canals, branches and distributaries is being settled. Some of the buildings required

in connection with the scheme are in hand, and the preparation of plans and estimates for others is well advanced. Proceedings for land acquisition are in progress, work on the railway communications and quarry sidings is progressing satisfactorily, and plant and machinery are being received and erected.

(b) Rs. 62 lakhs had been spent up to the end of September last, the latest date for which figures are available. The remainder of this portion of the question is correctly answered by the Honourable Member himself in part (c).

REDUCTION OF POSTAL RATES.

221. *Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: Will the Government be pleased to state the actual income and expenditure as far as figures are available of the Postal Department:

- (a) since the postal rates have been increased as compared with the accounts for a similar period prior to the increase;
(b) the number of letters and postcards posted during the aforesaid period;
(c) whether it is not possible to reduce the postal rates to the old level or even on the alternative of ¼ anna postal card ½ anna for half a tola and one anna for 2½ tolas without impairing the condition that the Postal Department should be self-supporting?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I lay on the table a statement giving the information asked for in parts (a) and (b) of the question. In regard to the figures of expenditure relating to part (a), I may explain that the figures are those appearing in the published accounts of Government, but that they do not make full allowance for items like interest on capital, pensionary charges, provision for a depreciation fund, etc., which should correctly be debited to a commercial concern. The financial result of the Post and Telegraph Department according to accounts prepared on a commercial basis will be brought out in connection with the Budget for 1925-26.

The reply to part (c) of the question is in the negative.

Statement showing the information asked for in parts (a) and (b) of the above question.

	Year.	Income.		Expenditure.	
		Rs.		Rs.	
(a)	Prior to the increase made from 24th April 1922.	1920-21	5,35,68,686	1920-21	5,33,06,049
		1921-22	5,82,74,673	1921-22	6,41,27,154
	Since the increase made from 24th April 1922.	1922-23	6,56,61,076	1922-23	6,80,37,237
		1923-24	6,78,54,237	1923-24	6,55,16,139
(b)	Year.	Letters.		Postcards.	
	Prior to increase	1920-21	612,213,587	1920-21	630,401,432
		1921-22	613,921,337	1921-22	618,470,932
	Since the increase	1922-23	512,851,067	1922-23	523,623,419
		1923-24	519,939,442	1923-24	531,906,208

REVENUE FROM CUSTOMS EXPORT DUTY ON JUTE.

222. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju**: Will the Government be pleased to state what is the amount realised from the customs export duty imposed on Jute manufactured and unmanufactured during the last three years as far as figures are available?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Honourable Member is referred to the monthly Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India which are available in the Library.

ABANDONMENT OF THE ANDAMANS AS A PENAL SETTLEMENT.

223. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju**: Will the Government be pleased to state when do they propose to abandon the Andamans as a penal settlement and whether alternative accommodation had been constructed in India to accommodate all those who had been and who will be sentenced to transportation?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: It is impossible to fix any date from which the Andamans will cease to be a penal settlement. The process of transformation is in progress. The transportation of convicts has been practically closed. The number of the convicts in the Settlement on the 31st March, 1919, was 12,471, and the number on the 1st November, 1924, 8,297. Of this number 2,564 men and 215 women were self-supporters, i.e., agriculturists, shopkeepers, village functionaries or menials (and also convicts in private service). They are for all practical purposes free. Of the remaining 5,518 there were (a) 1,288 "Government self-supporters", i.e., men and women working in the different departments on a cash wage and freed from many restrictions, and (b) 4,230 labouring convicts. Men belonging to the latter class are still grouped in labour battalions and are rationed, clothed and housed by Government. The majority of them have fixed duties to do under the different departments. The rest are classed as "disposable labour" and employed on whatever task is most urgent from day to day.

The construction of alternative prison accommodation in Indian jails is a matter primarily for Local Governments, but the necessity for proceeding with it as quickly as possible has more than once been urged on them.

Mr. W. S. J. Willson: Is there any other penal settlement where prisoners can be practically free?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Not in India, as far as I am aware.

EXPENDITURE ON THE POLICE.

224. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju**: Will the Government be pleased to state the gross expenditure on the Indian Police for the two years 1922-23 and 1923-24 as compared with 12½ crores in 1920-21 and 13½ crores in 1921-22 and whether this expenditure was taken into account when considering the expenditure for defence as it was stated by the Government when the Police Department was organised in India that it would materially diminish the military expenditure?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The gross expenditure on the Indian Police Force in the years 1922-23 and 1923-24 amounted approximately to 13.4 and 13.1 crores. I am not aware of the statement referred

to by the Honourable Member as having been made by Government, but I feel that I am perfectly safe in replying that police expenditure was not taken into consideration when the expenditure on defence in the years 1922 to 1924 was determined.

INCREASE OF CONTRIBUTION TO THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE FAMILY PENSION SCHEME.

225. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju**: Will the Government be pleased to state in view of the statement of Earl Winterton that the Government contribution to the Indian Civil Service Family Pension Scheme was increased by 25 per cent. from January, 1920, subject to reconsideration after 31st December, 1923, whether any subsequent increase was made and if so, at what rate and what was the amount of additional charge on that account?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The 25 per cent. temporary increase of pensions from the Indian Civil Service Family Pension Scheme granted in 1920 was sanctioned by the Secretary of State subject to reconsideration after the 31st December, 1924, not 31st December, 1923.

The question of a further increase is under consideration in connection with the India Office Actuary's valuation report on the scheme as at 31st March, 1923, and meanwhile the Secretary of State has sanctioned the continuance of the 25 per cent. temporary increase for a further period of six months, that is to say up to 30th June, 1925. Any increase in the benefits from the scheme, whether permanent or temporary, that may be made as a result of the Actuary's valuation will be met entirely from the balances of the Scheme and will not involve any charge on Government.

MANUFACTURE OF OPIUM IN INDIA.

226. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju**: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of chests of opium manufactured in India in the opium year ending 31st October 1922-23 and 1923-24 as far as figures are available and how many chests were for export and how many for consumption in India and the area under poppy cultivation during the said period as compared with 5,800 chests for export 6,724 chests for internal consumption and the area 116,500 acres under poppy cultivation in the year ending 31st October, 1921.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: A statement giving the desired information is laid on the table.

Statement showing the area under poppy cultivation and the number of chests of provision and Excise opium manufactured during the opium years 1922-23 and 1923-24.

	Area under poppy cultivation (Excluding failures).	NO. OF CHESTS MANUFACTURED.	
		Provision opium.	Excise opium.
1922-23	2,25,220 Bighas	8,025	5,516
1923-24	2,13,629 „	9,000	5,496

NOTE—The standard Bigha is 1/16th of an acre.

LEGISLATION FOR THE REGISTRATION AND PROTECTION OF TRADE UNIONS.

227. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to state when the Government of India propose to bring in a measure relating to the registration and protection of trade unions and whether the Local Governments expressed their views on the proposed measure and whether they would be circulated to the Members of the Assembly at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The Bill has already been introduced in this House. Government intend to circulate the replies received from Local Governments to Members of the Assembly.

STATISTICS RELATING TO COTTON PRODUCTION, ETC.

228. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to state how many bales of cotton were grown in India in the years 1922-23 and 1923-24 as compared with 36 lakhs grown in 1920-21 and 44 lakhs 64 thousand grown in 1921-22 and whether there are any statistics to show what quantity was utilised in India and how much was exported out of India during these years?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: A statement giving the information desired by the Honourable Member is placed on the table.

Statement showing the production, export and consumption of raw cotton during the years 1922-23 and 1923-24.

(Figures are in bales of lbs. 400 each.)

Years.	Production estimated.	Exports (by sea and land).	Balance left for use in India.
1922-23	50,75,000	33,68,360	17,06,640
1923-24	50,75,000	37,62,936	13,12,044

TOTAL PUBLIC TAXATION.

229. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to state the total public taxation of India for the year 1923-24 Imperial, Provincial and local without excluding the working expenses of railways, irrigation, postal and telegraphs and whether it would be accurate to say that the total would amount to about 300 crores, about 190 crores Imperial, 90 crores Provincial and 20 crores local and if not, what is the correct figure?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: From the reference to the inclusion of working expenses of commercial undertakings owned by the State, I gather that the Honourable Member wants the figures of aggregate gross public revenues, which obviously is quite different from the gross public taxation. The total gross revenues are as follows:

Central Government (excluding provincial contributions)	188 crores.
Provincial Governments	88 „
Local bodies (including Government grants)	24 „

The two former include receipts from such sources as land revenue which is not strictly speaking a tax, gross receipts from State-owned commercial undertakings, sale proceeds of public property, profits of note circulation, interest on loans, etc. As regards tax revenue the latest available figures of actual receipts are those for 1922-23 in the case of the Central and Provincial Governments and for 1921-22 in the case of local bodies. The Central, Provincial and local taxation amounted in these years to 67, 31 and 13 crores respectively excluding land revenue and 67, 66 and 13 crores respectively including it.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: May I ask, Sir, whether the Finance Member is aware that the East India Company and Lord Salisbury as Secretary of State for India wanted this Government to treat land revenue always as a tax?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member should treat the Finance Member as a Finance Member, not as a historian.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I should have liked to have given the Honourable Member the historical information.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is quite at liberty to do so.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: But I should have had to have looked it up.

REDUCTION OF UNPRODUCTIVE DEBT.

230. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government have in contemplation any scheme for the gradual reduction of unproductive debt which amounts to more than 200 crores and if so, whether it would be published at an early date, and whether sinking funds created would afford any adequate provision for rapid reduction of unproductive debt or whether it is the policy of the Government to keep the unproductive debt on a high level so as to distribute the war burdens on future generation as well?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Finance Department Resolution No. F.-13-II-F., dated the 9th December, 1924, which has appeared in Part I of the Gazette of India of the 13th *idem*.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PERIODICALS BY EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE SERVICES.

231. ***Mr. T. C. Goswami:** (a) Do Government employ their various means of securing information to find out when and which European members of the Services contribute to periodicals in and outside India and are engaged anonymously in literary or journalistic propaganda on behalf of the European Association, the Indo-British Association or other Associations?

(b) If so, have Government ever punished any such offending official? If not, are Government prepared to consider specific cases brought to their notice with *prima facie* evidence?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The relations of Government servants with the Press are regulated by Rules 17 to 20 and 24 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, which are duly enforced. They do not, as the Honourable Member appears to suppose, prohibit anonymous

contributions to the Press which are not in themselves contrary to the public interest or inconsistent in other respects with the duties of a Government servant.

INDIAN TRADES CENTRE IN LONDON.

232. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Englishman* of 1st December, 1924, page 7, under the heading "Indian Trades Centre in London"?

(b) If so, will they please state if they are prepared to consider the advisability of discussing with the Provincial Governments the possibilities of such an enterprise in the interest of Indian trade and its development as suggested?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Yes.

With your permission, Sir, I will answer part (b) of question No. 232 and question No. 242 together.

The Government have not as yet taken the proposal into consideration.

PROTECTION OF WORKMEN AGAINST FINES.

233. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will Government please state:

(a) if Truck Acts have been in force in England since 1831?

(b) if there is any legislation in India to protect the workmen against the arbitrary power of inflicting fines vested in the hands of the employers?

(c) If not, whether Government intend introducing any such legislation?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The answer to part (a) of the question is in the affirmative and to parts (b) and (c) in the negative.

INDIAN EMIGRATION AND LABOUR CONDITIONS IN MAURITIUS.

234. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph, published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 2nd December 1924, page 12, under the heading "Indian Emigration" "Labour conditions in Mauritius"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the facts stated in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the paragraph are correct?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Yes: the communication published in the *Statesman* is a copy of the Press Communiqué issued by the Government of India.

CONTRACT FOR WAGONS FOR THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

235. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will the Government please state:

(a) if it is a fact that Messrs Cammell, Laird, and Co., have received for their wagon-building works at Nottingham a contract to supply 775 four-wheeled all steel open goods wagons for the East Indian Railway Company?

(b) if it is also a fact that the contract was obtained against keen foreign competition?

(c) whether any Indian firm competed?

(d) the number and names of the firms that competed?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have no information, but they can assure the Honourable Member, that no tender for stores can be accepted by the Boards of Company lines without the prior approval of the Government Director, who is in a position to ensure, and does ensure, that all contracts are placed in the most favourable markets having regard to price, quality, conditions of delivery, and other relevant considerations.

(c) and (d). Government have no information, but these 775 wagons were the balance of 1,320 required, and were ordered abroad, after orders had been placed in India up to the full capacity of the wagon building firms in this country.

SALE OF COUNCIL BILLS.

236. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 5th December, 1924, page 5, under the heading "Sale of Council Bills"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the facts and figures quoted therein are correct?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) and (b). The reply to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

237. *Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 5th December, 1924, page 7, under the heading "Indians in South Africa" "Mr. J. H. Thomson Proposes a Conference"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the facts stated in the paragraph are correct?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Mr. Thomas made such a suggestion in a speech which he delivered at a Civic Reception at Pietermaritzburg. The Government of India have no other information on the subject.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: With regard to the position of Indians in South Africa, will Government be pleased to give us an early date for the discussion of the subject?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: That question does not, I submit, arise.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know if it is in the province of any Government Member to say whether a certain question does or does not arise?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I made a submission to the Honourable the President.

Mr. President: What Mr. Bhore intended was that he required notice.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Are Government aware of the attitude taken up by the Government of South Africa regarding the suggestion made by Mr. Thomas?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: No, Sir.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Do not Government think it necessary to find out for themselves what attitude the Government of South Africa and the Colonial Office have taken in this matter?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I think the Honourable Member was present on the opening day of this Assembly when His Excellency the Viceroy made reference in his speech to South Africa. I think His Excellency pointed out that the question of South Africa was under correspondence and was being actively pursued. In these circumstances, I can add nothing more and trust that the Honourable Member will not press me for any further information in the matter.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: Will the Honourable the Home Member kindly say if he will afford facilities for the discussion of the subject?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: What is the subject?

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: The position of Indians in South Africa.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I am afraid I must have notice of that. •

MEDICAL OFFICERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

238. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many wholetime medical officers drawing above Rs. 500, were employed in the E. I. Railway before its amalgamation with the O. & R. Railway?

(b) Will the Government be further pleased to state how many of the said officers are of pure Asiatic descent?

(c) Under the amalgamation, how many medical officers drawing Rs. 500 or above, of pure Asiatic descent, are to be employed?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) The amalgamation of the East Indian Railway with the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway has not yet been effected. There are, however, 12 wholetime medical officers on the East Indian Railway drawing above Rs. 500.

(b) So far as Government are aware two are of Asiatic descent.

(c) No statement can be made as regards the future except that it is proposed to retain the services of those already in East Indian Railway employ.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS SECRETARIES TO COMMITTEES.

239. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian was appointed as Secretary to any Committee appointed by the Government of India since the inauguration of the Reforms and, if so, to what Committee and why an Indian was not appointed to other Committees?

(b) whether the Government are prepared to declare the policy of appointing an Indian generally to any Committee that may be appointed hereafter?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) and (b). An Indian was appointed as Secretary to the following Committees:

- (1) The Calcutta and Bombay Committees on Government Securities.
- (2) The Tariff Board.
- (3) The Civil Justice Committee.
- (4) The Indian Law Reports Committee.

Information regarding Committees appointed in connection with subjects dealt with by one Department is not complete but additions, if any, to the above list will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

In the case of all Committees the most suitable person available, whether Indian or European, is selected to act as Secretary and the Government do not consider it necessary or desirable to depart from this principle.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN CONSULS.

240. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian was appointed in any Consular service and if not will Indian Consuls be appointed in all countries wherein India has important trade relations?

(b) has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that want of a proper Indian Consul either in Sydney or Melbourne is causing difficulties in furthering the trade relations between India and Australia and New Zealand?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) The Honourable Member is, I think, under a misapprehension. Consuls are of course only appointed to foreign countries, and an Indian Consul at Sydney or Melbourne would be as much a contradiction in terms as an English Consul in Bombay or Calcutta. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to Trade Commissioners. A Trade Commissioner is stationed in London and he had an Indian Assistant until he had to be retrenched. No other Trade Commissioners have so far been appointed and it is not contemplated to extend the service at present.

(b) No, Sir.

REPORT OF THE REFORMS INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

241. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the labours of the Reforms Inquiry Committee are finished and whether the report is ready and whether the Assembly will be given the chance of expressing its view before the Government make up their minds what to do in the matter?

REPORT OF THE REFORMS INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

325. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table of this House the opinions of the Provincial Governments and Governors received by the Reforms Inquiry Committee?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if the Legislative Assembly will have an opportunity to discuss the Report of the Reforms Inquiry Committee before the Government of India's recommendations on the said Report are communicated to the Secretary of State for India?

REPORT OF THE REFORMS INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

397. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to publish to the Members the Report of the Indian Reforms Inquiry Committee presided over by the Home Member?

(b) Do Government propose to give the Members of this House an opportunity to discuss it?

REPORT OF THE REFORMS INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

431. ***Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** Will the Government be pleased to state when and whether the Report of the Reforms Inquiry Committee will be published and the approximate date on which the Government will afford facilities for the discussion of the Report in this House?

REPORT OF THE REFORMS INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

516. ***Mr. T. C. Goswami:** When will the Report of the Reforms Inquiry Committee be published and submitted to the Assembly for discussion?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I propose, Sir, with your permission, to reply to questions Nos. 241, 325, 397, 431 and 516 together. The Committee finished its labours on the 3rd December and the Report has been received by Government. It is hoped to publish it within a few weeks and before final orders are passed the Indian Legislature will have an opportunity of discussing the recommendations of the Committee.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know, Sir, whether an opportunity will be given to this House to discuss the recommendations of the Committee in this session?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I am not prepared to give any undertaking on that point.

INDIAN TRADE CENTRE IN LONDON.

*242. †**Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government of India propose to establish a properly equipped permanent trade centre in London and, if so, whether an Indian would be in charge of it?

AMENDMENTS IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RULES.

243. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether Provincial Councils were consulted regarding the changes introduced after Rule 20 of the Legislative Council Rules of every province?

† *Vide* answer to Question No. 232.

(b) whether the Government considered the effect of a Recommended Bill in the sphere of Transferred subjects and the spirit of Reforms and the modicum of responsibility granted to the Legislatures being negatived virtually?

(c) what was the urgency of making these amendments in the Rules?

Mr. L. Graham: (a) No.

(b) The Honourable Member's apprehensions are unfounded. New rules 20B and 20C regulate the procedure where the Governor has used the power of recommendation conferred on him by section 72E. As that power extends only to Bills relating to a reserved subject, it follows that the rules also apply only to Bills relating to a reserved subject.

(c) The question of framing rules for the provincial Legislatures was taken up in the ordinary course of business after the corresponding rules under section 67 had been made. The Honourable Member will remember that those rules which relate to the procedure in the Indian Legislature on recommended and certified Bills were published in the Gazette of India on the 13th March, 1924.

PROVISION OF QUARTERS FOR INDIAN GUARDS OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY IN CALCUTTA.

244. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Are the Government aware that Indian guards stationed in Calcutta have not yet been provided with quarters? If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state when the Calcutta Indian guards are going to be accommodated in railway quarters?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The question of the provision of quarters at Sealdah for E. B. Railway employees is a large one and presents difficulty as suitable sites are not easy to find in the vicinity of railway premises and land is costly. The difficulty of providing quarters is not confined to the case of Indian guards only; there is a large number of other classes of staff whose duties require them to live close to their work and for whom quarters have not yet been provided. The question is under the active consideration of the E. B. Railway authorities.

REMOVAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE GOODS SUPERINTENDENT AT SEALDAH TO A SAFE SITE.

245. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Are the Government aware that the Goods Superintendent at Sealdah has recently shifted his office to a new building which is so situated as to cause danger to clerks and officers under him who have to cross the line frequently during shunting operations in the discharge of their duties? If so, do the Government propose to take suitable action so that the office of the Goods Superintendent be removed to a safe position?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The goods shed office was formerly located in the goods shed and was under the control of the Assistant Traffic Superintendent, Sealdah, whose office was in the goods shed. This post has been abolished and the work has been placed under the District Traffic Superintendent, Southern, whose office is in the General Office Buildings to the north of Sealdah main station. The Supervisor's office has not been shifted. Government are informed that there are proper roads and an overbridge heading from the goods shed to the District Traffic Superintendent's

office and that no trespassing over railway lines is necessary in passing from one to the other building for the discharge of official duties. In these circumstances Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

DISCHARGE BY THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY OF EMPLOYEES FOR
ALLEGED MALINGERING.

246. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Are the Government aware that the E. B. Railway authorities have discharged men from service on the plea of malingering even when the period of sickness was duly supported by certificates of qualified railway doctors? If the answer be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to inquire if any such cases are pending with the E. B. Railway authorities?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative.

QUARTERS FOR THE STATION STAFF AND RUNNING STAFF, LALMONIRHAT,
EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

247. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Are the Government aware that the E. B. Railway authorities have constructed quarters for accommodating clerks of the new District Loco. Superintendent's Office, Lalmonirhat, although the station staff and running staff of the Locomotive Department, Lalmonirhat, have been suffering for want of quarters for a long time? If the answer be in the affirmative, are the Government prepared to allocate those quarters to such as have a prior or better claim?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Quarters were built for 12 clerks and 5 workmen of the District Loco. Superintendent's office in 1923-24.

10 units mistry and artisan type and 20 units workmen type quarters were also provided in the same year for the station staff and running staff of the Loco. Department.

The re-allotment suggested by the Honourable Member is not practicable, but the whole question of providing staff quarters is, as I have said, under investigation by the E. B. Railway authorities.

GRANT OF CALCUTTA LOCAL ALLOWANCE TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE EASTERN
BENGAL RAILWAY SERVING IN CALCUTTA.

248. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Are the Government aware that only the officers and ministerial of the E. B. Railway in Calcutta are allowed Calcutta local allowance? If so, will the Government be pleased to state why this privilege is denied to other railway staff serving in Calcutta?

Mr. G. G. Sim: No. Officers are not allowed Calcutta Local Allowance. Ministerial staff who are engaged in office work in Calcutta are granted a special local allowance of 10 per cent. in addition to the rate of pay in the mofussil. Of other staff in Calcutta who are not granted the allowance certain classes are given free quarters or house allowance.

The question of the grant of a local allowance to other classes of staff will depend on the result of the investigation now being made into the whole question of provision of quarters.

PROMOTION OF INDIAN GUARDS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

249. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Are the Government aware that the E. B. Railway authorities have appointed Anglo-Indian guards on the maximum pay of Class "A" ignoring the claims of Indian guards who are in service and are eligible for promotion to Guards List? If it is a fact, do the Government propose to take suitable action?

Mr. G. G. Sim: No such appointments have been made to permanent vacancies. The temporary vacancies arising in the busy season are, however, filled as far as conditions permit by temporary promotions of permanent qualified staff, Indian and European, supplemented when necessary by temporary appointments of qualified applicants.

ALLEGED BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

250. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Are the Government aware that complaints of bribery and extortion have been brought to light against certain clerks of a District Officer of the E. B. Railway, in charge of the establishment section? If the answer be in the affirmative, what do Government propose to do?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Honourable Member has not specified any particular District Office, but if he refers to an alleged case which occurred at Katihar and which formed the subject of question No. 1801 by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan in the Legislative Assembly on the 11th September, 1924, his attention is directed to part (b) of the reply given.

INDIAN GUARDS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

251. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Are the Government aware that Indian guards employed in the E. B. Railway have very often to work "under rest" and in consequence they fall sick very frequently?

(b) Are the Government aware that during the last two years six guards died, two became invalid and many lost their health in the Lalmonirhat District of the E. B. Railway for working "under rest" and in bad climates? If the answer be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to inquire if any temporary hands are still working in the Lalmonirhat District and for what period?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) No. From information received from the Administration it appears there is no ground for the statements made.

(b) No. Four guards have died and one was invalided during 1923 and 1924. These were normal casualties and were not due to any special cause such as mentioned. There are no temporary hands at present employed in these District guards.

EMPLOYMENT OF ANGLO-INDIAN GUARDS AS SUPERVISING ASSISTANT STATION
MASTERS OF SPECIAL CLASS STATIONS.

252. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Are the Government aware that Anglo-Indian and European guards are employed to officiate as supervising assistant station masters of Special Class stations superseding the claims of "Indoor" Indian station masters of the stations who have more experience than the guards? If the answer be in the affirmative, are the Government prepared to put a stop to this practice as early as possible?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Honourable Member does not mention which particular Railway he refers to, but speaking generally appointments of the nature referred to are necessarily made at the discretion of the local railway authorities in accordance with the qualifications of the staff concerned. The Honourable Member is referred in this connection to the reply given to Mr. Joshi to a somewhat similar question on the 17th September, 1924.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

253. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the constitution of the Advisory Board of the South Indian Railway;
- (b) whether all members thereto are elected; and if so, by what bodies and under what conditions;
- (c) whether the Government intend to urge upon the S. I. Railway to elect a representative of their own as in the case of the Advisory Board of the M. and S. M. Railway;
- (d) whether there is now any member on the Advisory Board who is supposed to represent the interests of the Third Class Passengers;
- (e) whether the Government intend to urge upon the S. I. Railway administration the desirability of allowing the Railway Passengers' Associations to elect a representative to sit on the Advisory Board of the Railway?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). For information regarding the constitution of the South Indian Railway Local Advisory Committee and the members thereof the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in this Assembly on the 2nd June, 1924, to Mr. N. C. Kelkar's question No. 1192.

(c) and (d). There is a member of the Committee, who was selected by the Agent from the names submitted to him by the various local Passengers' Associations.

(e) In view of the reply given to (c) and (d), no action on the part of Government appears necessary.

THE VILLUPURAM TRICHINOPOLY RAILWAY.

254. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Madras Chamber of Commerce has submitted a memorandum to the Railway Board to the effect that the construction of the chord line should run from Cuddalore to Trichinopoly and not from Villupuram, as proposed by the S. I. railway;
- (b) whether the Madras Chamber of Commerce made this proposal for the reason that as a result of the chord line running from Villupuram, the Port of Cuddalore would suffer to the advantage of Pondicherry, a French port;
- (c) whether the Government have received any representation from the Government of Madras on this matter and if so, to what effect;

(d) whether the Government have consulted important commercial communities and public bodies in South Arcot District as to the effect of the proposed chord line on the trade of the Port of Cuddalore and if so who were the persons or trading companies and public bodies so consulted;

(e) what has been finally decided by the Government with regard to this matter?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Yes. The Government of Madras shared the views of the Madras Chamber of Commerce and suggested, as a remedial measure, the construction of a branch line from Vriddhachalam to Cuddalore simultaneously with the construction of the Villupuram Trichinopoly Chord Railway.

(d) No, but copies of resolutions passed by the Landing and Shipping Fees Committee, Cuddalore, the Municipal Council, Cuddalore, and the District Board, South Arcot, embodying their views on the matter, have been received through the Madras Government.

(e) It is proposed to have the Vriddhachalam Cuddalore connection built along with the Villupuram Trichinopoly Railway.

DOUBLING OF THE RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN MADRAS BEACH AND TAMBARAM.

255. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) in what stage the proposal to double the line between Madras Beach and Tambaram by the S. I. Railway, now is;
- (b) when the construction of the second line will be taken up by the S. I. Railway;
- (c) and by what time the S. I. Railway hope to complete the construction of the second line;
- (d) whether the Government intend to urge upon the S. I. Railway administration to take up this work of construction immediately?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) to (d). Proposals and estimates are under preparation for the provision in certain stages of increased facilities in the Madras suburban Area including additional lines and electrification. The doubling and trebling of the line between Madras Beach and Madras Egmore, and Madras Egmore and Tambaram respectively, forms Stage I of the whole scheme and is programmed to be completed in 4½ years from the time the scheme is sanctioned by the Secretary of State, but until the estimates have been prepared and considered it is not possible to state definitely when the work on the project will be started.

CONVERSION INTO BROAD GAUGE OF THE RAILWAY LINE FROM SHORANUR TO ERNAKULAM.

256. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, on account of certain modifications to be made in the Cochin Harbour scheme, the original scheme of Mr. Izzat to convert the line from Shoranur to Ernakulam into a broad gauge is likely to materialize in the near future;
- (b) and if there is to be any delay, will the Government be pleased to state, for how long and for what reasons?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). The survey for the conversion has recently been sanctioned, and the Agent of the South Indian Railway has been asked for a full report on the financial aspects of the conversion. The final decision will depend on the result of these investigations.

MINIMUM COLLECTION OF EXCESS FARES BY TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

257. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the S. I. Railway has recently appointed 40 Ticket Examiners and that the Company insists that every one of them should collect not less than Rs. 300 per month by way of excess fare and freight from passengers;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Ticket Examiners at different Railway stations on the South Indian Railway have been asked to collect as excess fare a sum not less than their monthly salary, on pain of their services being dispensed with;
- (c) whether the Government are aware that the action of the Railway Company insisting on a certain minimum collection of excess fare causes no little annoyance to passengers by the Ticket Examiners;
- (d) do the Government propose to draw the attention of the Railway Company to this matter?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). Appointments of additional Travelling Ticket Examiners have recently been made by the South Indian Railway, but the Agent states that it is not a fact that any such stipulations as referred to in these questions have been made.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

REDUCTION OF FIRST AND SECOND CLASS FARES ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

258. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) in view of the fact that several Railway Companies have recently reduced their first and second class passenger fares, why the South Indian Railway Company has not yet effected any reduction in their passenger fares;
- (b) are the Government prepared to urge on the S. I. Railway Administration the necessity in the interests of the travelling public, of effecting such reductions in their passenger fares?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Government understand that the possibility of making a reduction in first and second class fares is now under the consideration of the South Indian Railway Company.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that the conveniences and comforts on the second and first class of the South Indian Railway are perhaps at the minimum compared to all other railways in India?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government are aware that this line is very much congested. But I have already explained in reply to a previous question that we have urged the Agent to expedite the estimates for providing further facilities.

REVISED ESTIMATES OF RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

259. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) what the revised estimates of railway receipts are for the year 1924-25;
- (b) what the amount of increase or decrease in railway receipts on each railway is;
- (c) and whether, in case of there being any surplus in receipts on any railway, the Government propose to consider the desirability of reducing the fares of third class passengers?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I am afraid the Honourable Member must wait for this information until the railway estimates are presented to the House.

REDUCTION OF THIRD CLASS FARES ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

260. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) what the rates of third class fares on the G. I. P., B., B. and C. I., E. I., M. and S. M. and S. I. Railways are;
- (b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the third class fares on the S. I. Railway are higher than the fares for the same class in any of the other above-mentioned railways; and
- (c) whether the Government are prepared in view of the great hardship caused to the third class passengers on the S. I. Railway by reason of the high fares, to urge on the S. I. Railway Company the necessity of bringing down their third class fares to the level of the other railway companies?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table. From this it will be seen that third class fares on the South Indian Railway are not in all cases higher than those in force on the other railways mentioned.

(c) Government understand that the possibility of making a reduction in fares is now under the consideration of the Company.

Statement showing present third class fares on the Indian railways.

Railways.	Mail.		Ordinary.	
		Per mile pies.		Per mile pies.
Great Indian Peninsula	Up to 300 miles Plus for extra distance.	5 4½	Up to 300 miles Plus for extra distance.	4 3½
Bombay, Baroda and Central India.	Up to 300 miles Plus for extra distance.	4 3½	Up to 300 miles Plus for extra distance.	2½ 3
East Indian	Up to 300 miles Plus for extra distance.	5 4½	Any distance	3½
Madras and Southern Mahratta.	Any distance	4	Up to 100 miles Plus for extra distance.	3½ 3
South Indian	Any distance	5	Any distance	3½

THIRD CLASS FARES ON THE SOUTH INDIAN AND MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAYS FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIED YEARS.

261. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya:** Will the Government be pleased to state what the fares for the third class were on the South Indian and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways during the years

(i) 1900-1901.

(ii) 1910-1911.

(iii) 1920-1921.

(iv) 1924-1925.

Mr. G. G. Sim: Statements giving the information asked for are placed on the table.

MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

Third Class Fares.

Year.	Gauges.	PIES PER MILE.		Distance.
		By Mail Train.	By ordinary train.	
1900-1901	5' 6"	2½	2½ to 2	Any.
	Metre	3 to 2	3 to 2	Any.
1910-1911	5' 6"	2½	2½ to 2	Any.
	Metre	2½	2½ to 2	Any.
1st April, 1920 to 31st July, 1920.	5' 6"	3	2½	Any.
	Metre	3	2½	Any.
1st August, 1920 to 31st March, 1921.	5' 6"	3½	3	Any.
	Metre	3½	3 to 2½	Any.
1924-1925	5' 6"	4	...	Any.
	Metre	...	3½	First 100 miles.
		...	3	Additional distance.
		4	...	Any.
		...	3½	First 100 miles.
		...	3	Additional distance.

* Since transferred to South Indian Railway System.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY (NILGIRI RAILWAY EXCEPTED).

Third Class Fares.

Year.	Gauges.	PIES PER MILE.		Distance.
		By mail train.	By ordinary train.	
1st April, 1900 to 31st October, 1900 to 1st November, 1900 to 31st March, 1901.	All	2	2	Any.
	All	2½ (Boat mail).	2	Any.
1910-11	5' 6"	2½ to 2	2	Any.
	Metre	2½	...	First 50 miles.
		2½ to 2	...	Additional distance.
		...	2 to 2½	Any.
1920-1921	2' 6"	...	2½	Any.
	5' 6"	3	2½	Any.
	Metre	3	2½	Any.
		...	2½	...
1924-25	5' 6"	5	3½	Any.
	Metre	5	3½	Any.
		...	3½	...
		...	3½	...

CLOSING BY THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY OF THE LEVEL CROSSING GATE ON THE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S ROAD IN MADRAS.

262. ***Mr. M. K. Acharya:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- whether they are aware of the fact that the S. I. Railway Company have recently closed the level-crossing gate on the Police Commissioner's Road in the City of Madras, after the construction of an overbridge at the said place;
- whether the Government are aware of the fact that as a result of the closing of the level-crossing gate, the public at large and specially pedestrians, rikshaw-wallas, coolies carrying heavy loads and men who pull carts loaded with goods are put to very great hardship and suffering, by reason of their having now to get up a steep overbridge;
- whether the Government will be pleased to state what the objections of the said railway are to keep the gate open;
- whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Municipal Corporation of Madras have unanimously passed a resolution protesting against the action of the Railway Company in having closed the level-crossing gate and demanding the re-opening of the said gate;
- whether in view of the great hardship and inconvenience which the public in the locality are put to, the Government are prepared to urge on the Railway Company the immediate necessity of keeping the said level-crossing gate open, as before?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Inquiries made on the subject show that it was at the instance of the Corporation of Madras and to put an end to the inconvenience which it was said was experienced by pedestrians and others of having to wait at the crossing during train times that the overbridge was provided. The proposal, the design and the construction of the overbridge were approved by the Corporation as well as by the Government of Madras.

One of the conditions concerning the construction of the overbridge was that this was to be in substitution of and not in addition to, the level-crossing and this was accepted by the Corporation.

The Railway Administration object to the level-crossing being kept open in addition to the overbridge on the ground that besides the cost involved in maintaining both it would seriously affect the development of a fast and frequent suburban service.

(d) No.

(e) In the circumstances stated, Government do not propose to take any action.

TOTAL DEBT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

263. *Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the total debt of the Government of India as on 31st March, 1924, or such other date as may be available, both in sterling and in rupees, specifying:

(a) The country in which it is held,

(b) The Provinces in India in which the same is held with respective amounts, giving corresponding figures for the year 1913-14,

(c) The different forms in which the debt is contracted?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: A statement giving the information required so far as it is available has been laid on the table. The figures for the 31st March, 1923, have been given in lieu of those for the 31st March, 1924, as final figures for the latter date are not yet available.

The total includes the debt incurred on behalf of Provincial Governments and treasury bills issued to the Paper Currency Reserve.

Statement showing the debt of India outstanding on the 31st March, 1914 and 1923.

	31st March, 1914.	31st March, 1923.
Rupee debt in India (<i>vide</i> Detailed Statement I below)	Rs. 1,45,08,55,790	Rs. 4,11,07,10,245
Sterling debt in England (at £1 = Rs. 15) (<i>vide</i> Detailed Statement II below).	2,65,59,71,355	3,24,38,53,235
Unpaid balance of India's war contribution (at £1 = Rs. 15)	...	29,56,19,220
Unfunded debt (<i>vide</i> Detailed Statement II below)	34,09,97,811	62,56,45,288
Capital value of liabilities undergoing redemption by way of terminable Railway annuities (at £1 = Rs. 15).	1,05,50,13,395	91,96,87,890
	5,51,28,38,351	9,29,55,15,878

Statement showing the debt of India outstanding on the 31st March 1914 and 1923—contd.

	31st March, 1914.	31st March, 1923.
	Rs.	Rs.
DETAILED STATEMENT I.		
RUPEE DEBT IN INDIA.		
Loans bearing interest.		
Permanent Debt—		
6 per cent. Bonds, 1932	...	19,49,00,000
6 " " 1931	...	11,20,75,000
6 " " 1930	...	29,28,26,200
6 " " 1927	...	27,38,19,000
6 " " 1926	...	7,89,75,900
5½ " War Bonds, 1928	...	25,16,32,900
5½ " " 1925	...	3,71,00,000
5½ " " 1923	...	1,57,57,925
5 " Loan, 1945-55	...	18,49,04,200
5 " War Loan, 1929-47	...	23,07,96,675
4½ " Loan for Indore State Railway	1,00,00,000	1,00,00,000
4 " Loan from Maharaja Scindhia for State Railway	1,50,00,000	1,50,00,000
4 " Railway Loan from Nawab of Rampur	47,00,000	47,00,000
4 " Gwalior Loan of 1887	1,22,00,000	14,00,000
4 " Terminable Loan of 1915-16	...	2,80,18,700
4 " Conversion Loan of 1916-17	...	9,90,01,200
3½ " Loans	1,33,09,99,400	1,19,23,13,257
3 " Loan	8,23,18,000	6,43,56,250
Total Permanent Debt	1,45,52,17,400	3,29,15,78,107
Floating Debt—		
Treasury Bills issued to—		
(i) Public	Rs.	Rs.
(ii) Paper Currency Reserve	...	21,58,90,000
	...	49,65,00,000
	...	71,23,90,000
Total Debt in India bearing interest	1,45,52,17,400	4,10,39,68,107
Loans not bearing interest.		
5½ per cent. Expired Loans	...	67,28,850
Other Expired Loans	16,38,390	13,288
	16,38,390	67,42,138
Total Debt in India	1,45,68,55,790	4,11,07,10,245

Statement showing the debt of India outstanding on the 31st March, 1914 and 1923—contd.

	31st March, 1914.	31st March, 1923.
	Rs.	Rs.
DETAILED STATEMENT II.		
STERLING DEBT IN ENGLAND.		
<i>Loans bearing interest.</i>		
	£	£
Permanent Debt—		
India 7 per cent. Stock	...	4,004,474
" 5½ " " " " " " " " " "	...	22,192,208
" 4½ " " " " " " " " " "	...	20,000,000
" 3½ " " " " " " " " " "	91,211,186	88,974,593
" 3 " " " " " " " " " "	66,212,584	71,361,524
" 2½ " " " " " " " " " "	11,806,587	11,539,985
India Bonds	2,500,000	...
E. I. Ry. Debenture Stock 4½ per cent.	1,435,650	1,435,650
E. B. Ry. " " 4 " " " " " " " " " "	748,668	748,666
S. I. Ry. " " 4½ " " " " " " " " " "	425,000	425,000
G. I. P. Ry. " " 4 " " " " " " " " " "	2,701,450	2,701,450
Indian Midland Ry. Debenture 3½ per cent.	467,500	...
Total Debt bearing interest	177,048,173	222,923,549
Total Debt not bearing interest	16,584	...
Total Debt in England	177,064,757	222,923,549
Rupee equivalent at £1 = Rs. 15	2,65,59,71,355	3,34,38,53,355
DETAILED STATEMENT III.		
UNFUNDED DEBT.		
	1914.	1923.
	Rs.	Rs.
Endowments by the late King of Oudh	1,46,12,290	1,44,72,764
Other special loans for charitable institutions, etc.	22,31,956	22,30,695
	1,68,44,246	1,67,03,429
Treasury Notes	4,47,919	4,47,919
<i>Service Funds.</i>		
Balances at credit of—		
(1) Bengal Uncovenanted Service Family Pension Fund	1,45,17,795	1,16,43,810
(2) Bombay Uncovenanted Service Family Pension Fund	30,89,578	34,63,800
(3) Bengal and Madras Service Family Pension Fund	3,77,082	9,63,229
(4) Military Assistant Surgeons' Fund	3,55,842	3,53,817
(5) Indian Military Widows' and Orphans' Fund	...	11,17,743
	1,83,40,297	1,75,42,399
Post Office Cash Certificates	...	3,12,88,795

Statement showing the debt of India outstanding on the 31st March 1914 and 1923—contd.

	31st March, 1934.	31st March, 1932.
<i>Savings Banks Deposits.</i>	Rs.	Rs.
Bank Accounts—Balances due to the—		
(1) Post Office Savings Bank Deposits	22,16,74,126	22,20,03,557
(2) State Railway Provident Institutions	3,09,57,786	5,76,6,396
(3) Companies Railways' Provident Funds	...	16,32,23,118
(4) Civil Engineers' Provident Fund	15,85,096	9,97,603
(5) Forest Officers' Provident Fund	5,75,345	7,97,756
(6) Police Officers' Provident Fund	5,28,785	1,96,493
(7) General Provident Fund	2,89,90,578	8,21,45,577
(8) Indian Civil Service Provident Fund	...	43,70,009
(Rupee Branch	Rs. 19,49,229	
Sterling Branch at £1 = Rs. 15)	Rs. 7,29,780	
(9) Cemetery Endowment Fund	2,37,008	4,94,838
(10) Other Miscellaneous Provident Funds	2,13,642	12,18,911
(11) Other Officers' Provident Funds	1,96,252	1,57,667
Total Bank Accounts	29,41,34,838	53,91,69,864
Special Accounts—Balances on account of —		
(1) Postal Insurance and Life Annuity Fund	1,05,44,994	2,00,07,562
(2) Other Special Accounts	6,84,757	2,45,720
Total Special Accounts	1,12,28,451	2,02,52,882
Total Savings Banks Deposits	30,53,65,249	55,96,62,746
GRAND TOTAL	34,09,97,811	62,56,45,288

DEBTS OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

264. ***Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** Will Government be pleased to put on the table a statement showing:

(a) The debt of the various Provincial Governments as on 31st March, 1924, and

(b) Give corresponding figures for debts incurred by Provincial Governments, if any, on 31st March, 1924?

The Honourable Sir Easil Blackett: A statement showing the requisite figures is laid on the table. I ought to mention that on the 31st March, 1914, the Provinces had no debt as such of their own, but an approximate calculation has been made for the purposes of this statement, of the amounts which may be considered as then owing by the Provincial Governments to the Government of India on account of the Provincial Loan account and Irrigation Capital expenditure.

Statement.

[In crores of rupees.]

Province.	Debt on 31st March, 1924.	Debt on 31st March, 1914.
Madras	11.6	11.2
Bombay	42.5	10.2
Bengal	2.1	5.6
United Provinces	19.7	15.2
Punjab	25.1	20.4
Burma	...	2.6
Bihar and Orissa	6.8	6.6
Central Provinces	5.2	2.1
Assam	.1	.1
Total	113.1	72.0

EMBARGO ON THE EXPORT OF WHEAT.

265. ***Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** (a) Has there been a steady rise in the price of wheat since the removal of the embargo on the export thereof?

(b) If so, do the Government propose to re-impose the embargo wholly or partially?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) No. The removal of the embargo on the export of wheat in September, 1922, was followed by a steady fall in its price during 1923. The price has risen by about one rupee per maund during the past six months, but it is still about the same as it was in September, 1922.

(b) No.

INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF RESIDENTS OF BIHAR AND ORISSA ON THE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE LOCOMOTIVE DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AT JAMALPUR.

266. ***Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh:** (a) In the overhauling of the Locomotive Department of the East Indian Railway, Jamalpur (Bihar and Orissa), do the Government propose to see that the grievance felt by the indigenous population of the province in regard to their utterly inadequate representation on the clerical staff is removed?

(b) Do the Government know that notwithstanding the fact that there is no dearth of educated Biharees or Oriyas, the number of appointments held by them on the clerical staff of the Locomotive Department of the East Indian Railway at Jamalpur is far less than the number held by non-Biharees and non-Oriyas? Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative table showing the strength of the non-Biharee and Biharee elements on the said staff?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government have no information in regard to the alleged grievance referred to. The Agent has been informed of the policy of Government as declared in connection with the Resolution of the Assembly in March 1923 in respect to class and communal representation in the

services. Appointments to the clerical service are made at the discretion of the Agent and Government have no reason to suppose that Oriyas and Biharees are not afforded equal opportunities with other communities in entering railway service.

APPLICATION BY AN INDIAN RADIO TELEGRAPH COMPANY FOR A LICENSE TO ERECT A BEAM STATION.

267. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Englishman* of the 8th December, 1924, page 8, under the heading "An Indian Radio Company's Application"?

(b) If so, are the statements made therein correct?

(c) If correct, will they please lay a copy of the application on the table for the information of the members?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) The statement that an Indian Radio Telegraph Company have applied to the Government of India for a license to erect a Beam station is correct.

(c) The matter is still under discussion, and I am not in a position at the moment to lay a copy of the application on the table.

NUMBER OF TRADE UNIONS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

268. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please state:

(a) if it is a fact that there are at present 21 Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency; namely, 8 in Bombay City, 7 in Ahmedabad, and 6 in the rest of the Presidency?

(b) if the figures quoted in (a) are incorrect, will Government please state the correct figures?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The figures given by the Honourable Member appear to be quoted from the Bombay Labour Gazette. The Government of India know of no reason for questioning their accuracy.

HEALTH OF BABU SATYENDRA CHANDRA MITRA ARRESTED UNDER BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818.

269. ***Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the health of Babu Satyendra Chandra Mitra arrested on the 25th October, 1924, under Bengal Regulation III of 1818, has been examined since his arrest and whether he is suffering from diabetes? If so, what arrangements have been made about his diet, treatment and residence in a healthy locality and with what results?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The health of this déteuu has received constant attention since his arrest. He is suffering from diabetes and is receiving regular treatment for that ailment. His weight has increased from 137 lbs. on admission to 144 lbs. on the 21st December last, and according to the latest report his general health and condition are good.

RE-OPENING OF THE EXPERIMENTAL BRANCH POST OFFICE AT SHILMURI
IN THE TIPPERAH DISTRICT.

270. ***Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an experimental branch post office which had been opened at Shilmuri in the district of Tipperah has been subsequently closed?
- (b) if so, when was it opened and when and why was it closed?
- (c) Has any subsequent representation been made to Government about its re-opening?
- (d) what is the substance of such representation?
- (e) what has been the result of such representation?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: (a) Yes.

(b) Opened 1st April, 1924; closed 1st October, 1924, as the office did not show sufficient new revenue with reference to its cost to justify its continuance.

(c) Yes.

(d) The substance of the representations was that all the villages originally proposed were not placed under the office.

(e) On inquiry it was found that postal articles for villages transferred from the jurisdiction of another office to the new office were still being addressed by the public to the former office by which they were delivered. The Postmaster-General accordingly decided to re-open the office during the next official year for another trial.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNOR
GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

271. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the agreement entered into between the Imperial Bank of India and the Governor General in Council in accordance with the provisions of section 10 of the Imperial Bank of India Act?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Honourable Member is referred to pages 4673 to 4677 of Legislative Assembly Debates, 1923, Volume III, No. 76, in which the Agreement is printed.

INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED TO THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA RELATING TO
THE FINANCIAL POLICY OF GOVERNMENT, ETC.

272. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether any instructions, general or special, have been issued to the Imperial Bank of India in respect of any matter affecting "the financial policy of the Government or the safety of the Government balances" and if so, whether they will lay the substance of the same on the table of the House for the information of the members?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: No such instructions have been issued by the Government.

ELECTION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member): I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect eight members to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts."

I should explain that this Committee will deal with the accounts of the financial year 1923-24 when ready. There will be one or two further meetings of the existing Public Accounts Committee to complete the examination of the accounts for the year 1922-23. The work of the new Committee will probably begin in March.

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member): I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election for the financial year 1925-26, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number to which shall be added one Member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The Member so nominated shall be Chairman of the Committee."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: With reference to the two decisions just come to by the Assembly, I may inform the House that for the purpose of the election of these two Committees, namely, the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Finance Committee, the Assembly office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 Noon on Friday the 30th January. The elections will take place in this Chamber on Monday, the 2nd February. The election of Members to both the Committees will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

RESOLUTION RE GRANT OF A BOUNTY TO STEEL
MANUFACTURING COMPANIES.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Commerce Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a bounty should be paid on steel manufactured in India between the 1st October, 1924, and the 30th September, 1925, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The bounty should be paid only to firms or companies manufacturing, mainly from pig-iron made in India from Indian ores, steel ingots suitable for rolling or forging into any of the kinds of steel articles specified in Part VII of Schedule II to the Indian Tariff Act, 1894.
- (2) The bounty should be paid on steel ingots manufactured by such firms or companies, and the bounty should be paid at the rate of Rs. 20 a ton on 70 per cent. of the total weight of the ingots manufactured in each month.
- (3) The total amount of the bounty payable under this Resolution in the 12 months ending 30th September, 1925, should not exceed Rs. 50 lakhs."

I do not think that the House will expect me to inflict any very long speech upon them in support of this Resolution. I would remind the House that we are not reopening to-day the whole question whether or not the steel industry in India should be protected. That battle was fought in June last and the decision of the House was embodied in the Steel

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Industry Protection Act, 1924. I have no doubt that the House wishes to stand by the policy to which it committed itself when it passed that Act. But to-day that policy stands in danger of breaking down. We could have met the situation which had arisen by taking action under section 2 of the Steel Industry Protection Act, but for reasons which I shall proceed to explain to the House, we prefer to proceed in the manner suggested in this Resolution, and that is why I am again troubling the House in connection with the Steel industry.

The first point to which I have to address myself is whether our policy does stand in danger of breaking down. Here again I do not think that I need say very much. I have no doubt that Members of this House have read the recent report of the Tariff Board regarding the increase of the steel duties and I have no doubt that the House has almost made up its mind on this question already. The House will remember that what we set out to do when we passed the Steel Industry Protection Act was to bridge the gap between the fair selling price of steel in India, that is the price at which steel can be manufactured in India with reasonable profit, and the price at which steel can be imported. Now the former figure is a figure which can be determined with some approximation to accuracy and the Tariff Board devoted a very large part of their first report to discussing what a fair selling price for steel in India was. The House will remember that they arrived at the conclusion that that price was round about Rs. 180 per ton, Rs. 180 for bars and Rs. 175 a ton for structural shapes. But the other question, the question at what price steel can be imported is of course a much more difficult question. The Tariff Board forecasted that price at about Rs. 140 a ton, but it was always recognised that that figure must be an uncertain quantity and it was always a matter of doubt, apart altogether from the question of exchange, how far foreign steel could come down in price in order to counteract the effect of the new duties which we imposed in June last. As the House knows, the world steel industry at the present moment is in a very abnormal condition owing to the effect of the war, and the Tariff Board warned us in their first report that wide and sudden fluctuations in the price of imported steel were not improbable, and they warned us also that there was a danger that the Indian market might be invaded by a flood of cheap continental steel. It was on the recommendation of the Tariff Board therefore, and with the full assent of this House, that the Government took the very wide powers contained in section 2 of the Steel Industry Protection Act. Those powers, as the House knows, give us complete discretion to impose additional duties if and when we are satisfied that steel is coming into India at such a price as is likely to render ineffective the protection which the Steel Act was intended to convey. That provision was put in the Act in order to meet a contingency which, it is my case, has arisen to-day. I do not think there can be any doubt in the mind of any one present here to-day that the contingency has arisen. In the first place there has been a rise in exchange. All the Tariff Board's calculations in their first report were based upon a 1s. 4d. rupee. Exchange now stands at—I think that the exact figure is 1s. 5²⁹/₃₂d. At any rate for the last two or three months it has been round about 1s. 6d. Now that rise in exchange is of course a factor which affects the price at which all steel, whether British steel or continental steel can be imported into India. But apart from that common factor there has been a

drop in what I may call the c. i. f. prices of a very large part of the steel imported into India. That fall in price has not occurred so much in respect of British steel. The Tariff Board say that the price of British bars and plates is more or less now on the same level as it was in December, 1923, when they formulated their original conclusions. Structural shapes have gone down about 10 sh. a ton, but, generally speaking, it may be said that the price of British steel is much the same as it was when the Tariff Board's report was first written. The reason for that phenomenon is of course obvious. We all know that British steel is suffering from the competition of continental steel just as much as Indian steel is. They have brought their prices already down to bedrock, and I do not suppose they could have gone any lower if they wanted to do so. But the case has been very different with regard to continental steel. Continental steel has now approached very nearly its pre-war level. The Tariff Board tell us that prices have gone below the level of December, 1923, by the following amounts:

bars 35 sh. a ton;
structural shapes 30 sh. a ton, and
plates 24 sh. a ton.

Now that drop in the prices of continental steel has affected very greatly the calculations on which the Tariff Board made their original proposals. I have said just now that the Tariff Board forecasted an import price of 140 sh. a ton for steel. But that price was a weighted price. They had to take into account in fixing that price the price at which British steel could come into India and the price at which continental steel could come into India; and in weighting the price they took more into consideration the British steel than they did continental steel. That was because Tata steel, which is largely British engineering standard specification steel, was considered by the Tariff Board to come more into competition with British steel than with the cheap continental steel. But such a wide gap has now grown up between the price of continental steel and the price of British steel that I am afraid there is no doubt that to some extent continental steel is displacing common British steel in India. That means that the Tata Iron and Steel Co.'s steel is more and more coming into competition not with the high-priced British steel but with the low-priced continental steel, and that, as I have said, is a factor which very greatly affects the calculations on which the Tariff Board based their original proposals. And there is yet another factor. As invariably happens when a Government is talking about introducing protective duties on any particular article, all importers in India at once set to work to order steel from their suppliers in Europe in the hope that they can get that steel in before the new duties come into effect. The result of that is, as the Tariff Board have found, that there are very large accumulations of stocks of steel in India and those accumulations of stocks are tending to depress prices. Indeed, even if we increased our duties, as the Tariff Board proposed, those accumulations would prevent a rise of prices, at any rate to the full extent of the increase of duties proposed until they had been cleared off. Well, as the result of all these factors the Tariff Board have definitely found that the contingency which section 2 of the Steel Act was intended to provide for has arisen. They have found that steel is now coming into India at such a price as is likely to render ineffective the policy of the Steel Act. The Government of India accept that finding and I am quite sure that the House

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will accept it also. But before I go on I should just like to make one parenthetical remark. These phenomena that I have been describing are not in any way peculiar to India. They are not so much due to a definite attack on the part of continental manufacturers on the Indian market. It is no doubt true—in fact I saw it stated in one of the technical papers—that when we passed the Steel Act the continental manufacturers, especially the manufacturers in Belgium, realized that they would have to fight for their market. But the cause goes deeper than that. There are other countries which are suffering in exactly the same way from the cheap continental steel. For a parallel you need go no further than the United Kingdom herself, and I should like to read an extract from an article I read quite recently in one of the Home papers:

“The most significant feature of the record of the year 1924 has been the import into the United Kingdom of iron and steel of a scale never before witnessed in the history of the trade. Compared with 1923 the increase is already one million tons for the first 11 months of 1924.”

The real fact of the matter, as I have had occasion to point out to this House on more than one occasion, is that the war had a very great effect upon the European steel industry. It increased the productive capacity of the steel firms in Europe by, it is estimated, some 50 per cent., and at the same time the effect of the war was to diminish the markets of that steel industry, and the result is that you have very powerful steel firms on the continent engaged in a life or death struggle for existence in a contracted market, and that naturally leads to cutting of prices. Now, Sir, I hope that I have established my first point, namely, that our policy is in danger of breaking down.

The next question is the remedy that we have to apply. Now the House knows that the Tariff Board recommended that action should be taken under section 2 of the Steel Industry Protection Act: that is to say that our protective duties should be increased. We could have done that without any reference to this House under the power conferred upon us by the Legislature. But, as soon as we saw the report, it was patent to us that the remedy lay not in action in that direction but in the manner proposed in this Resolution, namely, in the grant of bounties. It must be remembered that the Tariff Board were limited by the terms of their reference. They were asked by their terms of reference to report to the Government of India whether a case existed for action under section 2 of the Steel Act and, if so, what action they would recommend. They had not discretion to make alternative proposals to us, but as soon as we informed them that we thought that a bounty was the proper way to meet the situation the Tariff Board told us that they entirely agreed. I do not think that the House will have any doubt upon that point also. In the first place, had we accepted the proposals of the Tariff Board in their recent report, it would have meant that we should have to impose very heavy duties indeed. We should have to increase the duty on an article in such common use as steel bars from Rs. 40 to Rs. 75 a ton, on steel structural sections from Rs. 30 a ton to Rs. 65 a ton, on plates from Rs. 30 to Rs. 55 a ton, and so on. It would have meant that these new duties, had we imposed them, would have been in many cases four or five times as great as the duties which were in force only in April last. It would have meant

that we should impose duties which would have represented 50 to 70 per cent. of the value of the articles on which the duties were imposed; and as I have said, many of these articles are articles which are in very common use in India. That was our first objection to the Tariff Board's proposal. Our second objection was that we should have imposed, had we accepted these proposals, a burden on the consumer out of all proportion to the benefit which we were going to confer upon the industry. The House will remember that on page 158 (I think it is) of the Tariff Board's first report they gave an estimate of the output of the Iron and Steel Company during the current year. Now if you exclude from those figures the figures relating to rails on which a bounty is already given, you will find that on the assumption that prices would have risen to an exact equivalent of the increase in the duties, you will then find that, had we accepted the Tariff Board's proposals, the maximum benefit we could have conferred upon the industry would have been 50 lakhs of rupees. Now the Tariff Board gave us another statement in this report showing us the total estimated consumption in India of each kind of steel article. Proceeding on the same assumption, namely, that had we increased the duties as proposed by the Tariff Board and had prices risen to the full extent of the increase, the burden on the consumer, calculated in the same way as the Tariff Board calculated the burden in their first report, would have amounted to about Rs. 2 crores. That was our second objection to this proposal. It would have meant laying a burden on the consumer of something like 2 crores of rupees in a year in order to confer upon the industry a benefit of a something like 50 lakhs of rupees. Our third objection is that the Tariff Board's proposal would not have been as beneficial or as favourable to the industry as this proposal which we are making now. I have already referred to the accumulated stocks of iron and steel in the country, and I have already mentioned that until those accumulations of stock had been cleared off, prices would not have risen to the full extent of the increase of duty. That means to say that the steel industry would not have got the full benefit which the Tariff Board had in mind at any rate for some months. The conclusion we arrived at therefore was that our proposal, while it is cheaper to the country, while it places a less burden upon the consumer, is much more beneficial to the industry. I am aware that some people might say to me that I objected to a bounty in June last. That is perfectly true. I did object to a bounty in June last. But I objected for very good reasons which no longer exist. I objected to a bounty in June last because I could not see where the money to pay that bounty was to come from. It is in that very material particular that the situation has now changed. The surplus revenue, as I have just told the House in answer to a question, from these protective duties imposed in June last up to the end of December 1924, amounted to 71 lakhs of rupees. That is to say we have got 71 lakhs of rupees more from these protective duties than we should have got had we levied the duties at their old level. From those 71 lakhs of rupees of course we have certain commitments to meet. We have the bounties on wagons, we have the bounties on rails. We estimate that by about the 31st March those commitments will amount to something like Rs. 37 lakhs. But the House will see that there is a balance, and it is from that balance that we propose to pay the bounty proposed in this Resolution.

Now, Sir, let me come to the actual terms of my Resolution. The first point is that we propose that the bounty should be paid between the 1st October, 1924 and the 30th September, 1925. I should like to give some

[Sir Charles Innes.]

explanation of these two dates. The Tata Iron and Steel Company made an application to us in August last that the contingency which section 2 of the Steel Industry Protection Act had intended to provide had already arisen, that is to say they applied for the imposition of off-setting duties under that section. But the figures with which they supported this application were the figures for June, 1924, that is, of prices of the very month in which the Steel Act was passed. We thought that the Act must be given further time to declare its effect, and therefore we returned the application to them. We asked them to send it in with later figures and to substantiate it in fuller detail. They sent in a revised application on the 20th September, 1924 and in the beginning of October 1924, we referred it to the Tariff Board for report. The Tariff Board found that the application was justified: and that being so, we think that it is only fair that this bounty should take effect from the 1st October, 1924. As regards the other date, 30th September 1925, we have selected that date for the following reason. In the first place, the House must remember that we have taken this action under an emergency clause of the Act. Section 2 of the Steel Act is a section deliberately put in to meet an emergency. These off-setting duties are duties which we can take off any time we think it necessary whenever prices begin to rise again. For that reason we do not think that we should be justified in asking this House to commit itself too far ahead. We might be committing ourselves to a heavy payment to the industry which experience might show to be unnecessary. Prices might rise. Their working cost might come down. Again, if our policy proves to be effective, we may not get the compensating surplus revenue from which we are to pay these bounties. That is the reason why we ought not to commit ourselves too far ahead. On the other hand, in the ordinary course this House will meet again in September. In July and August we shall have an opportunity of re-examining the whole position, and if we think it necessary, we should be in a position to come before the House again. The first condition is intended to confine the bounty to mixed classes of steel which the Steel Act of 1924 was intended to protect. As regards the second condition, it will be noticed that we desire to pay this bounty upon production rather than sales. We have satisfied ourselves that we can pay the bounty quite easily upon production. The Resolution is so drafted that practically the bounty will be confined to the only company manufacturing steel in India. It is not, as my Honourable Colleague said a day or two ago, the Tata Company, but it is the Tata Iron and Steel Company. They are the only firm in India which are making steel on any large scale in India now. Ever since that firm has been manufacturing steel at Jamshedpur it has supplied our Metallurgical Inspector at Jamshedpur with a statement of ingots produced from each cast of each furnace. We have had those statements on record from the very beginning and there will be no difficulty in our working a system of bounties on production. Moreover, a system of bounties on production will, we think, be more favourable to the industry than a system of bounties on sales. Had we a system of bounties on sales, the industry would have had to wait until it sold its products before drawing bounties and it might have been tempted to agree to forced sales in order to get the bounties. The advantage of a bounty on production is that automatically as it produces steel the industry will get the bounty. The next point to notice is that we are paying bounty on 70 per cent. of the total weight of the ingots. The reason for that is that our records show that the ratio of the weight of

saleable steel to the total weight of the ingots is 70 per cent., that is to say, about 30 per cent. of every ingot goes back into the furnaces as scrap and comes out again. We do not want to go on paying on that portion of the ingot which is continually going back into the furnaces and that is why we propose that it should be paid on 70 per cent. of the total ingot weight. The final figure that I have got to explain is the proposal that the bounties should be at the rate of Rs. 20 a ton. I have just explained that we calculate by the method employed by the Tariff Board in its first report that if we had imposed an off-setting duty and if prices had gone up to the full extent of the increased duty than on the estimated production of 1924-25, the maximum the industry could have got would be Rs. 50 lakhs. The total weight of finished steel produced by the industry according to that estimate during the current year is likely to be 250,000 tons. Therefore, Rs. 20 a ton is calculated to give them that Rs. 50 lakhs. We do not wish by giving a bounty to do anything less for the industry than we should have done had we accepted the Tariff Board's proposal. Indeed, as I think, I have shown to the House, we are doing for the industry even more than the Tariff Board proposed. I am quite free to admit that our proposals are generous. I am quite free to admit, as I have just said, that they are even more generous than the Tariff Board recommended. We think, Sir, that this is a time for generosity. It is a matter of common knowledge—the fact has been stated quite freely in the public press—that the industry at the present moment is passing through a particularly difficult stage of its existence. In fact, it has been stated in the public press that the Directors have thought it necessary to appeal to their shareholders to agree to a reconstruction of the Company. Now, it is entirely for the shareholders, who are the proprietors of the concern, to decide whether or not they will accept those proposals. At the same time, I think that everyone in this House would agree that some reconstruction is necessary; that is certainly the opinion of the Government. I think, Sir, that the Government can claim that they have dealt with this industry with generosity. I think, Sir, that if this House will accept my Resolution, they will also be able to claim that they have dealt with this industry with generosity. It is an industry of real national importance, and I hope that if we pass this Resolution, the shareholders, that is to say, the proprietors of the concern, will also take the view that even at a sacrifice measures should be taken by reconstruction which would place an important national industry in a position in which it will have a fair chance of winning its way through to assured prosperity.

Sir, I move my Resolution.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated: Labour Interests): Sir, the Honourable the Commerce Member has admitted that the system of protection which he had adopted and which the House had approved some months back has broken down. Sir, there were some Members in this Assembly who at the time when this question was discussed had predicted that this system would break down. Perhaps the Honourable the Commerce Member did not himself see that his system would break down; but a warning was given to him that the system which he had adopted was wrong and was sure to break down. The House in adopting the system of protection which it did at that time wanted to protect the national industry. But, Sir, in adopting the method the House did not take care even to make that industry a national industry. They did not take care that the industry

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

would be owned by the nation, nor did they take care to see that even the management of that industry would be Indian. To-day, Sir, . . .

Mr. President: I am afraid the Honourable Member is trying to embark on the discussion of a subject which is not in order, and for the information of the House, before allowing him to proceed, I may say a word or two about amendments.

Mr. Joshi proposes to nationalise the steel industry by way of an amendment. That clearly is out of order. He also proposes to bring in the question of labour conditions and the Indianisation of the superior staff. Those are out of order as they are not within the scope of the original Resolution. The original Resolution proposes a bounty to the steel industry as at present constituted, and any further measures for nationalising, Indianisation or treating in any other way the steel industry would have to be done under some other Resolution. I am a little in doubt about the amendment standing in Mr. Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's name; as far as I can see from the way in which it is drafted, it is within the scope of the Resolution. The amendment of Mr. Das, No. 4, is in order. Mr. Joshi's No. 5 again raises Indianisation by a side issue which is clearly out of order. Mr. Sarfaraz Hussain's No. 6 refers also to Indianisation by way of condition, which is also out of order. Mr. Das' No. 7 also refers to Indianisation, which is out of order. The amendment of Dr. Lohokare, No. 8, is in respect to its first clause in order so far as I am able to understand it, and in respect of the second clause is out of order because it proposes Indianisation of the capital and not of the staff. Mr. Joshi may proceed.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I be allowed to say one word in favour of my amendment. The position is that the original Resolution is intended to meet a situation which has arisen on account of the break down of the proposals made by the Government of India by their previous Act, and the proposal of Sir Charles Innes itself is not in accordance with the Act. The Act provided that, if a certain situation arose, it should be met by increasing the duties. The Honourable Sir Charles Innes himself now proposes bounties which is a different proposal altogether. If it is open to Sir Charles Innes to make a proposal which is not consistent with the Act, it should be open to me also to make a proposal which may be different from those contained in the Act.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is very ingenious; but I think his ingenuity defeats itself. I am not concerned here whether the proposal made by the Commerce Member is within the four corners of the original Steel Industry Protection Act or not. My only concern is whether Mr. Joshi is within the four corners of Sir Charles Innes' Resolution, and Mr. Joshi is clearly outside it.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: My difficulty is this. The principle of the Resolution is to give protection to the industry.

Mr. President: That is precisely what it is not. The proposal in the Resolution is to give bounties on certain productions of the steel industry within a certain date. It has nothing whatever to do with the management of the industry or with the ownership of the industry. It is the

industry as at present constituted which is to receive a bounty at the rate of 70 per cent. of the total weight produced within a certain period.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I had thought, Sir, that the object with which the bounty was to be given was a part of the Resolution. But, as you now rule, I do not wish to discuss whether my amendment is in order or out of order. No doubt your decision is rather disheartening to me and it is somewhat difficult for me to proceed with my speech. (A Voice: "Do not make a speech.") I shall, however, try to place my point of view before you and before the Assembly if it becomes possible for me to do so.

I do not wish, Sir, to go into the details of the question of Indianisation. The object of these bounties is to protect the industry. If the object had not been to protect the industry, I am quite sure this House would not be so generous as to give a sum of 50 lakhs of rupees to a private company. The object being to protect the industry, it is the duty of this House to see if all those elements that form the industry are protected or not. The bounty will protect the interests of those who have invested their capital in the industry. But, Sir, the investors of the capital are not the only elements in that industry. If capital is necessary for an industry, labour is equally necessary for that industry. In giving the bounty to this industry, therefore, it is the duty of this Assembly to see whether labour is protected or not. For the information of the Members.....

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member is proceeding to discuss the protection of the labour in the Jamshedpur industry which is beyond the scope of the Resolution. What we are discussing here is the granting of bounties to the industry as a whole to meet a certain situation which has arisen owing to the operation of persons entirely outside India.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I appeal to you, Sir, to take my view into consideration. The object of the Resolution is to protect the industry and I think you will admit, Sir, that the protection of industry does not only mean the protection of the shareholders' money. It also means the protection of the labour engaged in that industry. If that is not the object of giving the bounty, I want to know from any one in this House why 50 lakhs of rupees belonging to the public treasury should be handed over to a private company. The object clearly is that not only the money of the shareholders should be protected, but the lives of those people who are engaged in that industry should also be protected. Sir, not only the shareholders.....

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is now even more ingenious in the use of the word protection. I must warn him if he proceeds much more on that line I shall have to rule him definitely out of order and call upon some one else.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I do not know, Sir, how I should proceed, but my object is that this bounty, which is to be given by this Assembly, should serve its object. The situation which has been described by Sir Charles Innes is that the prices of steel have not risen to the extent to which he expected they would rise by means of the protective duties, and perhaps they have gone down. The result of the prices not having risen, and perhaps of having gone down, is that 1,700 employes of the Tata Steel and Iron Company at Jamshedpur have been dismissed. And, on the other

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

hand, more than 60 new European employes have been engaged. Under these circumstances I want this House to consider whether it is right for them to give this bounty to the Tata Iron and Steel Company without making sure whether the labour engaged in that industry is protected or not. If 1,700 people are dismissed up to this time, by the time the next Resolution comes, 5,000 more people may be dismissed; and if all the Indian labour engaged in that industry, or a large part of the Indian labour engaged in that industry, is to be sent away, I should like to know from any Member of this Assembly what is the object of giving this bounty to this Company. Why are they giving this bounty if not to protect the interests of those people who have invested their money as well as to protect the interests of those people who have invested their very life in this industry? Sir, I therefore think that this Assembly should not consent to the giving of this bounty without making sure that Indians engaged in that industry get fair conditions of life and work. Surely 50 lakhs of Indian money is not to be spent to find employment for a large number of Europeans in that industry? Surely 50 lakhs of Indian money from the public treasury is not to be spent without taking measures to see that a large number of Indian employes of long standing are not sent away on to the streets without any means of livelihood? Moreover, Sir, I would like this House to consider whether they have taken all the precautions for safeguarding the interests of public finance if they pass this Resolution as it is. If an industry requires help, and I admit that industries do require help on many occasions, let that help be given out of public revenues; but, Sir, when the industry makes profits, will it not be the duty of that industry to return the money to the public treasury? To give a gift to an industry without expecting that industry to return that amount is in my opinion a very mistaken policy. If you begin to give gifts, there will be a demand for further gifts because there is no danger in asking for any gifts when they are obtained without any conditions. I want this House, Sir, to consider this proposal very carefully before they adopt it. The right way in my judgment, even if Government and this House are bent upon giving this bounty, is to lay down the condition that, whenever the industry becomes prosperous, the money they receive from the public treasury should be returned. Sir, this condition is not a discovery or invention made by me. In many countries subsidies and bounties are given to industries which are new or which are losing, but the Government and the Legislature take care to put down the condition that, when that particular industry becomes prosperous, that industry will return the money which it has obtained from the public treasury. It is a very fair proposal; and this proposal is not only found in the tariff legislation of other countries, but it has also found a place in legislation passed in India. In Madras there is an Act known as the Aid to Industries Act. According to that Act help in the form of subsidies or in other forms can be given out of the public treasury to industries, but that Act makes it clear that, when the industry begins to make profit beyond a certain rate fixed by the Government, that industry must share its profits by returning the money to the public treasury. Now, Sir, this is a proposal which is absolutely reasonable and is absolutely necessary to safeguard the interests of public finance. Unfortunately, the Honourable the Commerce Member does not think it necessary to safeguard the interests of Indian finance. The Madras Bill was passed by a Minister responsible to the Legislature. It was necessary for him to take care of the interests of public finance. But, Sir, it would be uncharitable for me to suggest that the Commerce Member has not laid down that

condition here because he is an irresponsible Minister of the Crown (The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: "You have suggested it!"). Sir, when the public treasury gives a large amount of help amounting to a crore of rupees to a private company, I think it is also the duty of the Government and the Legislature to ask for some control over that industry. This is also not a new principle. When any Government give help to a private industry to any very large extent, that Government ought to take measures to see that the money which they give to that company is properly utilised, and the only way of seeing that the money is properly utilised is to ask for a share in the control of that industry. Here again I am not introducing a new principle. This principle is accepted in many countries. Not only that but I know there is a company in Bombay which had to take a loan from some foreign country. They got that large loan only on the condition that those people who gave the loan would have a director on their board of directors. Not only that but the Honourable the Commerce Member.

Mr. President: I must warn the Honourable Member that he has reached his time limit.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable the Commerce Member is presiding over the Department of Railways and he knows that the Government of India has given help to railway companies out of public funds only on the condition that the Government of India shall have a director on the board of directors of these companies, and not only that, that director shall have one voice out of ten but shall have a power of veto in the board of directors. I want to know, Sir, why the Government of India have not put down that condition here. If more than a crore of rupees out of the public treasury is to be given to a private company, it is absolutely necessary in the interests of public finance that the Government of India should insist that they should have an adequate voice in the management of that company. They should also take care to see that when that company makes a profit, the money should be returned to the public treasury. Sir, there is a great advantage in this proposal. India is anxious to develop her industries; the steel industry is not the only industry that we want to develop. There are several other industries that may ask for help. If we begin to give large gifts to private industries.

Mr. President: I cannot allow the Honourable Member to develop that line. He does not appreciate the fact that we are here discussing the question of a bounty to a particular industry for a particular time arising out of a particular emergency. The question of principle does not arise, and the question of the association of Government in the management of any industry whatsoever, whether the steel industry or any other, cannot arise under this Resolution.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I do not wish to take up the time of the House any longer. I wanted to put before the House only one point, that this is not the only industry that wants help; there will be several other industries that will ask for our help; and, if we now lay down a condition that when the industry begins to make a profit the money should be returned, it will be easy for us to help other industries. But if we do not ask for the money to be returned at any time, even when the industry is making very large profits, it will be very difficult for us to help many industries which we want to develop.

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

Sir, before I close, I find it very difficult to say what is my attitude towards this Resolution. I should have expressed my attitude much better towards this Resolution if I had been allowed to move my amendments. I accept the principle of protecting industries, but, Sir, I cannot accept this Resolution because it is not in the interests of the industry itself as a whole, neither is it in the interests of public finance.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, in rising to move my amendment which runs as follows:

"That after clause (1) the following new clause be inserted and clauses (2) and (3) be re-numbered (3) and (4):

(2) The proposed bounty for the year ending 30th September 1925 to be paid only to such firms or companies which began their actual work of manufacturing steel in India in the way specified in clause (1), before the year 1922."

I rise more to support the Resolution moved by the Honourable Sir Charles Innes than to oppose it. My amendment seeks to lay down a certain condition, that is, that firms which were in existence before the year 1922, should be paid the bounty, but not firms which came into existence after that period. My reasons are very simple. The bounty for the present year should not be given to those companies which came into existence after the question of adopting protective tariffs for India was taken up by the public, that is, which came into being after 1922; they are not in my opinion entitled to the bounty in preference to those which were in existence before the Bill was passed into an Act. Some companies have sprung up in the years 1923 and 1924, but many of them did not begin their actual work of manufacture of steel till 1924. If a bounty is to be given to such companies as well, then in my opinion injustice will be done to the old companies; the old companies have suffered losses all along owing to the unfair competition from outside. That is one reason. Further, such companies helped the country by their products when steel products could not be imported from outside the country during the war. That is another reason. These companies served the Empire during the war with munitions. The new companies which came into existence later have suffered no such loss, nor have they served the country and the Empire. So I think the companies which served both the Empire and the country have a preferential claim to the bounty; and if the bounty is divided between the different companies, then I think injustice will be done to the companies which were in existence before the Bill was passed into an

Act. So for these reasons I move my amendment which is not a negation of the Resolution moved by the Honourable Sir Charles Innes, but only lays down certain conditions, that is to say, that justice should be done to companies which served the Empire by supplying munitions during the war. Surely, in all fairness they should have a preferential claim over the new concerns which have been started for steel manufacture as a result of the policy of protection which Government intended to give. For this reason I appeal to Members to support me when I say that the proposed bounty should be paid only to such firms or companies which began their actual work of manufacturing steel in India before the year 1922. Sir, I move my amendment.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the amendment that stands in my name reads thus:

"That in clause (3) for the words and figures 'Rs. 50 lakhs' the words and figures 'Rs. 100 lakhs' be substituted."

Sir, my amendment is as simple as the amendment which the Honourable the Finance Member moved in his Currency Bill the other day to alter the figure from 85 to 100 crores. The Honourable the Commerce Member in his concluding remarks said that the steel industry is passing through a kind of distress and that it should be given a fair chance. But in proposing the bounty of 50 lakhs he has not given the industry a fair chance, but he has only given what I may call a famine dole, a famine ration, to this industry which is almost dying out. It may be that in proposing the 50 lakhs the Honourable Sir Charles Innes was reminiscent of his youthful days when he was District Magistrate presiding over a district when it was suffering from famine and floods and was doling out small sums to the thousands of people who were dying of starvation. That was perhaps the idea of Government of serving the people who suffered from famine and floods. But that idea cannot be applied to the steel industry. This is a business concern and we must tackle it from businessmen's point of view. We are going to see that the key industry of India stands on its own legs. Well, will 50 lakhs do for the purpose? The Honourable Sir Charles Innes said that Government had time to review the position of the steel industry, so also had the country as well as the Members of this House. But the Members of this House are convinced that the steel industry cannot stand on its own legs unless it is adequately protected. It may be that some of my honourable colleagues from the different provinces are looking forward to a remission of the provincial contribution from the surplus funds; it may be that my Honourable friend the Finance Member is looking forward to getting hold of a part of the surplus to meet the demand of the Lee Commission or the extra expenditure incurred in connection with the military manœuvres recently held at Delhi by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. The Honourable Member for Commerce intends to give protection, but the bounty of 50 lakhs which he proposes is I say not enough. . . .

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is not right in arguing about the adequacy of the bounty. The question in relation to the 50 lakhs is the narrow question as to whether the estimate of 50 lakhs is a reasonable estimate of the actual production of the steel industry on the basis of Rs. 20 a ton. The Honourable Member is moving his amendment in the wrong place.

Mr. B. Das: I shall explain why I propose 1 crore. In the May Session this House assured the steel industry a protection of over a crore of rupees. Exchange and dumping did not allow this benefit to the steel industry. . . .

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is roving generally over the question as to whether the Government are generous enough. That question does not arise on the question of Rs. 50 lakhs at all.

Mr. B. Das: Sir, the Tariff Board on page 3 of their report remark:

"It is not open to us, therefore, in this inquiry to discuss suggestions for the grant of bounties, or schemes by which all Government Departments and Railways should be required to use Indian steel."

[Mr. B. Das.]

They also make similar remarks on page 19 where they say:

"Railways, Government Departments and important public bodies like the Port Trusts may also continue to use British steel, or Indian steel at approximately British prices, for some time to come."

My contention is that the Government and the House are committed to protect this key industry of India. This key industry must thrive. How can it thrive when only a little bounty is given to it? Government have taken no steps to confine their purchases to Indian steel and iron

Mr. President: Order, order. I once more want to tell the Honourable Member that he is moving an amendment to increase the sum of Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs. After he has moved that amendment he has restricted the debate to the question whether the estimate made by the Government that Rs. 50 lakhs will be required in one year to pay at the rate of Rs. 20 per ton to the steel industry is correct or not. The sole question in issue, once his amendment is moved, is whether that estimate is right or not. The Honourable gentleman is now talking about generousities. It has nothing to do with generousities; it is merely mathematical accuracies.

Mr. B. Das: By the imposition of the duty under the Indian Tariff Act the Government will by the end of the year make a profit of about 2 crores. My contention is that the surplus profit which will accrue to the Government must go to stabilise this industry and not for being paid into the exchequer of the Finance Member. I contend that there will be at least a surplus profit of more than a crore. The industry is not in a position to thrive without protection, and I suggest that a crore should go to this industry. I hope the Honourable Member for Commerce will support me and not only the Honourable Member for Commerce but also my friend the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, the new Member for Industries. His Department exists to see that industries are adequately developed, and, if nobody else in this House supports me, I expect the support of at least the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra in this matter.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member): Sir, I regret to have to break it to my Honourable friend who has just spoken (Mr. B. Das) that I have the word of my Honourable friend Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra that he is unable to support him. The Honourable Member's purpose in moving this amendment seems to have been to get a little more. I could not gather that he had any other argument than that he would like something more for the industry that is to be protected. He was not successful in getting his amendment down in a form that was likely to give his friends any more because, as was pointed out by the Honourable the President, if he was anxious that 100 lakhs should flow in the direction desired, it would have been necessary for him to move an amendment in clause 2 of the Resolution also raising the figure from Rs. 20 a ton to something higher. It is possible that, if the production of steel goes ahead very fast in the period named, the figure of Rs. 20 a ton will produce the whole 50 lakhs and run up against the maximum limit. I hope it will be so because, if it does, it will mean that the company is doing better and is therefore less in need of the additional assistance which is proposed for it. But why the Honourable Member should think it necessary to ask for more than 50 lakhs I find it a little difficult to understand. The Tariff Board themselves asked for less and, as was pointed out by the

Honourable Sir Charles Innes, the proposals which we are making in this Resolution will give the company on the whole better terms than they would have got from the operation of the Tariff Board's proposals. The Honourable Member sought to justify his demand for something more by accusing me of getting off with the swag. The Honourable Sir Charles Innes has already stated that the extra amounts received by the Government as a result of the imposition of the protective duty on steel after the Act passed last June up to the 31st of December 1924 is a gross total of 71 lakhs. Out of that figure we have to provide 37 lakhs for the payment of bounties as arranged under the original Act. I believe there is also some small additional allowance to be made (I have not verified the figures) in respect of duty on Government stores. We have therefore in hand at the present moment a balance of something like 30 lakhs out of which to pay those 50 lakhs. Now that is up to the 31st March 1925. There will be additional bounties payable next year, and it is extremely unlikely in my opinion that the very large receipts that we were getting in the early months under the Steel Protection Act will continue. They were due first of all to the large imports that people endeavoured to make in order to avoid the operation of the Act at all, and secondly to the large imports that have been going on in the expectation of additional duties. It is extremely unlikely in my opinion that by the time the 30th September arrives I shall find that any of the swag has rested in my pocket on behalf of the tax-payer of India. Therefore, the proposal which the Honourable Member is making is undoubtedly a proposal that I should find out of the prospective surplus of my budget which has already been so sadly depleted by the Commander-in-Chief's vigorous exercises in the neighbourhood of New Delhi (I am told that he spent at least two lakhs on those operations. I have myself a secret suspicion that I am going to save money owing to those operations because a little less will have to be spent on guarding surplus munitions.) However that may be, I do not feel that I can rely on that prospect for the purpose of finding the extra 50 lakhs which my Honourable friend desires. I therefore on behalf of Government oppose the motion.

Mr. President: The question is that the following amendment be made:

"That in clause (3) for the words and figures 'Rs. 50 lakhs' the words and figures 'Rs. 100 lakhs' be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President: The question is that the following Resolution be adopted, namely:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a bounty should be paid on steel manufactured in India between the 1st October, 1924, and the 30th September, 1925, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The bounty should be paid only to firms or companies manufacturing, mainly from pig-iron made in India from Indian ores, steel ingots suitable for rolling or forging into any of the kinds of steel articles specified in Part VII of Schedule II to the Indian Tariff Act, 1894.
- (2) The bounty should be paid on steel ingots manufactured by such firms or companies, and the bounty should be paid at the rate of Rs. 20 a ton on 70 per cent. of the total weight of the ingots manufactured in each month.
- (3) The total amount of the bounty payable under this Resolution in the 12 months ending 30th September, 1925, should not exceed Rs. 50 lakhs."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND FOR GRANT TO DEFRAY THE BOUNTY TO THE STEEL INDUSTRY.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Commerce Member): I move, Sir:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25 lakhs be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1925, on account of the bounty which it has been recommended in the Resolution just passed that the Governor General in Council should pay on steel manufactured in India between the 1st of October, 1924, and the 30th of September, 1925."

Mr. Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): I move, Sir, to oppose this particular Resolution. I am afraid I was taken a little un-awares when you put the first Resolution to the vote because I wanted, before you put that Resolution to the vote, to ask you to give me a ruling on a point of order. That particular ruling has been raised in this House before but it was in your absence, when you were at home. The ruling that I want you to give is on this question. Are the shareholders of Tata's, who happen to be quite numerous in this House, entitled to vote on this question of giving a bounty of 50 lakhs to Tata's, and whether it is not a question of public policy that this bounty should be voted by the shareholders? I want you to give us a ruling, Sir, whether they ought or ought not to vote. Personally, I believe they ought not to vote. Merely as a question of public policy, it is not right that they should vote. They have every right to have a say in the matter. They have every right to suggest reasons why this bounty should be given. But I do not think it is decent that they should come here in a matter of public policy and vote upon a question of this nature. First of all, Sir, I therefore submit this question to you and ask you to give me your ruling.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): How does the name of Tata's come in here? (Laughter.) In the Resolution it is

Mr. President: Order, order. I think the Honourable Member is asking me to play the ostrich. The Honourable Member (Mr. Chaman Lall) has put to me a question as to how far the shareholders in steel companies that will benefit by this Resolution, whatever the name of the steel company may be, should or should not vote on this Resolution. That question has been settled by the established practice of the House of Commons which I think we may reasonably follow here. It has been raised in the history of the House of Commons on many occasions and is now well settled in practice. The practice is that where the individual Member of the House of Commons is actually an active partner in a business not a limited liability company, it is a misdemeanour on his part to vote; and there have been cases in recent Parliamentary history where a measure has had to be passed to indemnify a partner in a business in England from the penalties otherwise leviable upon him for having given his vote in the House of Commons on any subject, not merely on a question in which he was personally interested. The question has been settled, however, in this form that where the shareholders of any company which receive subsidies or other benefits from His Majesty's Government are Members of the House of Commons, they are perfectly entitled to register their votes either on that or on any other question, the only question being whether it is a matter of propriety for them to do so, and that that is entirely a matter for the personal judgment of the Member concerned. My Honourable friend will probably see that it will not be difficult to apply here this rule. There may

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DEMAND FOR GRANT TO DEFRAY THE BOUNTY TO THE STEEL INDUSTRY. 251

not be many Members here for instance connected with the Peninsular and Oriental Shipping Company, but there is no doubt there are Members here who are members of various firms which are connected with contracts directly or indirectly given by the Government of India or Local Governments, and therefore the rule laid down in the House of Commons is, I think, a satisfactory rule. It is only where a Member is directly and personally concerned in contracting with Government for certain services that he is not entitled to take part in the debate. I am not aware whether this point was raised before—if it was raised before during the proceedings of the Steel Industry Protection Act—I should have asked for further notice of this question in order to consult the ruling given by my predecessor. I have stated the Parliamentary practice of the House of Commons, and I think we may reasonably follow that practice and leave it to individual Members, as a matter of propriety, to decide whether their judgment is likely to be influenced or deflected from the straight line of public policy by any personal pecuniary benefit they may derive.

Mr. Chaman Lall: I thank you very much, Sir, for the ruling that you have given and for having clarified the issue. There was a ruling given in the May-June Session, but as nobody happened to remark on the subject, I take it that your ruling on this subject is the law on the point.

Mr. President: I cannot allow the Honourable Member to use the word "law". Law is one thing, a ruling from the Chair is a very different thing.

Mr. Chaman Lall: As far as Honourable Members here are concerned, I think a ruling from the Chair is a law.

Sir, I rise to oppose the grant of any bounties to any steel company in India, and my reasons are very simple. I will confine myself to the one particular company, the Tata Iron and Steel Company, which is the only company which is likely to benefit in regard to this bounty that you are going to give them. It is true, if you examine the facts furnished during the last few years from 1916 to 1924, that the Tata Iron and Steel Company made a profit of nearly 8 crores, 4 crores of which they distributed to their shareholders and 4 crores of which they put away in their reserve fund, on a total paid-up capital, I believe, of 3 crores. Subsequently, when they were in difficulties, after having paid out the handsome dividend of 4 crores to their shareholders, they discovered that they had to go and borrow money and they borrowed money in a foreign market by issuing debentures to the extent of 4 crores, so that, unlike any sensible company in the world, they went about distributing lavishly their dividends to their shareholders without looking forward to or taking account of the time when a depression would come and there would be need of money. When the depression came—as it was inevitable that that depression would come with the falling exchanges on the one side and the end of the war on the other, they asked for protection of the steel industry.

Mr. President: I am afraid the Honourable Member is a little too late for that kind of argument. This Resolution is in the form of a supplementary estimate in connection with the Budget of the present year, and for the amount required up to the 31st of March in the present financial year, and therefore the only matters in order under it are arguments designed to show that the estimate made by the Commerce Member of the

[Mr. President.]

amount required is not adequate. I do not think that on a supplementary estimate of this kind, where the House has just decided an important principle, the Honourable Member can bring up the matter or argue it again.

Mr. Chaman Lall: I submit to your ruling on this point, Sir. I know it is very inconvenient that I am a little too late. I just wanted to put my sentiments before the House. Honourable Members of this House are quite well aware that in the May-June Session I did say a good deal in opposition to the imposition of protective duties, but now as far as this particular matter is concerned,—the demand for the grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 25 lakhs to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1925,—I think, Sir, I may be able, with your permission, to say one or two words more as to why this particular amount should not be sanctioned for this particular purpose of the granting of a bounty. My reasons I have already placed before the House. I have not exhausted my reasons and I do not intend to do so. I am merely mentioning in passing in connection with your ruling on the point that Tatas do not deserve any bounty whatsoever. They have got the worst reputation imaginable in India to-day. Mulshipetta and Jamshedpur are evidence of the fact that this Company's name has become a byword instead of its being a household word. They have treated their shareholders in a fashion which is absolutely—I will not say abominable—but which is absolutely undeserved. They have broken every promise and they have broken every understanding that we arrived at with them. They have not paid the least attention whatsoever to the demands of their workers at Jamshedpur or at Mulshipetta. I think it would be not in the public interests to support this company under these circumstances.

Mr. President: I do not know if the Honourable Member was present here when I had a conversation with Mr. Joshi. If Mr. Joshi was out of order on the main Resolution, the Honourable Member is ten times out of order now.

Mr. Chaman Lall: I will therefore simply suggest that under these circumstances, for reasons which are very obvious, this grant should not be made.

Mr. President: The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25 lakhs be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1925, on account of the bounty which it has been recommended in the Resolution just passed that the Governor General in Council should pay on steel manufactured in India between the 1st of October, 1924, and the 30th of September, 1925.”

The motion was adopted.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COURT-FEES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member): Sir, may I make one slight change in the motion which stands in my name? I wish to substitute also for Mr. Fleming Mr. Naidu.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COURT-FEES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

I beg to move:

“That in place of Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith, Mr. H. E. Holmes and Mr. E. G. Fleming the following members be appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Court-fees Act, 1870, the Succession Certificate Act, 1889, and the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for certain purposes and for the like purposes to repeal certain enactments amending the Court-fees Act, 1870, namely:

Mr. L. Graham,
Mr. E. H. Ashworth, and
Mr. M. C. Naidu.”

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, for a certain purpose, be taken into consideration.”

I explained the purpose of this little Bill when I introduced it a few days ago. The Bill consists of one clause only. It gives us power to impose fees for inspection when wireless installations have been found out of order. In this matter we are following the practice of the Board of Trade at Home. I move my motion.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: Sir, I move that the Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 27th January, 1925.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 27th January, 1925.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

LIMIT OF OVERDRAFTS ALLOWED BY THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA WITHOUT SECURITY.

273. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what were the reasons that led to the enactment of the proviso to sub-clause (iv) to Part II of Schedule 1 to the Imperial Bank of India Act removing the maximum limit of Rs. 10,000 imposed by the Presidency Bank Amending Act 1 of 1907 on the amount of overdrafts that could be allowed by the Bank without security and permitting the Bank to allow such overdrafts to the extent that may be prescribed?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any bye-laws have been made in this behalf prescribing the extent of such overdrafts and if so, whether they will lay the same on the table?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The maximum limit of Rs. 10,000 was removed because it was found that the limitation interfered with legitimate business.

(b) A limit of Rs. 1 lakh has been prescribed in bye-law 4, which reads as follows:

“Accounts may be overdrawn to the extent of one lakh of rupees without security.”

SEPARATION OF RAILWAY FROM GENERAL FINANCE.

274. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to state the actual steps that have so far been taken in the matter of carrying out the recommendations of the Assembly in connection with the separation of Railway from the General Finance?

Mr. G. G. Sim: As the Honourable Member will see when the estimates are presented, the separation of Railway from General Finance is being carried out with effect from the current year in accordance with the terms of the Resolution passed by the Assembly. A Standing Finance Committee for Railways has been constituted with the composition recommended in the Resolution, and the composition proposed in the Resolution for a Central Advisory Council is also being adopted. The railway estimates are being laid before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, and their form and details, and the number of demands for grants into which the

total votes shall be divided, are being discussed with the Committee. Arrangements have also been made to present the railway budget to the Assembly in advance of the general budget, and to allot separate days for its discussion.

Mr. V. J. Patel: What steps have Government taken to have the Government of India Act amended so as to enable the Government to present the Railway Budget in the September session?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: We have placed that suggestion before Sir Alexander Muddiman's Committee.

SPECIAL DUTY OF MR. A. A. L. PARSONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESENTATION OF THE RAILWAY BUDGET.

275. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to state the scope and extent of the special duty on which Mr. Parsons, Railway Accountant General, has been placed and the progress made therein?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: Mr. Parsons has been engaged to assist the Financial Commissioner in the revision of the arrangements for the presentation of the budget, of the form of accounts, the method of financial control and the institution of the depreciation fund and the revision of financial procedure generally consequent on the separation of the Railway from General Finance.

REVISED ESTIMATES OF RAILWAY EARNINGS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

276. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to make a statement as to what extent the anticipations made in the memoranda supplied to the Members of the Assembly during the debate on the Railway Finance Separation have been exceeded by the actual figures of railway earnings and expenditure received so far and as to the anticipations of railway revenue and profits expected in the remaining months of the budget year?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The revised estimates of railway earnings and expenditure for the current year are being framed and will be placed before the House in due course.

ACCELERATION OF RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

277. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any, and if so, what steps have been taken to accelerate the pace of railway construction since the last session of the Assembly and to lay on the table of the House a statement of the several projects worked to accelerate or any instruction to the Railway Administrations that has been issued by the Railway Board in this behalf?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state to what extent this acceleration has increased the amount of stores purchases and indents placed in England or to call for a statement from the Railway Administration concerned in this matter?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) The necessity of expediting the completion of sanctioned works has been impressed upon Agents. The procedure in connection with the preparation of estimates has been simplified and the estimating staff has been increased where necessary.

(b) It is impossible to state what effect this has had upon the placing of indents.

CONSTRUCTION OF BRANCH LINES AND FEEDER RAILWAYS.

278. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether any new policy has been adopted or is under discussion in respect of construction of branch lines and feeder railways with special reference to the railways of District Boards, existing and projected, and the ownership, maintenance and management of such lines?

EXPANSION OF DISTRICT BOARD RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

279. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Have the Government raised any new objections to the policy of the expansion of District Board railway construction in the Madras Presidency in accordance with the programme which had to be suspended during the war and the execution of which on the part of the District Board is now overdue?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I will answer questions 278 and 279 together. The proposals of Government for giving effect to the Acworth Committee's recommendation that branch lines shall as far as possible be constructed and worked by the main lines to which they are tributary and that only if the State is unable or unwilling to provide funds shall the formation of separate branch line companies be encouraged will shortly be discussed with the Central Advisory Council, and I will lay papers as soon as possible.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEE COMMISSION.

280. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to lay before the Assembly the despatches that have passed between the Secretary of State and the Government of India on the recommendations of the Lee Commission after obtaining, if necessary, the assent of the Secretary of State thereunto?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I answered that question yesterday.

Mr. V. J. Patel: Not the whole of it. The words "after obtaining, if necessary, the assent of the Secretary of State thereunto" occur here. Has the Secretary of State been consulted with regard to the publication of the correspondence?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I have already stated that the Government have no intention of publishing the papers.

Mr. V. J. Patel: This Government have no intention, I dare say. But the question is whether the Government would be prepared to consult the Secretary of State in regard to their publication?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The answer is in the negative.

Mr. V. J. Patel: Why so?

(No answer was given.)

Mr. V. J. Patel: Are Government not prepared to answer that question?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I have already stated that I have no intention whatever of publishing the papers.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Will Government kindly state the reasons for not asking the Secretary of State to assent to the publication of the papers?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Because the Government of India did not think it desirable that the papers should be published.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I ask the Honourable the Home Member whether he will not suggest to the Secretary of State the advisability of explaining to the House the reasons why he has thought fit to deprive the House of its powers over the Services in respect of passages and other things?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I think that arises on the next question.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: I am asking whether the Secretary of State can allow despatches to be published on that ground with a view to furnish an explanation as to why he did so.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I think the answer appears in my next reply; I am not prepared to address the Secretary of State on the matter.

Dewan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: May I ask the Leader of the House whether it is not desirable that the reasons of the Government of India and the Secretary of State as put forward in the despatches may be made available to this Assembly so that they may understand the exact grounds on which the Government of India and the Secretary of State have departed from the recommendations made by this Assembly?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I have endeavoured to explain the attitude of the Government of India in regard to the Lee Commission's recommendations.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Sir, it may not be desirable from the Government point of view but it certainly is desirable from the public point of view. Will the Government be pleased to consider this question?

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEE COMMISSION.

281. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the decision of the Secretary of State in Council to make all the concessions granted to the All-India Services as to pay, passages, remittance privileges and the rest non-votable and to curtail the constitutional powers of the Legislatures in this behalf by an amendment to the Government of India Act, has been made on the recommendation or at the suggestion of the Government of India? If so, what were the reasons upon which such recommendations were based and why was

no mention made of such contemplated proposals by or on behalf of the Government during any stage of the debate on the Lee Commission's recommendations in September or May last?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they will now afford to the House an opportunity to discuss this new proposal that affects the position and powers of the Assembly under the constitution?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) The Lee Commission in paragraph 64 of the Report emphasised the principle that it was essential that no portion of the relief intended by them should be less certain than another. The action contemplated by His Majesty's Government is the natural outcome of that principle.

(b) I must refer the Honourable Member to the Rules and Standing Orders regarding the tabling of Resolutions.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know, Sir, whether the Honourable the Home Member suggests to me that I can move a Resolution with regard to making these items votable?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: That is a matter for the Honourable Member to consider, and frame a Resolution.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: I am asking the Home Member whether, when he referred me to the rules, he really intends me to take steps to make them votable.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: It is not for me to say whether a Resolution should be framed; if the Honourable Member can frame a Resolution which is within the Standing Orders and Rules he can put it down.

BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

282. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to state when they first received a request from the Government of Bengal for the enactment of legislation "to supplement the ordinary Criminal Law in that province"? If proposals in this behalf had been under consideration in September last, will the Government be pleased to state why the information relating to this was withheld from the Assembly in the course of the debate on the repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I have already given to Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar's question on the same subject.

MEMORIAL FROM THE WIDOW OF THE LATE MR. A. R. SETHA IYER,
HEAD RECORD CLERK, RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE, T. DIVISION.

283. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Have the Government of India received any memorial from one Subbalakshmi Ammal, widow of the late Mr. A. R. Seta Iyer, Head Record Clerk, R. M. S., T. Division, applying for the grant of a gratuity in consequence of the sudden death of her husband from cholera while on duty at Trichinopoly during the time of floods and epidemic in July last? Are the facts stated therein correct? If so, do the Government propose in the peculiar circumstances of the case to comply with the memorialist's prayer to any extent?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Yes. A memorial has been received and is receiving due consideration.

NON-PAYMENT TO POSTAL ENDOWMENT POLICY HOLDERS OF THE BONUS FOR THE QUINQUENNium 1917—22.

284. ***Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether there have been cases in which postal endowment policy holders with bonus have not been paid their bonus for the quinquennium 1917—22, and if so, the reason therefor?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Under the rules of the Post Office Insurance Fund the grant of a bonus to policy holders is not obligatory. Bonuses have been given for the two quinquennia ending in 1917 and the question of granting a bonus for the quinquennium 1917—22 is now under consideration.

CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCES.

285. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the conventions and recommendations of the Sixth International Labour Conference as well as those of the previous five conferences?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The Honourable Member will find the Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the first three Conferences in Bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour Nos. 4, 17 and 26, respectively. These will be found in the Library. Copies of the Recommendations adopted at the last three Conferences have also been placed in the Library.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONVENTIONS OF THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

286. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Which of the recommendations and conventions of the Sixth International Labour Conference have been given effect to by the Government of India?

(b) Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the recommendations and conventions of the previous five conferences, which have not been given effect to?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The Sixth International Labour Conference adopted no Convention. It adopted only one Recommendation. A statement showing the effect given to all the Conventions and Recommendations which have been adopted by International Labour Conferences is placed on the table.

Statement showing the effect given to each Draft Convention and Recommendation adopted by the International Labour Conferences.

Conventions and Recommendations.	Effect given.
FIRST SESSION.	
1. Draft Convention limiting the hours of work in industrial undertakings.	Ratified and Indian Factories Act amended.
2. Draft Convention concerning unemployment	Ratified. Statistics supplied, and inquiries made and published.
3. Draft Convention concerning the employment of women before and after childbirth.	Report submitted to the International Labour Office.

Conventions and Recommendations.

Effect given.

FIRST SESSION—*contd.*

4. Draft Convention concerning employment of women during the night.	The Convention was ratified and the Factories Act was amended.
5. Draft Convention fixing the minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment.	Placed before the Legislature; the definition of "factory" was amended, the age of children was altered, the Indian Ports (Amendment) Act, 1922, was passed, and the Mines Act amended.
6. Draft Convention concerning the night work of young persons employed in industry.	Ratified. No change in the Indian law was involved.
7. Recommendation concerning unemployment	Placed before the Legislature and examined in consultation with local Governments and no further action was considered necessary.
8. Recommendation concerning the protection of women and children against lead poisoning.	Placed before the Legislature. Provision was made in the Indian Factories Act.
9. Recommendation concerning reciprocity of treatment of foreign workers.	No action was required as no discrimination was in operation.
10. Recommendation concerning the prevention of anthrax.	Provision inserted in the Indian Factories Act. (Section 38-A.) No Rules have been issued under this Section.
11. Recommendation concerning the establishment of Government Health Services.	Placed before the Legislature and forwarded to local Governments.
12. Recommendation concerning the application of the Berne Convention of 1906, on the prohibition of the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.	India already adhered to Berne Convention; no further action was therefore required.

SECOND SESSION.

1. Draft Convention fixing the minimum age for admission of children to employment at sea.	Placed before the Legislature. The amendment of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act is under consideration.
2. Draft Convention concerning unemployment indemnity in case of loss or foundering of the ship.	Placed before the Legislature. Enquiry made and amendment of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act is under consideration.
3. Draft Convention for establishing facilities for finding employment for seamen.	Placed before the Legislature. A Committee was appointed and following their recommendation, an officer of the Mercantile Marine has now been appointed at Calcutta as Shipping Master to evolve a scheme.
4. Recommendation concerning the limitation of hours of work in the fishing industry.	The Legislature resolved that no action should be taken.
5. Recommendation concerning the establishment of national seamen's codes.	
6. Recommendation concerning unemployment insurance for seamen.	
7. Recommendation concerning the limitation of hours of work in inland navigation.	

Conventions and Recommendations.

Effect given.

THIRD SESSION.

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| 1. Draft Convention concerning workmen's compensation in agriculture. | Not ratified. The Legislature resolved that no action need be taken. |
| 2. Draft Convention concerning the age for admission of children to employment in agriculture. | Not ratified. The law in India is not in conflict with the Convention. |
| 3. Draft Convention concerning the use of white lead in painting. | Not ratified in accordance with recommendation of Council of State. |
| 4. Recommendation concerning social insurance in agriculture. | The Legislature resolved that no action be taken. |
| 5. Recommendation concerning the protection, before and after childbirth, of women wage-earners in agriculture. | |
| 6. Recommendation concerning night work of women in agriculture. | The Legislature resolved that legislation should not be introduced at present. |
| 7. Recommendation concerning night work of children and young persons in agriculture. | |
| 8. Recommendation concerning living in conditions of agricultural workers. | |
| 9. Draft Convention concerning the rights of association and combination of agricultural workers. | Ratified. No further action is necessary. |
| 10. Draft Convention concerning the application of the weekly rest in industrial undertakings. | Ratified. Provision made in the Mines and Factories Acts. |
| 11. Draft Convention fixing the minimum age for the admission of young persons to employment as trimmers and stokers. | |
| 12. Draft Convention concerning the compulsory medical examination of children and young persons employed at sea. | Placed before the Legislature and ratified. (Necessary provision is being made in the Indian Merchant Shipping Act.) |
| 13. Recommendation concerning the prevention of unemployment in agriculture. | |
| 14. Recommendation concerning the development of technical agricultural education. | Forwarded to local Governments for necessary action. |
| 15. Recommendation concerning the application of the weekly rest in commercial establishments. | In accordance with a resolution of the Legislature the recommendation was forwarded to local Governments. |

FOURTH SESSION.

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| 1. Recommendation concerning communication to the International Labour Office of Statistical and other information regarding emigration, immigration and the repatriation and transit of Emigrants. | Statistics are being sent by the Government of India. |
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FIFTH SESSION.

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| 1. Recommendation concerning the general principles for the organisation of systems of inspection to secure the enforcement of the laws and regulations for the protection of the workers. | The subject is provincial and the recommendation was forwarded to local Governments for any action considered necessary. |
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SIXTH SESSION.

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| 1. Recommendation concerning the development of facilities for the utilisation of workers' spare time. | The subject is provincial and the recommendation was forwarded to local Governments for any action considered necessary. |
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EQUALITY OF TREATMENT FOR INDIAN WORKERS ABROAD.

287. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Do the Government of India intend to secure equality of treatment for Indian workers abroad?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Government of India are not aware to what inequalities the Honourable Member refers. If he will be so good as to specify these, I shall be better in a position to answer his question.

LEGISLATION FOR THE UTILISATION OF THE LEISURE HOURS OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, ETC.

288. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Do the Government of India intend to bring in legislation for:

- (1) the utilisation of the leisure hours of the industrial workers;
- (2) the institution of the Creche system at factories and workshops?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The answer is in the negative.

SHOOTING OF INDIANS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

289. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Are Government aware that in reply to a question of mine it was stated that a report of the firing on Indian workers at George Town was awaited and would be published?

(b) Will Government explain the delay in publishing this report?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) Yes. A copy of the report together with the minutes of evidence will be placed in the Library of the House.

(b) The Government of India could not publish the report of the officer of another Government without the authority of that Government. This authority has only just been received.

EMIGRATION TO BRITISH GUIANA.

290. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Have Government arrived at any decision regarding the proposal placed before them regarding emigration to British Guiana by Sir Joseph Numan and the Honourable Mr. Luckhoo?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: No. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the press communiqué issued by the Government of India on the 7th June last, a copy of which has been placed in the Library for the information of the Honourable Member.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE DEMANDS OF THE ALL-INDIA POSTAL AND R. M. S. UNION.

291. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Have Government any information regarding the demands made by the All-India Postal and R. M. S. Union at its annual session held at Bombay under the presidentship of Mr. M. A. Jinnah?

(b) Do Government intend to appoint a Committee of Inquiry in order to examine these demands?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Government have received a copy of the Resolution passed at the Conference.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: May I ask a supplementary question, Sir? Do Government attach any value to the resolutions passed by the R. M. S. and Postal Conferences?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government undoubtedly do take cognisance of them.

RESETTLEMENT OF THE KOHAT REFUGEES.

292. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Will Government make a statement with regard to the negotiations that their officers have been carrying on for the resettlement of the Kohat refugees?

Mr. Denys Bray: There would perhaps be some danger of stirring communal feelings among the Kohat leaders if I attempted to answer the Honourable Member's question in detail and described the ups and downs of the Kohat negotiations. But I can assure him that from the very outset the efforts of Government and their officers have been directed towards bringing about a reconciliation between the two communities, and Government trust that the agreement now concluded between the leading representatives will result in the early return of the refugees in honourable security to Kohat and a resumption by the two communities of their normal life of neighbourly relations.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: May I know, Sir, if the refugees have returned to Kohat?

Mr. Denys Bray: They have not.

Lala Duni Chand: Will the Government please state how many refugees have gone back to Kohat and how many of them still remain at Rawalpindi and other places?

Mr. Denys Bray: I would venture to deprecate any specific questions on this matter. I have received one or two letters from the Kohat leaders themselves, and they tell me in their letters perfectly plainly that the best chance of their early return is for them to be allowed at present to work out their own salvation. They very earnestly beg me to put this position before the House.

Lala Duni Chand: Sir, I feel very strongly on the point, I have also received certain letters from certain leaders. My next question is, will the Government please state if they are prepared to compensate the sufferers of Kohat in any way, and if so, in what way?

Mr. Denys Bray: I beg to inquire whether this question arises out of the substantive question?

Mr. President: The Foreign Secretary may reasonably ask for notice of it.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Government please state if the Kohat Hindu leaders are not carrying on their business in Kohat itself, if some of them have not constructed their shops and if some of them are not spending their time in Kohat itself keeping only a certain number of refugees in a small camp station in Rawalpindi to retain the sympathy of their coreligionists and the attention of the authorities.

Mr. Denys Bray: The facts are as stated with regard to one or two of the Hindu leaders. But I would again suggest to the House that it is exactly this sort of question that makes it desirable to avoid discussion in the House at present.

ARRESTS UNDER BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818 AND THE BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1924.

293. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Will Government state the total number of arrests made under Bengal Regulation III of 1818 and under the Bengal Ordinance?

(b) How many of the arrested persons were members of the Swaraj Party?

(c) Will Government state details of the provision being made for the families of the détenus?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Most of this question has already been answered. Provision for the families of persons detained under the Ordinance is made under the orders of the Local Government and the Government of India have no detailed information in regard to it. I do not think any useful purpose would be served by giving in detail the allowances sanctioned under Regulation III, which depend in each case on the circumstances of the détenu's family. I may add that the persons recently arrested under the Regulation have since been restrained by orders under section 12 of the Ordinance.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: Sir, in making provision for the families of those arrested is their standard of life taken into consideration?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Certainly.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Aiyangar: May I know, Sir, whether there are any persons under detention arrested after the 25th of October who are still under detention under the Bengal Regulation?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: At present there are none arrested after the 25th of October under detention under the Bengal Regulation.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Aiyangar: Are all of them under the Ordinance?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: All of them.

OPINIONS ON THE WEEKLY PAYMENTS BILL.

294. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Will Government place on the table the replies received from representative bodies to their circular containing the Weekly Payments Bill?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The replies received from local Governments will be published.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA REGARDING THE PROMULGATION OF THE BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1924.

295. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence which passed between the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India regarding the promulgation of the Bengal Ordinance?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: No.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Aiyangar: May I know the reasons, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: It is not in the public interest.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: What does the Honourable the Home Member mean by saying that it is not in the public interest?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: In this connection the term public interest is very clear. It is not in the public interest that I should give any information which would lead to murder of persons, and police officers and others.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Aiyangar: Is that not a matter of opinion, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: No, Sir. It is not a matter of opinion. It is a matter of fact.

POSTAL COMPLAINTS.

296. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Forward* of the 9th December, 1924, page 11, under the heading "Postal Complaints"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the complaints made therein are genuine?

(c) If genuine, do they propose to issue instructions to the authorities concerned to remove the inconvenience which the public are put to?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: (a) The Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam, reports that he received a complaint on the subject in November last.

(b) and (c). The inconvenience, which was due to the closure of a steamer station, was removed on the introduction of a revised mail arrangement from the 10th December 1924.

PROVISION OF AN OVERBRIDGE AT KALNA COURT STATION.

297. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 10th December, 1924, page 17, under the heading "Over-Bridge Wanted"?

(b) If so, will the Government please state if the grievances complained of are real?

(c) If real, do they propose to see that an overbridge is provided on the spot?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). There have been no previous complaints in regard to delays to vehicular traffic at this crossing and the Agent, East Indian Railway, reports that the traffic at Kalna Court station does not justify the provision of an overbridge.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE IN PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

298. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) With reference to my starred question No. 2131, parts (d) and (e) of the 17th September last, have the Government been able to find out whether it is a fact that a resolution has been passed in the Municipal Corporation at Port Louis that only those

people should be allowed to vote who have knowledge of English or French, and this resolution has been sent to Downing Street for final sanction?

(b) Is it not a fact that most Indians in Mauritius know only the Indian vernaculars and such a resolution will operate prejudicially against them?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) and (b). Inquiries into these matters have been made but the replies have not yet been received.

ALLEGED MALPRACTICES OF LABOUR RECRUITERS AT BENARES.

299. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** With reference to my starred question No. 2132 of the 17th September last, regarding the malpractices of labour recruiters at Benares, will the Government be pleased to state if inquiries have been made into the occurrence relating to the boy Chotay Lal, mentioned in my question? And if so, what is the result?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply given to Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's question No. 145 on the same subject.

REPORT OF THE FIJI DEPUTATION.

300. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a letter of Pandit Banarsidas Chaturvedi, published in the *Young India* of the 4th December 1924, in regard to the Fiji Report?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India were asked to send a Commission of Inquiry to investigate into the causes of the disturbances which occurred in Fiji in 1920, resulting in the promulgation of martial law and the imprisonment of more than 200 Indians? If so, will the Government kindly state why they refused to send out a Commission of Inquiry, or to press the India Office for an inquiry?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given to a question asked by the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri in the Imperial Legislative Council on the 20th August 1920, and to relevant extracts from the correspondence which passed on the subject between the Government of India and the Imperial Citizenship Association in August and September 1920. Copies of both have been placed in the library of the House.

REPORT OF THE FIJI DEPUTATION.

301. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) With reference to my starred question No. 2133 of the 17th September last, will the Government be pleased to state when do they propose to publish the report of the Fiji Deputation, which was submitted in September 1922?

(b) Is it a fact that the publication of this Report is being delayed as the Colonial Office is understood to have taken strong objections to certain views expressed in the report?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table all communications on the subject which may have passed between them and the Colonial Office in this connection, since the submission of the report? And if not, why not?

(d) Who were the members of the Fiji Deputation, and what was the total amount of expenditure incurred in connection with it?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) Some of the points touched upon in the report formed the subject of representations to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Colonies Committee appointed by the Government of India last March. The Honourable Member will recognise that until the result of these representations, which were of a confidential character, is known it is not possible to come to any decision regarding the question of publishing the report of our deputation.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The members of the Fiji deputation were:—

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju, C.I.E., M.L.A., *President*.

Mr. G. L. Corbett, C.I.E., I.C.S.

Pandit Govind Sahai Sharma, M.L.C., Bar-at-Law. } *Members*.

Lieut. S. Hissamid Din, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E }

The total expenditure was about Rs. 67,000.

REPORT OF THE FIJI DEPUTATION.

302. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on the report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the conditions of the Indians in Fiji?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state why the report has not been published yet?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to place the said report on the table of this House during this session of the Assembly?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a), (b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to part (a) of my reply just given to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question No. 301.

WAGES OF LABOURERS IN CEYLON TEA PLANTATIONS.

303. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what the prevailing wages of labourers in the tea plantations of Ceylon are?

(b) What is the minimum wage demanded by the labourers?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) Government have no definite information on the subject, but will make inquiries.

(b) They are not aware that any demand for minimum wage has been put forward by labourers. (The suggestion to fix a minimum wage was made by the Standing Emigration Committee of the Indian Legislature and is now receiving the consideration of the Ceylon Government.)

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, Sir, why Government should not have information regarding wages of labourers in Ceylon when they are maintaining their own Agent in Ceylon at a great cost?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I have just told the Honourable Member that the information is not available here but that I should be able to get it through our Agent.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What sort of information do Government get from the Agent there?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Honourable Member is a Member of the Standing Emigration Committee and I am sure he can answer that question as well as anybody else.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I have got the information, but when a question is asked in the House I expect the Honourable Member in charge to give the information.

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I have promised to make inquiries and to get the information. I can do no more.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: Sir, do the Government also propose to inquire what minimum wage is generally promised to the labourers by those canvassers who recruit Indian labour?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: No, Sir, I do not think any useful purpose would be served by such an inquiry.

EMIGRATION TO MAURITIUS.

304. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government of Mauritius has requested the Government of India to send a large number of labourers?

(b) Has the Committee on the condition of labourers in Mauritius made a report?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to place their report on the table?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) and (b). A request for the recruitment of 1,500 male adult labourers was received from the Government of Mauritius in April last, but its consideration has been deferred until receipt of the report of the special officer who has been deputed to make certain inquiries into the economic condition of the Indian population of the Colony.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Who is the special officer who has been deputed to make inquiries?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: Kunwar Maharaj Singh.

REPORT OF THE BRITISH GUIANA DEPUTATION.

305. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** Will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on the report of Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai on the conditions of Indians in British Guiana?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: No action has been taken on the reports submitted by the Government of India deputation to British Guiana in view of the later developments explained in the Government of India press communiqué dated the 7th June 1924, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library of the House.

DOUBLING OF THE LINE BETWEEN MADRAS AND PALLIVARAM.

306. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the resolution passed by the third Railway Passengers' Association held at Madras protesting against the delay in doubling the line between Madras and Pallivaram?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on it?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given yesterday to Mr. M. K. Acharya's question No. 255.

TRAINING OF INDIANS IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING IN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

307. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many railway workshops are worked in India?

(b) What is the percentage of railway requirements that are produced in the workshops?

(c) What facilities are given for training educated Indians in mechanical engineering in the said workshops?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Workshops on Indian railways include the (i) major Loco and Carriage Shops, (ii) minor shops of similar type and (iii) miscellaneous shops working in connection with Engineering, Signal and other Departments. Under (i) there are 24 large shops.

(b) The railway workshops are primarily intended for repair work and I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement placed on the table in reply to the question No. 136 asked on the 23rd instant by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan. In regard to production the information is not available.

(c) The Honourable Member will find full information on this subject in paragraph 34 of Volume I of the Railway Board's Administration Report for 1921-22. In addition to the facilities therein mentioned the East Indian Railway have a scheme under which Indians are, subject to certain conditions, accepted for a combined course of training in England and India with a view to appointment in the supervising grades of the Mechanical Department of the Railway. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway have also more recently started a scheme whereby they undertake the training in mechanical engineering of a limited number of probationers with a view to eventual appointment as officers. The question of further extension of technical training in mechanical engineering is at present under the consideration of the Railway Board.

Kumar Ganganand Sinha: How many students are there in these institutions?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I must ask for notice of that question.

GRIEVANCES OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES AT VILLUPURAM, MAYAVARAM AND MADURA ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

308. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the memorial addressed to the Agent of the South Indian Railway by the railway loco employees at Villupuram, Mayavaram and Madura?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether and to what extent the grievances of the memorialists were redressed?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). A copy of the memorial was sent to the Railway Board. But the Agent has made no reference to Government on the subject and the Government do not know what action if any has been taken on the memorial.

COMPENSATION TO DEPENDANTS OF RAILWAY OFFICIALS KILLED IN THE COLLISION NEAR HARAPPA ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

309. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of railway officials who were killed in the collision between Montgomery and Harappa in the Punjab?

(b) What gratuity or compensation was given to the bereaved families?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Two railway officials died subsequently as the result of injuries received in the accident.

(b) Government understand that this is now under the consideration of the Railway Administration.

COMPENSATION TO DEPENDANTS OF TWO MURDERED POSTAL RUNNERS.

310. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Is it a fact that two runners viz., Bau Hu Sao of Phulcherry and Murugandi of Kurumandur branch office were murdered while they were carrying mails?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what compensation was given in each of these cases to the bereaved families?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: (a) Yes.

(b) In the first case a family pension of Rs. 6 per mensem has been granted to the father of the deceased runner. The second case is receiving my attention.

PROVISION OF MEDICAL RELIEF FOR RAILWAY OFFICIALS.

311. ***Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what kind of staff is employed for the medical relief of railway officials?

(b) What is the qualification of the medical officers employed for the use of railway officials?

(c) Are they expected to help the public also at their headquarters where there is no other hospital or dispensary?

(d) If so, is any contribution made by Local Boards for such medical service?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Company-managed railways employ in most cases their own medical staff while State-managed railways generally utilize the services of the Local Government medical officers. The Eastern Bengal State Railway employs however two medical officers of its own. The question of improving the arrangements for medical assistance on the North-Western Railway is now under investigation. Each State-managed railway employs its own staff of Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons who are either borrowed from Government medical service or specially engaged.

(b) The qualifications of all officers employed on the various lines will be found in the Classified List of Railway Establishment, a copy of which is in the Library.

(c) and (d). Railway medical officers and dispensaries are primarily intended for railway work alone but it is understood that where other medical assistance is not available, the railway facilities are to such extent as is possible made available to the public. Such arrangements are, however, necessarily local and if the Honourable Member will specify the particular railways and localities which he has in mind inquiries will be made.

RECOGNITION OF THE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY UNION.

312. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) Did the Agent of O. and R. Railway offer any terms to the O. and R. Railway Union, on the acceptance of which the Union was promised the restoration of its recognition by the Agent?
- (b) Were these terms accepted by the Union?
- (c) Was the recognition of the Union restored by the Agent on the acceptance of the terms proposed by him? If not, why not?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) No offer was made to the Union. In order however to relieve apprehension the Agent intimated to the staff certain conditions under which he would be prepared to recommend to the Railway Board the recognition of their Union.

(b) and (c). So far as is known no action was taken by the staff on this intimation and consequently no recommendation has been made to the Railway Board.

PROMOTION OF MR. S. DOYLE, JUNIOR CLERK OF THE WORKS MANAGER'S OFFICE, O. AND R. RAILWAY.

313. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Is it a fact that Mr. S. Doyle, one of the most junior clerks of the Works Manager's office (Loco). O. and R. Railway, Lucknow, has been promoted from Rs. 34 to Rs. 70 p.m. and his seniors were passed over?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government have no information. The matter is one in which they do not interfere.

ISSUE OF TICKETS TO THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS AT MORADABAD RAILWAY STATION.

314. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Are the Government aware that third class passengers at Moradabad railway station are put to great trouble and inconvenience and some times even miss their trains on account of the tickets being issued only from one window and also because the booking is commenced only half an hour before the arrival of the trains?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Government are not prepared to issue orders in the matter but will forward the request to the Railway Administration for consideration.

PREVENTION OF FLOODS IN THE MORADABAD DISTRICT.

315. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Are the Government aware that there is a strong feeling in Moradabad district to the effect that great devastation and loss of life and property caused by the recent flood in the Ganges and the Ramganga in Moradabad district was due mostly to there being insufficient outlets or small bridges for water in the railway road on the O. and R. Railway between Gajrula and Gadhmutesar and on the R. and K. Railway between Moradabad and Shel station and also on account of the railway bridge at Moradabad being too small for the flow of water?

(b) Are Government prepared to institute an inquiry into the matter and take steps to prevent the recurrence of the floods?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Representations asking for more waterways in the railway lines in the area in question have been received.

The whole question is under inquiry. I would however remind the Honourable Member that when excessive rainfall occurs such as was experienced at the end of September last, floods cannot be prevented and all that can be done is to make reasonable provision for the passage of flood water through railway embankments with a view to avoiding breaches in which the Railways are naturally interested as much as the public.

ALLEGED MISAPPROPRIATION OF STORES ON THE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY.

316. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Are the Government aware of the stores fraud cases on the O. and R. Railway? What was the amount of the property misappropriated? Who was the officer or officers in charge of the stores when this misappropriation took place? And what if any steps were taken by the Government against that officer or officers?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government are aware of the cases of fraud referred to. There are three distinct cases in all of which prosecutions have been instituted. The court proceedings in one case have been finished and the others are still under trial. It is impossible at this stage to give any estimate of the total amounts of property involved or to make any statement in regard to the officers responsible. It is however the intention to have a very thorough departmental inquiry made after the trials are over in order that the responsibility of the supervising staff may be established and any defects in procedure to which these frauds were attributable may be ascertained and measures taken to prevent recurrence.

DISMISSAL OF MR. RAJARAM, STATION MASTER, BERHAMGHAT.

317. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Rajaram, late station master, Berhamghat, was dismissed for bringing certain facts of corruptions to the notice of the Administration, against Mr. Goff, the then D. T. S. in June 1923?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Goff in his defence before the Agent pleaded that he received £1,000 from the Military Department and thus he cleared his debt at Lahore?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Rajaram was challenged, *vide* letter No. 18-19-19-P., dated 2nd July 1923, and he was prepared to substantiate the allegation in a court of law?

(d) Is it a fact that on receipt of the challenge Mr. Goff was immediately allowed to go on long leave?

(e) (i) Is it a fact that Mr. Rajaram's gratuity and bonus were forfeited although he was granted a good service certificate of 18 years' faithful service?

(ii) When Mr. Rajaram was granted "good on the whole" service certificate what other virtues were needed for granting bonus and gratuity? Why was not Mr. Goff asked to clear his position and why was he allowed to go on leave?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) No, Mr. Rajaram was dismissed for making allegations against Mr. Goff, his District Officer, which on inquiry were found to be false and malicious.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) Yes, but an evasive reply was given.

(d) No, Mr. Goff applied for leave on the 28th May 1923. The letter written by the officiating District Traffic Superintendent referred to in (c) was dated the 2nd July 1923. Mr. Goff went on leave on the 6th October 1923.

(e) (i) Mr. Rajaram's gratuity and bonus were forfeited in view of the circumstances of his dismissal.

(ii) The certificate granted to Mr. Rajaram gave as the reason for termination of his service "summarily dismissed" and the further remark thereon applied to his conduct and abilities prior to the misconduct which resulted in his dismissal.

CASE OF MR. KAILASNATH, ASSISTANT STATION MASTER, BENARES CANTONMENT, O. AND R. RAILWAY.

318. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Is it a fact that Mr. Kailasnath, assistant station master, Benares Cantonment, was granted 22 months' leave and after he had availed himself of two months' leave, the rest of his leave was cancelled and he was discharged from the service without assigning any reason?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government do not know but will inquire and will let the Honourable Member know the result.

PAY OF STATION MASTERS AND ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS AT ROADSIDE STATIONS ON THE O. AND R. RAILWAY.

319. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Is it a fact that formerly on the O. and R. Railway the difference in pay of the station masters and assistant station masters on roadside stations was Rs. 5 only and after the revised scale came in force, the difference increased to Rs. 20; that is the maximum pay of a station master "A" class was raised to Rs. 75 and that of an assistant station master was Rs. 55. Why so? What responsibility of the assistant station masters has been shifted and reduced that their pay has been raised to a very low scale?

Mr. G. G. Sim: No, it is not a fact. Before the revision of scales the difference of pay of these two classes was Rs. 12 and after revision it was Rs. 20.

PROMOTION OF INDIAN STATION MASTERS ON THE O. AND R. RAILWAY.

320. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Is it a fact that about 500 assistant station masters after reaching the maximum of their grade, are waiting for promotion for years and years? Will the Government please state how their promotions will be regulated with a few higher class stations?

(b) Is it a fact that while hundreds of Indian "A" class station masters are waiting for promotions to higher grades, the Railway Administration stopped their promotion by reverting many of the "B" Class stations to "A" and "C" class stations to "B" class whereas Anglo-Indian and European station masters have not been affected in any way?

(c) Is it a fact that several junction stations are classified special class for providing Anglo-Indian or European station masters whereas booking and parcel clerks of those stations are graded in "A" class? Why so? Why will the clerks not be given the advantage of drawing the pay according to the class of stations?

(d) Is it a fact that many "A" class Indian station masters on the O. and R. Railway, drawing Rs. 75 whose promotions are blocked for years and years, have been served with retirement notice? Is it a fact that they are serving the railway for more than 35 years to the entire satisfaction of the authorities? If so, why were these senior station masters not given promotion to class "B", "C" or "D" and so on?

(e) Is it a fact that "90" per cent. of the stations on the O. and R. Railway are classified as "A" and the station masters after reaching the maximum of the class are waiting for promotions for years and years? Will the Government please state how the promotions of these station masters will be regulated with a less percentage of higher stations?

(f) Is it a fact that the promotions of qualified Indian assistant station masters are restricted to "D" class whereas unqualified Anglo-Indian and European assistant station masters are given a lift to "E" and "F" class? Further, is it a fact that at junction stations out of three assistant station masters one Indian is getting "C" or "D" class scale of pay whereas two Anglo-Indian or European assistant station masters are getting "E" or "F" class scale of pay? If so, what is the reason for this difference?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member does not mention any particular railway so it is impossible to say if his facts and figures are correct. Promotions must obviously be regulated by the vacancies in the class above and the class of a station by the importance of the work to be performed.

(d) The Honourable Member's question is stated in such general terms that it is difficult to give a precise reply. Station Masters like other employees are required to retire unless their services are specially extended at 55 years of age. If they have not been promoted it is presumably either because there were no vacancies or they were not competent to fill the higher posts.

(e) Government have no information as to the exact proportion of "A" class stations. Promotions are regulated by vacancies in higher classes.

(f) No, it is not a fact that any discrimination on racial grounds is made. The assistant station masters at junction stations are classed and paid in accordance with the duties which they are fit for and called upon to perform and the distinctions referred to where they exist are due to this cause and not to any question of race.

SELECTION OF ASSISTANT TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENTS FOR THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

321. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) how many candidates appeared before the Railway Board for selection as A. T. Ss. for the N. W. Railway and how many were selected by the Board?
- (b) Did the Medical Board reject any of the above candidates?
- (c) Is there any rule for the inspection of the candidates by the Medical Board for the second time when once they have been rejected?
- (d) Were any of the rejected candidates re-inspected, or ordered to be re-inspected by the Medical Board?
- (e) Were there any qualified members amongst the candidates who appeared before the Railway Board?
- (f) Has any Musalman candidate been selected to fill up the post?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Twenty-five candidates were interviewed by the Railway Board, and six were selected for appointment as apprentice Assistant Traffic Superintendents for the three State-managed Railways.

(b) Yes; two.

(c) There is no rule. It would always be a question whether sufficiently cogent reasons were shown for a re-examination.

(d) No, one candidate was permitted to reappear before the original Medical Board. He did not avail himself of the permission.

(e) I do not know what the Honourable Member means by "qualified members". Some of the candidates had received a certain amount of training in England.

(f) If the question refers to the vacancies alluded to in part (b) of the question, further appointments have not been made.

PROMOTION OF JUNIOR GUARDS BY THE DISTRICT TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENT OF MORADABAD, O. AND R. RAILWAY.

322. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Is it a fact that the D. T. S. of Moradabad has given promotion to certain junior guards in preference to seniors?

(b) If the answer to the first part is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the same?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). Government have no information and do not propose to inquire. It is not their practice to interfere in matters of this kind.

BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE.

323. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state when was the necessity of promulgating the Bengal Ordinance first brought to the notice of the Governor General in Council; what if any inquiry was instituted by the Government of India and when the result of such inquiry was communicated to the Government?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to enumerate the cases of anarchist conspiracy in which the ordinary law of the country failed to deal adequately with the accused persons?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state how many bombs and weapons were found in Bengal during the searches made just after the promulgation of the new Ordinance?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state how many conspiracy cases were prosecuted by the Government of Bengal after the promulgation of the Ordinance?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state how many persons were arrested in Bengal as a result of the promulgation of the Ordinance and how many of them were members of the Swaraj Party in that province?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply I have given to Mr. Duraiswami Aiyangar's question on the same subject.

(b) For the reasons stated in the Resolution of the Bengal Government published in the Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary of 25th October, 1924, it is seldom possible to place cases of anarchist conspiracy before the Courts. Accordingly any attempt to furnish the list asked for would be inaccurate and misleading.

(c) and (d). None.

(e) I have previously answered this.

REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

324. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Are the Government of India contemplating such revision of the constitution as, (i) will extend the Provincial Governors' prerogatives and the power of certification, (ii) will make the Presidents of the Provincial Councils outside the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts, (iii) will invest the Provincial Governors with the power of certification in respect to the Ministers' salaries, in case they are refused by the Councils; and (iv) empower the Provincial Governors to convert the transferred into reserved subjects?

(b) If the answers to the above question are in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state if any proposed revision of the constitution by the Government of India on the lines mentioned in the above question will form a subject for discussion by this Assembly?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Some of the points mentioned by the Honourable Member will doubtless come up for consideration in connection with the Report of the Reforms Inquiry Committee which I announced yesterday will be published in the course of the next few weeks. I am unable to make any further statement on the subject.

REPORT OF THE REFORMS INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

325. **Mr. President:** The question has been answered.

ELECTION BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONE OF THE INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

326. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what is the procedure for the selection of India's representatives to the League of Nations?

(b) Will the Government of India be pleased to recommend that in future at least one of the representatives of India to the League of Nations should be a person elected by this House?

Mr. L. Graham: (a) The representatives are appointed by the Secretary of State acting in consultation with the Government of India.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 1778 on the 11th September, 1924.

NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT CIRCLES OF INCOME-TAX OFFICERS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

327. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the scheme for the creation and number of independent circles of Income-tax Officers in the U. P.?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that in the year 1921 a scheme was published by the Income-tax Commissioner, U. P., showing a certain number of Income-tax circles and communicating that full effect was to be given to the scheme by the year 1923? Will the Government be pleased to state if effect has been given to that scheme or not? May it further please the Government to announce the scheme which they intend to follow in future on the subject?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state how many and what circles they intend to create permanently and by what time?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state what is the number of Muhammadan Income-tax Officers and additional Income-tax Officers from among those who were recruited as Assistant Income-tax Officers and have completely passed the Departmental Examination? Will the Government further be pleased to state what is the number of such Hindu officers? May it please the Government to state after how many months of passing the Departmental Examination how many Muhammadans and how many Hindus have been given independent charges?

SOURCES OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO INCOME-TAX OFFICERS REGARDING ASSESSEES.

328. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will the Government be pleased to state since the separation of the Income-tax Department from the Revenue authorities what have been the sources of information to the Income-tax Officers about the good and bad condition of the assesseees? Will the Government be pleased to state how far Income-tax Officers with two or three districts or distant headquarters are in a position to make inquiries in the mufassil to learn about the better or worse conditions of the old as well as the new assesseees?

ASSESSMENT POWERS OF INCOME-TAX OFFICERS.

329. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will the Government be pleased to state the rules that have been framed to govern the conferment of assessment powers on Income-tax Officers? If no such rules have been framed, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of making such rules and embodying the same in the Income-tax Act?

MUHAMMADAN INCOME-TAX OFFICERS.

330. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Assistant Income-tax Officers that were recruited during the years 1922-23 and 1924 and also the community to which they belong? May it further please the Government to state by members of which community the places of discharged Officers have been filled up and how many Mohammedans have been appointed in the course of yearly recruitment during the above mentioned year?

NUMBER OF CLERKS IN THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

331. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of clerks in the Income-tax Department in the U. P. and the community to which they belong? Will the Government be pleased to inquire and state the number of Hindu and Muhammadan clerks in each of the offices of the Income-tax Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner and Income-tax Officers? May it further please the Government to state the posts and grades which are held by them? May it further please the Government to state the system of recruiting clerks to the department?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Questions Nos. 327 to 331 all refer to the same subject and as the answer is rather long and I think tedious I propose to lay it on the table.

327. (a) and (b). When the Income-tax Department in the United Provinces was reorganised in 1920 the following posts were sanctioned:

- One Commissioner of Income-tax,
- Four Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax,
- 36 Income-tax Officers, and
- 14 Assistant Income-tax Officers.

31 circles, i.e., units for working, were contemplated. At that time it was proposed to complete the recruitment of officers for the department within two years, but subsequently this idea was modified for the purpose of securing a more even cadre.

A further reorganisation of the cadre occurred in November 1923, the gazetted posts now comprising:

- One Commissioner of Income-tax,
- Three Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax,
- 41 Income-tax Officers and
- Seven Assistant Income-tax Officers.

Four vacancies still exist and will be filled in three years.

There are 25 Income-tax Officers in charge of circles and eleven additional Income-tax Officers; one officer is on leave.

(c) The Government are unable to make such a statement as circumstances may change from time to time.

(d) 21 officers appointed directly as Assistant Income-tax Officers have passed the departmental examination completely, of whom two are Anglo-Indians, twelve Hindus, six Muhammadans and one an Indian Christian. One Anglo-Indian, six Hindus and two Muhammadans have been appointed as Income-tax Officers in independent charge of circles. One Muhammadan declined such a charge as he did not wish to go to the district in question. The officers so appointed are the senior in the list with the exception of one who is a Muhammadan.

328. Income-tax Officers spend much of their time on tour in their circles and obtain information in this way. The assessee has in every case an opportunity of proving his income.

329. No rules have been framed. Powers are conferred on individual officers according to the aptitude displayed by them. No necessity exists for the enactment of any rules.

330. Two Hindus and one Muhammadan were appointed in 1922. Of the former one subsequently received an appointment in the Customs Department. One Hindu and one Anglo-Indian were originally appointed in 1923 of whom the former resigned after a few months in order to compete for the I. C. S. in which he was successful. Subsequently two Hindus and one Muhammadan were appointed to fill the unexpected vacancies which had arisen. In 1924 two Hindus and one Muhammadan were appointed.

331. The total number of permanent clerks is 145, comprising 114 Hindus, 29 Muhammadans and two Christians, and of temporary clerks (readers of accounts) 20—all Hindus.

The distribution of Hindus and Muhammadans by offices is shown in the attached list. Owing to the preponderance of Hindus the Commissioner of Income-tax decided some time ago that the number of appointments to be held by Muhammadans should be one-third and arrangements have been made to work gradually up to this proportion.

Statements showing the distribution of Hindu and Muhammadan clerks by offices.

I.

Office of.	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Total.
Commissioner of Income-tax	6	1	7
Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax	10	4	14
Income-tax Officers	118	24	142
Total	134	29	163

II.

Grade.	OFFICES OF					
	COMMISSIONER.		ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.		INCOME-TAX OFFICERS.	
	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Hindu.	Muhammadan.	Hindu.	Muhammadan.
Rs. Above 125	3	...	3	...	...	...
100—125	...	...	1	...	10	1
80—100	1	...	1	...	21	4
60—80	2	1	2	1	28	7
40—60	...	...	2	1	39	12
20—40	...	...	1	2	...	...
6—20 } Readers of accounts.	...	...	...	...	20	...
40—60 }	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	6	1	10	4	118	24
GRAND TOTAL	163*					

* The above number does not include two Christians.

MUHAMMADAN OFFICERS IN THE SURVEY OF INDIA.

332. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (1) (a) the number of Muhammadan, Hindu and Anglo-Indian class II officers in the Survey of India?
- (b) the number of Muhammadan class I officers in the same department?
- (c) the number of Muhammadan officers holding minor or major charges in the Survey of India?
- (2) (a) if the answer to (1) (b) is *nil*, will the Government be pleased to state how long it will be before a Muhammadan will get into class I service?
- (b) if the answer to (1) (c) is *nil*, do the Government propose to consider the question of giving at least one charge to a Muhammadan?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (1) (a) The numbers are 5, 28 and 63, respectively (including probationers).

(b) Nil.

(c) Nil.

(2) (a) The senior Muhammadan Class II officer is 65th on the list and therefore too junior at present to be considered for selection to Class I.

(b) The Surveyor General will be glad to select a Muhammadan for a charge when opportunity arises.

Lala Duni Chand: Are there any instances within the knowledge of Government in which fit and qualified Muhammadans were forthcoming and they were rejected on the score of their being Muhammadans?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: Not to my knowledge, but I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

ALLEGED DISCONTENT IN THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL,
UNITED PROVINCES.

333. ***Mr. M. Yusuf Imam:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is aware of the fact that there is a considerable volume of discontent in the office of the Accountant General, United Provinces? (b) If the reply be in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take for its removal? (c) If the reply be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to cause inquiries to be made into the real state of affairs there and place the papers on the table?

GRIEVANCES OF THE SUBORDINATE STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE
ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, UNITED PROVINCES.

334. ***Mr. M. Yusuf Imam:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the present Accountant General, U. P., is acting most arbitrarily in regard to annual increments, leave holidays and other matters affecting directly the interests of the subordinate staff? (b) if the reply be in the affirmative, what action do the Government propose to take in the matter? (c) Are the Government prepared to make an independent inquiry into the matter and inform the House of the result thereof?

GRANT OF LEAVE TO SUBORDINATES UNDER THE FUNDAMENTAL RULES.

335. ***Mr. M. Yusuf Imam:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the head of an office is at liberty to grant leave on half average pay to his subordinates when leave on full average pay is due and the absence is supported by a medical certificate? If the reply be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to quote any rule under the Fundamental Rules justifying such action? If the reply be in the negative, what action do they propose to take against the officer who is not amenable to any rules?

PRESENT OF A SILVER TEA SET TO THE DAUGHTER OF THE ACCOUNTANT
GENERAL, UNITED PROVINCES.

336. ***Mr. M. Yusuf Imam:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government Servants Conduct Rules permit the head of an office to accept, on behalf of his daughter, presents from his subordinates in connection with her marriage? If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to quote rule? If in the negative, are the Government aware of the fact that the present Accountant General, United Provinces, is the recipient of such a present in the shape of a silver tea set from a coterie of his subordinates, and will they be pleased to state what disciplinary action they propose to take against the officer and the men concerned? If, however, Government are not aware of this fact, will they be pleased to order an inquiry into the matter and acquaint the House with its result?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I will answer these four questions together.

Nos. 333 and 334. The replies are in the negative.

No. 335. The views of the Government on this point are expressed in a letter issued by the Auditor General, a copy of which I place on the table.

Letter No. 538-A-72-23, dated the 30th April 1923, from the Auditor General to the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, and other Accountants General.

In reply to your letter No. Mis. 3950/F. 90 (a), dated the 10th January 1923, asking whether an authority empowered to grant leave has power under Fundamental Rule 67, to interfere with the option of a Government servant to take leave on full average pay or on half average pay under Fundamental Rule 87, I have the honour to state that the Government of India have decided that a Government servant cannot be compelled against his wishes to take leave on half average pay when leave on full average pay is admissible to him unless it be deemed necessary in the public interest and in the interest of the individual also to prevent the too rapid exhaustion of the limited amount of full pay leave available under the Fundamental Rules. These orders must not be interpreted as interfering with the discretion entrusted to an authority competent to grant leave to determine whether leave should or should not be granted.

No. 336. I am informed that one silver tea set was sent to Madras to the Accountant General, United Provinces, on the occasion of his daughter's marriage and that he has brought it back and returned it to the donors.

CLOSING OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES ON HOLIDAYS UNDER THE
NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS ACT.

337. ***Mr. M. Yusuf Imam:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the head of an office is free to keep an office open during holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act in view of G. I., Home Department, No. 5253, dated 16th September, 1901? If the reply be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state clearly the meaning of the said G. I. order? If the reply be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take for the observance of this order?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The orders referred to by the Honourable Member, in so far as they relate to the detail of closing Government offices on a holiday notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act, may be regarded as obsolete. Heads of offices are now subject in this matter to the orders of the Local Government to which they are subordinate. In the Government of India Secretariat the whole question of the number of holidays to be observed came under consideration as a result of the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee. The total number of such holidays has been reduced considerably below the number of holidays notified under the Act; but though holidays must depend upon the exigencies of the public service, and the head of an office must therefore have power to keep his office open on declared holidays, if the state of work demands this, the intention is that the holidays now allowed should be real holidays and in normal circumstances the staff should not be deprived of them.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. J. C. WALTON AS INDIAN DELEGATE TO THE
OPIUM CONFERENCE VICE MR. J. CAMPBELL.

338. *Dr. S. K. Datta: Has the attention of Government been called to the following Reuter's Special Service Cable Message, dated Geneva, December 12th, 1924:

"Mr. J. C. Walton replaces Mr. Campbell as Indian delegate for the remainder of the sittings of the Opium Conference."

Will Government state the reasons which led to this change? Did Mr. Campbell fail to give satisfaction to the Government of India? Will Government state Mr. Walton's qualifications to be the Indian representative? What are his instructions?

STATEMENT IN THE *MANCHESTER GUARDIAN* RE FAILURE OF THE
PRELIMINARY OPIUM CONFERENCE.

339. *Dr. S. K. Datta: Has the attention of Government been called to the following statement which appeared in the *Manchester Guardian Weekly* of November 21st, 1924:

"A Press Association Foreign Special message from Geneva says that the chief editor of the *Journal de Geneve*, who formerly occupied an important post on the secretariat of the League, contributed a leading article on Tuesday on what he describes as the failure of the preliminary Opium Conference. The truth is, he says, that no State desires to take any serious step. The revenues of the European colonies in the Far East are collected as to more than a third from the opium monopoly. * * *

The United States will be the only Power to be sincerely shocked, because it wants a settlement, and since the first conference has refused a settlement the United States reserves to itself the right to place the matter before the second conference, thus circumventing the Machiavellian calculations of those in India, for example, who had hoped it would be easier to reach an agreement without the United States. The failure of the second conference would have the most unfortunate political repercussions for the League of Nations."

Will Government state whether there is any truth in the charge regarding India made therein? If not, what steps have the Government of India taken to deny the charge?

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE OPIUM
TRAFFIC.

340. *Dr. S. K. Datta: (a) Has the attention of Government been called to newspaper reports of the proceedings of the Standing Advisory Committee and the International Conference on the Opium Traffic recently held at Geneva under the auspices of the League of Nations? Will Government place on the table of the House the official report of the debates, proposals and resolutions passed at these International gatherings?

(b) In the event of these reports not being available at present, will Government make a statement to the House regarding the proceedings with special reference to the contributions to the discussions and the proposals made by the Indian representatives?

APPOINTMENT OF MR. J. C. WALTON AS INDIAN DELEGATE TO THE
OPIUM CONFERENCE VICE MR. J. CAMPBELL.

851. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a Geneva Cable, dated the 12th December 1924, and

published in the Press that "Mr. J. C. Walton will replace Sir John Campbell as the Indian delegate for the remainder of the sittings of the Conference" of the League of Nations?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for this arrangement; and also state who is this Mr. J. C. Walton, and how the selection has been made?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I propose to answer questions 338, 339, 340 and 351 together.

No. 338.—The reply to the first part of the Honourable Member's question is in the affirmative. Mr. Campbell's replacement by Mr. Walton is due to the fact that he was called to London and Greece in connection with certain matters requiring his presence there. Mr. Campbell is the British Representative on the Greek Refugees' Settlement Commission, and came to assist us in the Geneva Conferences only for a short period. Mr. Campbell did not fail to give full satisfaction to the Government of India. Mr. Walton is the Assistant Secretary to the Economic and Overseas Department of the India Office, which deals with opium matters, and as such is fully conversant with the details of the Government of India's policy. The appointment of Mr. Walton as an Indian delegate was made by the Secretary of State for India, and so far as the Government of India are aware, apart from being asked to pursue the accepted policy, he was not given any specific instructions.

No. 339.—The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The reply to the first two parts of the question is in the negative. As regards the third part, the Government see no reason for taking official notice of such newspaper attacks.

No. 340.—The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The Government of India have seen the newspaper reports referred to by the Honourable Member. The official reports of the proceedings of the Conferences have not yet all been received. The Government of India will consider the question of placing copies thereof either on the table of the House or in the Library as soon as they are received.

(b) The Government of India have nothing to add in regard to the deliberations of the first Conference, namely, that one convened to consider the continued use of prepared opium in the Far East. Burma is the only province in India in which opium is smoked to any large extent, but the arrangements for rationing and registration are so complete, and the check against the spread of the habit to the younger Burmans so effective as not to leave any room for outside criticisms. As regards the second Conference the position is as below. The Government of India welcome this opportunity of explaining the facts. The Resolution of the Council of the League of Nations under which this Conference was summoned had in mind not the restriction of the production of raw opium and the coca leaf to the amounts required for medicinal and scientific purposes only, but the limitation of their export for medicinal and scientific purposes, i.e., for the manufacture of drugs. The American Delegation however placed before the Conference a redraft of the Hague Opium Convention, Article I of which requires the Contracting Parties to confine the production of opium to medicinal and scientific purposes. Mr. Campbell raised the question of the competence of the Conference to discuss a matter that was not on the agenda, had not been in the mind of the Government of India in taking part in the Conference, and in respect of which therefore he had not received specific instructions, and though the Conference decided

against him he reserved the right of the Government of India to raise the question again before the Assembly of the League. The general policy of the Government of India is clear and well known. As regards exports they have no intention to export any drugs or raw materials for manufacture to countries that do not want them; in fact the Government of India have gone further and refused or restricted exports in some cases. As regards imports, drugs and raw materials for their manufacture cannot be imported except under a license issued by the excise authorities and in practice except *charas* (a hemp product) no drugs or raw materials are imported into India otherwise than by smugglers except for medicinal or scientific purposes. As regards internal consumption the Government of India consider that it is an internal question essentially for each country to settle by itself, and that it is not a matter which could be regulated for India by International Conventions. Excise is in Governors' provinces a provincial transferred subject, and it is for the Ministers in consultation with their Legislative Councils to determine policy. Then there are the Indian States, the rulers of which have to settle their own internal policy. Mr. Campbell was instructed to secure the addition of a proviso to Article 1 of the redraft saving the rights of Governments in India to regulate the domestic consumption of raw opium and the Honourable Member will have seen from the newspaper reports that the Indian delegation acted accordingly. The second Conference has recently resumed its sittings after an adjournment, and it will be convenient to postpone any further statement to a later date.

Dr. S. K. Datta: Will you allow me, Sir, to put a series of supplementary questions in connection with the answer just now given? Do I take it that Mr. Campbell is still a member of the Standing Advisory Committee?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I am not aware what the position exactly is. He will no doubt be re-employed if available.

Dr. S. K. Datta: May I ask whether the American contention was to regulate the export of opium and to do this it was necessary to control opium production at the source and therefore restriction within the limits of India was to be brought about with that object in view?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The American contention was, I understand, that, in order to prevent the smuggling of opium and opium derivatives into America, it was desirable that India should restrict her production of opium to production required on medical certificate and for scientific purposes. That is, in order to prevent smuggling into America, the Americans proposed a drastic alteration of the internal conditions in regard to opium in India.

Dr. S. K. Datta: Is it a fact that various public bodies, political, religious and social, upheld the American contention that opium in India should be restricted to medical and scientific purposes? The All-India Congress Committee, the Indian Liberal League and, I believe, the National Christian Council all passed Resolutions asking for this.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: There are usually in most countries bodies which oppose the Government. The Government of India will be very ready to discuss the subject at any time if any Member takes the opportunities offered him to obtain time by means of a Resolution for the discussion of this subject in the Assembly. I notice with interest that no Member or body of Members seems to be sufficiently interested in this subject to secure that the opportunities shall arise.

Dr. S. K. Datta: May I ask whether the Government of India will be willing to call a conference of those interested in this subject so that the policy of the Government of India might be understood?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I regret if the Honourable Member does not understand the policy of the Government of India. I have tried to make it clear.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Aiyangar: Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware that in the last September Session a number of Members of this House put down Resolutions on this question and they did not get it in the ballot.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I notice that a certain number were put down but they were not successful in the ballot, which probably implies that the number interested was not sufficient.

Mr. E. G. Fleming: Will the Government be prepared to state, with regard to the consumption of opium in Burma, whether it is consumed by Burmans or Chinese labourers resident in Burma?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I believe the facts are available for those who choose to look them up.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: May I know whether it is a fact that it was represented in this Conference that Indian public opinion was opposed to the proposals which were made by the American delegates?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I am not aware whether any exact statement to that effect or to the contrary was made.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Aiyangar: May I know whether it is the Finance Member's view that we oppose this measure because it is a Government measure?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I was not aware that the Honourable Member did oppose it.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: With reference to the statement of the Honourable the Finance Member that the Government do not export opium to those countries that do not want it, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if in exporting opium to certain countries Government require from those countries a certificate stating that the amount of opium which is demanded is required for strictly medicinal or scientific purposes?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government of India export opium only to those countries and in such amounts as are desired by those countries whose Governments give a license for import.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: I will give a definite instance. In exporting opium to the Straits Settlements do Government satisfy themselves that the amount of opium that is generally taken there is required for medicinal and scientific purposes?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government do not inquire what purpose the Government of the Straits Settlements has in giving a license for import. That is surely the job of the Government of the Straits Settlements.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: May I take it that in exporting opium to the Straits Settlements Government do not in any way satisfy themselves that the amount of opium which is sent there is either more or less than that which will be required for strictly medicinal or scientific purposes?

Mr. President : The Honourable Member must ask questions which are the direct and primary concern of the Member of Government concerned. I am not aware that Sir Basil Blackett is responsible for the policy of the Straits Settlements Government.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha : With reference to the statement of the Honourable the Finance Member that the domestic consumption of opium is left to be regulated by the different Ministers, may I take it that the Government of India have no settled policy so far as the domestic consumption of opium is concerned?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I do not think the Honourable Member should take that at all. I do not understand the import of his question.

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty : Do the Government of India realise that, before launching upon a philanthropic policy of preventing the use of opium in other countries, their first duty is to see that the use of all intoxicants in India is prevented. Having regard to the injuries caused to the people of India who are suffering from the excise policy of the Government, do the Government realise that the revenue of the country should not be bartered away for philanthropic purposes in favour of other countries?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I do not think that the Honourable Member is justified in saying that the people of India suffer from the excise policy of the Government of India or the policy of the Government of India in regard to opium. There was a very authoritative committee on the subject of the use of opium in India in 1895. Its conclusions were that the use in India of opium for eating was a well established and on the whole not an injurious habit, that it certainly was not abused to the extent that, shall we say, alcohol is abused in some countries.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao : Instead of quoting the opinion of the Committee of 1895, may I ask the Finance Member whether the Government of India have given any consideration to the more recent opinions expressed by the Missionary Council of India, the All-India Congress Committee, and the Indian National Liberal Federation in regard to bringing the use of opium under some kind of control in India?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The Government of India have given very careful consideration to the present position in regard to the use of opium in India and to some of the opinions expressed on the subject. As will have been observed by those Members who have followed the proceedings, the suggestion has been made that the subject of the use of opium should be examined by some kind of an international committee. I do not know what the fate of that suggestion has been, but it has been put up before the Conference in Geneva.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao : Will that extend to remedial measures in India?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I do not think it will be the duty of a committee of that sort to suggest remedial measures. Remedial measures, I think, are largely a matter of education. In the case of the Bombay Presidency, where there is some suggestion that opium is administered to infants to keep them quiet while their mothers are working, the view taken, I believe, by those concerned is that the only way to deal with it is the education of the mothers.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : May I ask one question? Perhaps the Honourable the Finance Member is aware, as it was reported in last night's paper, that a Commission has been appointed, and, if that newspaper report is correct, will the Honourable Member take any steps to ascertain the real Indian public opinion and in the light of that give instructions to our representative there?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The Government of India have been at considerable pains to obtain the real opinion of India on this subject. Local Governments have quite recently been circularised with a view to an understanding of their views and the views held in their Provinces in regard to the present condition. The Government of India have stated over and over again that they are not actuated by financial motives in this matter, that the question of the financial results of any restriction of opium is not one which would deter them from taking such action as may be within their power to reduce any evils that may be the result of the present system in regard to the use of opium. But it is obvious that in a country of the size of India, with the problems of the Indian States and the social and religious customs connected with opium, that prohibition of the ordinary use of opium throughout India would be a very drastic step, and I have yet to learn that Indian opinion is in its favour.

Dr. S. K. Datta : May I ask the Honourable Member whether he would be willing to transfer the administration of opium from his Department to that of Education, Health and Lands, where it properly belongs; and is the Honourable Member prepared at the next meeting of the Opium Conference to appoint to it a non-official Indian together with an official representative of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The second question certainly does not arise out of the question. To the first question I can only answer personally. Nothing would give me more pleasure than to transfer this subject to the Education, Health and Lands Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask what is the religious custom connected with opium to which the Honourable Member referred?

Mr. President : I think the Honourable Member better give notice of that. We had better pass on to the next question and before we do so I should like to say that the House has enjoyed considerable latitude, and many of the questions which I have passed as supplementary would not have been admitted if they had been placed before me for admission, inasmuch as they referred to matters which are primarily the concern of Local Governments.

No. 351.—**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett :** (a) Yes.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Dr. Datta's question No. 338.

INORDINATE DELAY IN THE DELIVERY OF POSTAL LETTERS.

341. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Forward* of the 17th December, 1924, page 13, under the heading "Postal

Complaint" stating that the letter dropped at Garden Reach Post Office on the 22nd November 1923 reached Muzaffarpur on the 23rd November 1924?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the statement made is correct?

(c) If correct, will they please state the cause of such an unreasonable delay?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: (a) The Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam, took notice of the complaint referred to.

(b) and (c). The cover of the letter stated to have been delayed in the post was not forthcoming. No inquiry could, therefore, be made into the alleged delay. The complainant has desired the matter to be dropped.

TRIAL OF PERSONS ARRESTED UNDER THE BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

342. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will Government please state if the persons arrested under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance will be brought to public trial?

(b) If so, when?

(c) If not, will Government please give reasons?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a), (b) and (c) The fact that any action has been taken against any person under the Ordinance or Regulation III will certainly not preclude such persons from being brought to trial for any substantive offence regarding which Government are advised that a prosecution is possible and in the public interest. The policy of the Government of India is to bring persons to trial for substantive offences wherever possible.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL IN INDIA.

343. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the cost of the appeals taken from the Indian High Courts to the Privy Council during the years 1920, 1921 and 1922, respectively?

(b) if they have consulted Local Governments with regard to the desirability of establishing a Supreme Court of Appeal in India?

(c) if not, are they prepared to consult Local Governments on the subject?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Sir Hari Singh Gour's question No. 10 on the 2nd July 1923.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

344. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased:

(a) to lay on the table a copy of the agreement entered into between the Imperial Bank and the Governor General in Council?

(b) to state the names of the Directors of the Imperial Banks?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given in reply to Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar's question No. 271 on the same subject.

(b) A list showing the names of the Governors is laid on the table.

"PRESENT GOVERNORS OF THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

President, Local Board, Bengal—

Sir Alexander Murray, Kt., C.B.E.

President, Local Board, Bombay—

F. C. Annesley, Esq.

President, Local Board, Madras—

T. M. Ross, Esq.

Vice President, Local Board, Bengal—

B. E. G. Eddis, Esq.

Vice President, Local Board, Bombay—

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Kt., C.I.E., M.B.E., M.L.A.

Vice President, Local Board, Madras—

Sir James Simpson, Kt.

Controller of the Currency.

NOMINATED BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

1. The Hon'ble Sir Maneckji B. Dadabhoy, Kt., K.C.I.E.

2. The Hon'ble Sir Dinshaw E. Wacha, Kt., J.P.

3. The Hon'ble Sir S. R. M. Annamalai Chettiar, Kt.

4. Rai Sir Onkar Mull Jatia Bahadur, Kt., O.B.E.

Secretary and Treasurer, Calcutta—

D. S. McClure, Esq.

Secretary and Treasurer, Bombay—

R. Lindsay, Esq.

Secretary and Treasurer, Madras—

W. Lamb, Esq.

Managing Governors—

Sir Norcot Warren, Kt., K.C.I.E.

N. M. Murray, Esq."

DISMISSAL OF BELI RAM, BAZAR CHOWDHRY OF RAWALPINDI.

345. *Lala Duni Chand: (a) Are Government aware that Bazar Chowdhry of Rawalpindi, Beli Ram, who had put in service for 28 years was dismissed by Major Beyts, Cantonment Magistrate?

(b) If so, is it a fact that he was dismissed without any charge having been framed against him or any opportunity having been given to him to answer the charge?

(c) Is it a fact that he was dismissed on the alleged ground of neglect of duty in recovering Cantonment revenue for the first half year 1922-23 and that in point of fact this allegation was quite incorrect, as shown by the statistics of realisation of Cantonment revenue?

(d) Is it a fact that one J. Mathew a native Christian was appointed in place of the said Beli Ram?

(e) Is it also a fact that the said J. Mathew was prosecuted for illicit possession of cocaine in a case in which Major Beyts gave evidence in his favour?

(f) Is it a fact that the said Bazar Chowdhry Beli Ram was granted a lease for a term of 25 years of Cantonment land in Rawalpindi to build upon it and that Major Beyts cancelled it?

(g) Is it correct that under the rules the Cantonment Magistrate or any other authority except the Local Government had no power to cancel the lease?

(h) Is it a fact that the lease was cancelled after the building operations had progressed considerably and that by reason of the cancellation of the lease he has suffered a great loss?

(i) Is it a fact that this lease was granted to him in lieu of manifold services rendered by Beli Ram to the Government?

(j) What action do Government propose to take in the matter?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) Government are aware of the dismissal. Beli Ram served in the Cantonments Department for 5 years and 10 months only.

(b) No. The Cantonment Magistrate's notice of dismissal, dated the 11th October 1922, set forth the charge against Beli Ram, to which the latter replied at great length in a letter dated the 14th October. These papers were fully considered by the Cantonment Committee before they confirmed the dismissal.

(c) The allegation was found by the Cantonment Committee to be correct, and their decision was upheld by the authorities to whom Beli Ram subsequently appealed.

(d) Yes.

(e) The Government of India are informed that Major Beyts was called to give evidence as to Mathew's previous good character.

(f) The lease was granted. It contained a special agreement to the effect that if Beli Ram's appointment changed hands the Cantonment Authority should, if it desired, take over the site and buildings on it, on payment of

the current market value of the buildings. In accordance with this agreement, the Cantonment Magistrate took over the site and buildings with the sanction of the General Officer Commanding, Rawalpindi District, after Beli Ram's dismissal. Beli Ram was paid compensation amounting to Rs. 5,249 as assessed by a Committee of Arbitration.

(g) The Cantonment Magistrate exercised the power conferred on him by the lease deed itself, and did not thereby exceed any limits imposed on his powers by rule.

(h) No. Building operations had only just begun. Beli Ram obtained full compensation.

(i) No. A similar lease was granted to any cantonment servant in conformity with a town planning scheme and in order that cantonment employees might be able to live near their work. The agreement referred to under (f) in this answer was included in all the leases.

(j) No further action. The memorial from Beli Ram was considered by the Government of India and rejected in 1923.

INCOME-TAX OFFICERS IN THE PUNJAB.

346. *Lala Duni Chand: (a) Is it a fact that a number of Income-tax Commissioners, Income-tax officers and Income-tax Inspectors appointed by the Financial Commissioner, Punjab, and the Punjab Government in September 1922 in the Income-tax cadre of the Punjab, have been replaced in consequence of dismissal, reversion or other similar causes at the instance of the Income-tax Commissioner?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state their number and names and also the number and names of those who replaced them?

(c) Will the Government please give reasons for this action of the Income-tax Commissioner?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government have no detailed information on the subject and do not propose to call for any.

YEARLY REQUIREMENTS OF SLEEPERS BY RAILWAYS FORMING THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SLEEPER GROUP.

347. *Lala Duni Chand: (1) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of railways forming the pool, which use the coniferous sleepers, and which buy their annual requirements through the N. W. R.

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state what have been the yearly requirements of coniferous sleepers of each of the railways that have been forming this pool for the last ten years?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to state if the N. W. R. consulted these railways as to what their yearly requirements would be from the year 1923 to 1928, when the N. W. R. fixed up a contract for 5 years in 1922? If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what was the number indented by each of the railways?

(4) Will the Government be pleased to state if the railways which combine in this pool are taking the same number of sleepers that they used to take before the year 1922? If not, why?

(5) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the N. W. R. will have a surplus of sleepers during the years 1925-26, 1926-27, 1927-28. If so, why?

What will be the approximate number of such sleepers, and what steps does it intend to take to dispose of the surplus?

(6) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that there is a surplus of deodar sleepers at present, and they can be had at Rs. 6-8 and the cost of a creosoted fir and chir sleeper is also about Rs. 6-8, and that the age of the deodar sleeper is nearly double of the creosoted sleeper?

Mr. G. G. Sim: As the answer to this question is very long I propose, if there is no objection, to lay it on the table.

(1) The following railways form the North Western Railway sleeper group:

North Western, Bombay, Baroda and Central India, East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula and the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railways.

(The Jodhpur and Bikaner Railways are also in this group but information about their requirements is not available.)

(2) A statement showing the yearly requirements of coniferous sleepers for each of these railways for the last 7 years and for next year is laid on the table.

Information regarding the years prior to 1918-19 is not available, as the 'Sleeper Pool' was not in existence then and each railway used to make its own purchases independently before the formation of the 'Sleeper Pool'.

(3) The North Western Railway did not consider it necessary to consult these railways afresh about their requirements for the years 1923 to 1928, when entering into the 5-year contract in 1922, as this question had been fully discussed at the annual meetings of Chief Engineers of the different railways, and the number of sleepers to which each railway concerned had a first claim had been fixed.

(4) In the year 1922-23 the number taken by the above railways from the North Western Railway section of the sleeper pool was higher than the numbers in the last two years; in the years 1919-20 to 1921-22 the numbers taken were considerably lower than in the last two years, while in the year 1918-19 also the number taken was rather lower than in the last two years. It may be explained that in the years 1919-20 to 1921-22 supplies were very seriously short of requirements.

It is difficult to reply to the second part of this question, but it can hardly be expected that the numbers taken would not vary and, as will be seen from the statement, the requirements vary considerably.

(5) It is not anticipated that there will be any unused surplus of sleepers during the years 1925-26 to 1927-28 as those not required on the open lines will be utilised on the construction of new lines.

(6) It is a fact that there is a surplus of deodar sleepers on the market at present, and it is understood that they can be obtained at Rs. 6-8-0 each. The cost of creosoted fir and chir sleepers at present has come down to Rs. 6 each. The life of a deodar sleeper is reckoned at about 15 years; there has not yet been sufficient experience of treated fir and chir sleepers to allow of a fair estimate of their average life being given, but it is anticipated that their life will be about 12 years.

Statement showing the yearly requirements of Railways for sleepers.

Year.	N. W.	B., B. & C. I.	G. I. P.	E. I.	O. & R.	Total in lakhs.
1918-19	600,000	140,000	20,000	50,000	47,750	8.58
1919-20	800,000	150,000	26,500	50,000	12,000	10.38
1920-21	1,200,000	310,500	...	100,000	50,000	16.60
1921-22	1,200,000	600,000	...	100,000	*	19.00
1922-23	800,000	264,000	50,000	200,000	70,000	13.84
1923-24	1,050,000	125,000	50,000	50,000	...	12.75
1924-25	800,000	50,000	70,000	50,000	...	9.70
1925-26	800,000	55,000	21,000	50,000	...	9.26

* A demand for 45,000 sleepers, during 1921-22, was first placed on the N. W. Railway, but was subsequently cancelled.

STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO SECURE THE LIFE AND PROPERTY OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE TRANSFERRED DISTRICTS IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

348. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it not a fact that Lord Elgin, the then Governor General of India, and Sir Mackworth Young, the then Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, were strongly opposed to the creation of a separate Frontier Province?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the recorded opinion of Lord Elgin on the subject?

(c) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the following passage in the book called "India under Lord Curzon and After" by Mr. Lovat Fraser:

"In a Province primarily occupied and manned to handle people and issues beyond the administrative boundary, the ordinary details of administration are liable to be somewhat disregarded?"

(d) What steps have the Government taken to secure the safety of the life and property of the inhabitants of the transferred Districts in the N.W. Frontier Province?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) Yes.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Blue-book on the North-West Frontier published in 1901, a copy of which is in the Government of India Central Library.

(c) No.

(d) The energies of the forces of Government on the frontier—regulars, police, Frontier Constabulary, Militia Khassadars and levies—are directed to this end and the statistics of trans-frontier crime testify to the success of their efforts.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum: Do the Government propose to extend the benefits of education to the tribesmen across the border as a civilizing measure resulting in the protection of the life and property of the neighbouring settled districts?

Mr. Denys Bray: Wherever Government find an opportunity to do so without undue expenditure of money they do so.

349. (*Vide* reply to question No. 212.)

ASSAULT BY SOLDIERS ON MR. SIDHVA OF KARACHI.

350. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) With reference to my starred question No. 1910 of the 15th September last, regarding the assault on Mr. Sidhva at Karachi, is it not a fact that "one of the airmen forcibly ejected him (Mr. Sidhva) from the railway compartment" as admitted by the Government themselves in their official account sent to the Secretary of State?

Have the Government been able to find out the name of the airman, who "forcibly ejected" Mr. Sidhva? And under what law was the airman justified in forcibly ejecting him?

(b) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the following passages in their report referred to above:

"It appears that Aircraftman Blood on being confronted by the Commanding Officer with Aircraftman McEwan made some sort of an admission"?

"The Government of India are advised that the admission proved to have been made before the Commanding Officer, does not amount to a confession"?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to give the text of this admission as recorded?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table "the proceedings of the Court Martial", and "the summary of evidence" of the case? And if not, why not?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) and (b) The Government of India are naturally aware of the contents of their letter to the Secretary of State. They are, however, ignorant of the means by which the Honourable Member obtained access to it, and they do not intend to discuss its contents in this House.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Are the Government aware that the contents have been published in the newspapers—I am referring to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 23rd December, 1924, a copy of which I specially kept for my friend, Mr. Burdon.

(The copy was handed to the Army Secretary.)

Mr. E. Burdon: Thank you very much.

351. (*Vide* pp. 284-285 and 289 *ante*.)

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATE TO THE OPIUM CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF THE CURTAILMENT OF OPIUM PRODUCTION.

352. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a London cable, dated the 14th December 1924, and published in the press (*Englishman*, 16th December), regarding the opium conference of the League of Nations, that "the discussion of the American proposals submitted by an exceptionally authoritative American delegation is being resisted. The centre of resistance is India's British representative presumably instructed from Whitehall. That is not the position we can creditably maintain under the keen scrutiny of American and world opinion. We trust that early instructions will be sent for its abandonment"?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what instructions, if any, have they issued to their nominee in Geneva on the question of the curtailment of opium production?

(c) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a cablegram from Geneva, published in the *Statesman* of the 23rd November 1924 in which it is stated that "when the opium conference was discussing the Philanthropic Societies' suggestions, Mr. Campbell objected to certain remarks by Mr. E. J. Dukes, representing the Board of the Anti-Opium Society, to the effect that the Indian Government delegate did not represent the people of India, and to Mr. Duke's speaking in the name of the 400 signatories of the petition, representing 216,000 people of India, who are in favour of limiting the cultivation of poppy to medical and scientific needs"?

(d) Will the Government kindly state the credentials of Mr. Campbell to speak in the name of the people of India?

(e) Will the Government state their reasons for not giving an opportunity to the representatives of the people of India in the Central Legislature to elect their own representative to the Conference of the League of Nations?

(f) Is it not a fact as stated by Mr. Alexander in the cablegram referred to in (c) above that "he had received a telegram from Mr. Gandhi declaring that all India wanted the suppression of opium traffic except for medicinal purposes"?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Clauses (a) and (c).—The answer is in the affirmative.

Clause (b).—It was not necessary to provide the Indian Delegates with specific instructions on the particular point now raised by the Honourable Member. They were fully seized of the general policy of the Government of India in the matter.

Clause (d).—Mr. Campbell was appointed by the Government.

Clause (e).—The principle that it is the Government that is represented at the League of Nations is a fundamental one.

Clause (f).—The Government of India have, like the Honourable Member, seen a statement to this effect in the press.

SUITABILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS IN KENYA FOR INDIAN COLONISATION.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Sir, I have given private notice of the following question to my Honourable friend, Mr. Bhore, which he has accepted and agreed to reply to here:

(a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to the statement made by the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri regarding the announcement made in the inaugural speech of His Excellency the Viceroy to the Legislature this Session that the Government of India were considering the deputation of an officer to Kenya to investigate the suitability of certain areas in Kenya for Indian colonisation?

(b) If so, will they kindly say whether they have reached any decision in the matter?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) With your permission, Sir, I shall explain the general position regarding this proposal at some length. In the Parliamentary White Paper on Kenya, which was published in 1923, the temporary reservation in the Lowlands of an area which did not infringe on native reserves or conflict with native requirements was foreshadowed in order to test the strength of the Indian demand for land for agricultural purposes. In their representations on this subject the Colonies Committee of the Government of India strongly emphasised that they were averse from the principle of reserving land for any immigrant race in Kenya, but suggested that if it was decided to allot land for Indian colonisation, before applications were invited, opportunity should be given to send an officer from India to report on its suitability from the Indian point of view. Information was received last November that an area had been inspected by the local officers and earmarked provisionally for Indian occupation. It is also understood that the East African Indian National Congress has been invited to send its representatives to inspect this area and has agreed to do so. In the circumstances the Government of India decided that the Standing Emigration Committee of the two Houses of the Legislature should be consulted on the proposal to send an officer from India to investigate its suitability for Indian colonisation. The Committee will consider the matter at their next meeting, and until their report is received no decision on it can be arrived at. From the reservation made by the Colonies Committee on the general principle of allotting land to particular communities in Kenya, to which I have already referred, and in which the Government of India entirely concur, it will be observed that at no time has there been any question of acquiescence in a policy of segregation.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know, Sir, if before any decision is reached on the conclusions of the Emigration Advisory Committee, this House will be given an opportunity to discuss the report of that Committee?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Standing Emigration Committee is a body which represents both Houses of the Legislature, and I think we may confidently take their advice in the matter without further reference to the Houses of the Legislature especially on a matter of this description.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I take it, Sir, that the Government are not going to give the House the opportunity that I ask for?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I did not say so, Sir?

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: May I ask the Honourable Member whether the Emigration Committee will be supplied with a copy of the memorandum furnished by the Colonies Committee on this subject?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: That is a point, Sir, I have not yet considered, but if the Honourable Member had been here two or three days ago he would have heard the reply that I gave on this particular question of the memorandum by two members of the Colonies Committee.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: I did not mean "by two members of the Committee"; I meant the memorandum furnished by the Committee to the Colonial Office on this very question?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: No, Sir. I do not think that will be placed before the Emigration Standing Committee.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Mr. President : Under Standing Order 80 I have to appoint at the commencement of each Session a Committee on Public Petitions. The Standing Order provides that the Deputy President of the Assembly shall be the Chairman of the Committee. Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar is accordingly appointed Chairman of the Committee. The following Members will form the Committee:

Mr. K. C. Neogy,

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao,

Mr. E. H. Ashworth, and

Khan Bahadur Saiyid Muhammad Ismail.

RESOLUTION *RE* INQUIRY INTO THE QUESTION OF CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE—*contd.*

Mr. President : The Assembly will now resume discussion on the Resolution moved by Mr. Venkatapatiraju. Resolution moved:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Committee with a majority of Indian non-officials on it, and with an Indian chairman be immediately appointed to examine the whole question of exchange and currency in the light of the experience gained since the date of the publication of the Babington-Smith Report, and to make recommendations as to the best policy to be pursued to secure a system of currency and exchange best suited to the interest of India."

Since which an amendment has been moved:

"That for all the words after the words 'to make recommendations' the following be substituted:

'so as to organise the currency system in India on the basis of gold as the only unlimited standard of value and currency.'

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member) : Sir, I rise at once in the hope that this particular amendment, now under discussion, may be quickly disposed of, in order that we may return to the more general subject raised by the Resolution itself. The particular amendment

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

now proposed would restrict the reference of the Committee when appointed by requiring it to ignore all other possibilities except a recommendation for the introduction in India of a currency system complying with the definition, whatever that may be, of a genuine gold standard. We had a very interesting discussion from Dr. Lohokare of the advantages of a genuine gold standard, as understood by him, and the Honourable Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya gave us what, I think, is probably the strongest argument in favour of the introduction of a gold currency into India, namely, the argument that many people in India have some suspicion that they have been refused something which they want and that therefore they want it. I recognize the real importance of that argument, but I think that when deciding on so important a question as the future currency policy of India, we must be very careful that we are not guided purely by an argument of that sort. I do not propose to-day to enter deeply into the question what are the relative advantages of a gold standard with a gold currency in circulation and other possible currency systems. When I spoke at some length on the Bill which I introduced last Thursday, I happened to say that there were comparatively few people who claimed a full knowledge of currency in India and even fewer who possessed it. That remark of mine has, I am sorry to observe, been taken in some quarters as something of a warning to people to keep off the subject. But if the context in which those words were used is examined, it will be seen that they were not intended in that sense at all. It was in the first place an apology on behalf of the Finance Member for delivering a six thousand word speech on a sixty word Bill. It was in the second place an invitation to the House to the discussion of a subject the measure of whose importance in our daily lives is in inverse proportion to the measure of its general intelligibility. The discussions that we have had have, I think, been quite fruitful. I should like to read to the House a few paragraphs from an article in the *Economic Journal* for December 1924 on the monetary standards of New Zealand and Australia which I happened to be reading last night. It is curiously apposite to our discussion of the gold standard and the gold exchange standard :

"An essential preliminary to any profitable discussion of present monetary conditions is the frank admission that the Gold Standard, as a means of providing for the automatic regulation of the world's prices and exchanges by movements of gold, is now in active operation nowhere. The achievement within the past year or two of a considerable measure of price and exchange stability is due, not to the gold standard, but rather to the cessation of inflationary finance, and to the increased attention given to the exchanges as indicators for monetary regulation to follow. Before the war, when currencies were kept convertible with a common medium, gold, it followed of necessity that they were also kept convertible with one another at rates fixed within narrow limits; since the war when currencies are no longer convertible into gold, it is being more fully realised that they can maintain this desired convertibility with one another without the intervention of the common gold medium and simply by the adoption of some form of exchange standard. Any country whose monetary regulation is centred on the maintenance of an approximately fixed exchange rate may be said to possess an exchange standard; but this standard exists in its most perfect form where monetary regulation is made to depend on reserves held, not in the home country, but overseas, and where both the home money supply and the overseas exchange reserve expand and contract automatically to the extent of the net balance of payments made through the exchanges.

The Gold Exchange Standard, where it operates chiefly through regulation of currency, as in India, has been fully discussed; but where similar systems are operated by overseas banks which by the use of credit instruments link together the monetary conditions of different countries, little beyond slight passing references is to be found in current economic literature. Yet the existence of what might be termed "Credit "

Exchange Standards is widely, if somewhat vaguely, recognised. With the great extension of deposit and overseas banking that is taking place, and with the attempts to stabilise paper currency by means of foreign balances held to support exchange, such standards are becoming of increasing importance, and if effect is ever given to the recommendations of the Geneva Conference, they are destined to become more important still, both in practice and in theory.

At the present time this "Credit" Exchange Standard is probably most completely developed in New Zealand."

The article, which I would recommend to all those who are interested in the subject, goes on to claim that New Zealand possesses a perfect credit exchange standard.

I quote that in order to show that there is a great deal to be said on the subject of currency systems which does not support the belief which was widely held before the war that a Gold Standard with gold in circulation is the last word in the perfection of currency systems. I have said myself that I am not in favour of a gold currency with gold in circulation—by which I do not necessarily exclude some system of gold certificates,—but I have no authority on behalf of the Government of India to express a view either in favour of, or against the ultimate introduction of, the sort of currency that Dr. Lohokare wishes, or any other system of currency. My view in regard to this amendment is quite simple. We ought, whatever we do, to leave this question open to the Committee, and an amendment to the Resolution as it stands limiting the reference of the Committee is I suggest unwise. The negating of this amendment will not prevent the Committee from recommending a Gold Standard with gold currency in circulation if that be the view which it holds. The matter should, I think, be left perfectly open, and therefore I suggest to Dr. Lohokare and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya that without in any way modifying the views they have expressed in favour of a gold currency they would be well advised to leave the matter entirely open for the Committee's examination and for its final recommendations when it is assembled.

Mr. President : The original question was the Resolution as it appears on the paper. Since which an amendment has been moved :

"That for all the words after the words 'to make recommendations' the following words be substituted :

'so as to organise the currency system in India on the basis of gold as the only unlimited standard of value and currency.'"

The question I have to put is that that amendment be made.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President : With regard to the next amendment standing in Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's name the first line is disposed of by that decision; and his proposal for the establishment of a State Bank is, it seems to me, outside the scope of the Resolution. Does he wish to move the remaining part of his amendment of the exact bearing of which I am not sure?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): If you will hear me, Sir, I may say, with reference to the establishment of a State Bank, that as the proposal is to examine the whole question of the currency and exchange system of the country, the way in which the currency can be best managed is indicated here. In the light of that explanation will you, Sir, consider whether I am not in order in moving that part of my amendment?

Mr. President : The establishment of a State Bank is clearly a separate proposition altogether and must be considered on its own merits. I do not say that as a matter of argument the Honourable Member would not be otherwise entitled to argue that a State Bank would be a better general manager of the currency than the present authorities; but he cannot propose the establishment of a State Bank as an amendment to the original Resolution.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : Then if the only question which is relevant in the remaining part of my amendment is the question of the location of the reserves I will speak on the general proposition.

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member wish to move the remaining part of his amendment? If not, I shall call Mr. Ramachandra Rao to move his amendment.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta : I do not wish to move it.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao (Godavari *cum* Kistna: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I beg to move :

"That in this Resolution all the words beginning from 'a majority of Indian non-officials' to the words 'be immediately appointed' be deleted and the following be substituted therefor :

'an effective and adequate representation of Indian interests be appointed without any avoidable delay.'"

Reading the Resolution as proposed to be amended by me it will run thus :

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Committee with an effective and adequate representation of Indian interests be appointed without any avoidable delay to examine the whole question of exchange and currency in the light of the experience gained since the date of the publication of the Babington-Smith Report, and to make recommendations as to the best policy to be pursued to secure a system of currency and exchange best suited to the interests of India."

Sir, I do not wish to detain the Council with any lengthy speech as many Honourable Members have already covered the whole ground raised in this Resolution. There seems to be very little difference between my Honourable friend the Mover of this Resolution and the Honourable the Finance Member in regard to the main object of this Resolution. The Honourable the Finance Member has admitted the necessity of bringing under examination all the outstanding questions of currency and exchange, not only in the light of the further experience gained since the Babington-Smith Committee's Report was submitted, but also in view of the past history of the currency and exchange policy of the Government of India before that Committee was appointed. Sir, when there is so much agreement between both my Honourable friends, it seems to me that there is no use in shelving this question indefinitely merely on account of the unsuitability of the language that has been used in the Resolution. The Honourable the Finance Member suggested some difficulty by the use of the word "immediate" in the Resolution, and I propose therefore to alter the wording of the Resolution so as to remove his objections. The words that I use are sufficiently elastic to enable him to appoint this Committee without any unnecessary delay. The speeches that have been made already have indicated the absolute necessity of taking action in the direction suggested as early as it is possible to do so.

Sir, as regards the composition of this Committee, several Honourable Members have already given their views as to how this Committee should be constituted. I do not wish to detain the House with my own observations as to how this Committee might be constituted; but there is no doubt whatever that every section of this House regards it as absolutely essential that if the work of this Committee is to be successful and useful, it must have before it only one consideration, namely, the interests of this country. In these circumstances, in order to avoid affording any opportunity to Government to say that we passed a Resolution which they may find it difficult to carry out, I propose to insert in the Resolution the words that I have chosen in my amendment, but with the fullest hope that the views expressed by the terms of the Resolution and in the speeches will be carried out as far as the Honourable Member is able to do so. With these words, Sir, I commend my amendment to the House.

Mr. President: Amendment moved :

"That all the words beginning from 'a majority of Indian non-officials' to the words 'be immediately appointed' be deleted and the following be substituted therefor :

'an effective and adequate representation of Indian interests be appointed without avoidable delay.'"

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Sir, I beg to support the original Resolution and to oppose the amendment of my friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao. The original Resolution, as the House will realise, is different from the Bill which the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett moved last week and from the two Bills which my Honourable friend, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas proposes to move next week. Those two attempts at legislation, each from its own point of view, seek a solution for the temporary period of transition of our currency difficulties. This Resolution of my friend, Mr. Raju, however, attempts to have a comprehensive inquiry with a view to find some fresh, safe and stable moorings for our currency system which has been dislocated for some years. I want to make it clear that the passing of this Resolution will not in any sense be an indication that the House does not want to proceed with Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas' Bills when they are reached.

Sir, we have heard a great deal of the unanimity both on this side and on the side of the Government about the necessity for an inquiry. But I venture to say that there is a great deal of difference between the Resolution of my friend, Mr. Raju, and the attitude which Government have taken up in this matter. My friend, Mr. Raju, wants an immediate inquiry; my friend, Mr. Raju, wants an Indian majority; my friend, Mr. Raju, wants an Indian Chairman; and I say, Sir, each of these elements is a matter of the greatest importance to the currency and monetary system of this country. It must be immediate because if any country in the world was entitled on account of its economic position to revise or finally to place on a stable basis its economic system long before now, it was this country. Next to America after the war there was no country in the world which was better prepared than ours to place its currency system on a suitable basis at the earliest possible moment. It was not necessary for India to wait for five years, to wait on the pleasure of other countries; to wait till the bankrupt countries of south-eastern Europe, and Belgium and France which had been ruined by the war had

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had their own schemes ready. Not at all. It was not necessary for India to wait till the last moment till every other country had stabilised exchange, and I cannot see that we should adopt a policy of what is called watchfulness or a "wait and see" policy. The "wait and see" policy, as is well known, led Mr. Asquith to the mummies of Egypt which refused to speak or answer his questions. In this country the "wait and see" policy has led to a very great dislocation of trade and industry. I say, Sir, that every day that we waste in finding out suitable and safe moorings for the currency system of this country means a loss,—I would say that in spite of the wrath of the Finance Member,—at the rate of 43 crores of rupees every year to the producer and an immense amount of loss to the industries and trade of this country. Therefore there is no time to waste. We must here and now, if possible, adopt the system of the gold standard. But that has been ruled out by the House not on its merits, but because it is to be left as an open question. But as to the immediate necessity for an inquiry there cannot be the least doubt. My fear is that the Government by suggesting a period of twelve months within which to appoint an inquiry committee are waiting to see whether the exchange could still be stabilised at 1s. 6d. if not at a higher level, and that is why the Government do not agree with us. Well, Sir, all that I want to say is that we need not wait till the exchange rises to a higher level and remains there. We want an immediate inquiry into the currency system of this country.

Then, Sir, we heard from the Finance Member that the higher exchange had done a lot of good to this country, that prices had been stable and that the consumer had been greatly benefited. I say, Sir, that this concern of the Finance Member for the interests of the consumer will not be taken at its face value in this country. Government may talk as loudly as they like about their concern for the consumer; but these protests, as I say, are not going to be taken at their face value because the stability of prices is the only respectable garb to a policy of systematic raising of the exchange, a very immoral, sordid and sorry policy which has been pursued during the last five years. Sir, let us examine whether the consumer was at all prejudiced by the pre-war ratio and whether a higher exchange is necessary in his interest. I have before me figures from the Calcutta Trade Journal which show that between 1914 and 1924 the prices of almost all necessities of life except tea and cotton which were 100 rupees in 1914 were only 104 in 1924; that means during ten years the only rise has been 4 per cent. and that too when the exchange was, as in last January, much lower than it is now. In the interval in 1919 all the public bodies, Government and other employers of labour, have given increases in salaries and remuneration on the basis of the top prices ruling then. Under the circumstances, if there is a rise of 4 per cent. after 10 years with increased salaries in the meantime, can it be said that the consumer will be paralysed if there will be a lower exchange? The real reason for maintaining a higher exchange has been to see that there is as much saving on the home charges, that there is as much stimulation to imports, that there is as much bounty on the salaries of civilian officers as possibly can be given. These are believed by the people of this country to be the real reasons for the maintenance of a higher rate of exchange. How does it work? Take only one case. Only yesterday the House had to vote fifty lakhs of rupees in the interests of one industry alone because the rise in

exchange has made the position of that industry absolutely impossible. But every industry does not belong to the Tatas and every industry is not a key industry. Imagine the vast enormous recurring losses which every trade and industry in this country has to bear because of the higher exchange policy of the Government. It is well known, Sir, that after the close of the war, when conditions had still been fluid, when there was a clear case for watchfulness, within six months of the Armistice, Government hurriedly appointed the Babington-Smith Committee; that Committee included only one Indian Member. It took evidence abroad in England and recommended the ratio of 2s. gold for the rupee. It was a packed Committee in the sense my Honourable friend Sir Campbell Rhodes mentioned the other day. If merely the existence of a majority of Indians meant packed Committees, then all the Commissions and Committees that have been hitherto appointed by the Government have been packed Committees in so far as there has always been a majority of non-Indians on those Committees and Commissions. By the way, Sir, why should we not have a majority of Indians on a Committee which concerns only the people of India, and merely to say that there should be adequate, sufficient and effective representation means nothing whatever? We must claim an absolute majority of Indians on this Committee. I know that Government can still by appointing flunkeys and flatterers defeat our object. After all, nominations on the Committee are still in the hands of the Government, and they can defeat our object by appointing all manner of people whom they still possess in their armouries to silence the voice of this country, but still we must insist that the majority of the members on this Committee shall be Indians.

Then, Sir, I was referring to the 2s. ratio which the Babington-Smith Committee accepted. On what? On the report of evidence taken six thousand miles away, on the strength and in the face of the evidence of the Indian witnesses to the contrary, they recommended the 2s. ratio which the Government of India and the Secretary of State required. It was a registration of the decree of the authorities, and although the exchange at that time was 2s. 4d. sterling they began to enforce the new ratio of 2s. gold. Then came into existence that policy of selling reverse councils which will for ever remain a blot on the Government of India's management of our finances. It led to the dissipation of the sterling reserves of this country in England which were accumulated at Rs. 15 to the sovereign. These reserves were sold at Rs. 7, Rs. 7-8-0 and Rs. 8, to the sterling, so that on every £ sterling we lost as much as Rs. 6, Rs. 7 or Rs. 8. Reverse Councils were sold to the extent of 55 millions involving a loss of about 40 crores to the sterling reserves of this country, and that too for the mad gamble of maintaining the high rate of 2s. gold. Again, as a writer in the *Times of India* stated—the *Times of India* is not a paper which will unnecessarily come down upon Government unless it feels convinced that the Government are absolutely wrong,—the *Times of India* stated that no tyro in economics or finance would have dared to enforce the rate of 2s. gold unless he was forced to do so from the secret conclave of Whitehall. These are the words of the *Times of India*. A secret conclave at Whitehall which forces a 2s. gold rate on this country; and Government in their endeavour to enforce that policy put this country to a loss of about 40 crores only on the Reverse Councils. It has further meant an enormous loss to trade in this country and it has been followed by an immense social and economic distress in the country which still

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continues as a result of an effort to maintain the exchange at a higher level. The immense crores that have been lost will never be known. Sir, it is high time that we did not leave the management of our currency in the hands of the Government which have so thoroughly mismanaged affairs to the detriment of this country involving the country in losses of crores upon crores, dislocating the money market, strangling the trade, and making the producer lose heavily. I challenge anybody to deny that under the present policy the producer loses Rs. 43 crores a year.

Sir, this country is entitled to a sound monetary system, and once that system is established, it is entitled further to see that the legal relations which arose under that system are protected by Government, and that these legal relations are regarded as sacred and inviolable as any other law of the land. But the 1s. 4d. ratio which was the legal ratio, which the Government were bound to protect, under which our industries were organized, under which our borrowings were taking place, under which the poor peasant and the agriculturist was borrowing at a high rate of interest from the *sowkars* was torn to pieces, and a higher ratio was at once established without caring for the position of the debtors, or of the position of the industries, or of the position of the trade. Why? Because the Government could have a saving of a few crores on home charges, and because the imports to India could be stimulated. But, Sir, the home charges, after all, come to only 3 to 4 crores and it is a concealed method of taxation. The 3 or 4 crores do not drop from the heavens. They do not come out of the coffers of the Government, but they are obtained only when the agriculturist is made to suffer a loss of 43 crores. The 4 crores of saving which is effected at a loss of 43 crores to this country is not a businesslike proposition, and this country is not interested in allowing the Government to have such a secret manner of taxation which really leads to immense losses far greater than the savings which the Government can effect on remittances to England.

Then, Sir, if the rise in exchange would lead to the stability of prices, why does not my Honourable friend the Finance Member begin to raise the exchange higher and higher till we can get everything for nothing? Let him raise the exchange to a tremendously high level so that we may get everything for nothing. If that is in the interests of the consumer, why does he not do it? If he does not do it, it is because he knows that it will break down. On the other hand, what we temporarily want is not to reduce the exchange as low as possible, but to restore it to its original level, to its legally established ratio, which was so rudely disturbed, so wantonly dislocated, five years ago, in order that other interests than Indian might be protected. Sir, this problem to-day is of the greatest importance to this country. Every day gone means so much injury to the interests of this country, and therefore the immediate appointment of this Committee is absolutely necessary.

My Honourable friend Sir Campbell Rhodes asked the other day that if Indians are placed in a majority on the Committee, what would happen to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, to the Associated Chamber of Commerce and to the Exchange Banks. He also asked what would happen to the representatives of the Imperial Bank. Now, Sir, the gentleman who represents the Exchange Banks is very often a Member of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and this representative of the Bengal

Chamber of Commerce is very often again a Member of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, and he is the same individual under various guises and disguises, for the same individual may be the Member of the Exchange Banks, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Chambers of Commerce. So after all it is not necessary that these bodies should have tripple or fourfold representation. One representative of the Exchange Banks can very well represent both the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and the Associated Chambers of Commerce, in fact he ought to represent, he must represent, all these associations, and if there is going to be an honest representation in this matter, one representative ought to suffice for all these associations and they cannot ask for more. For that reason, Sir, we must have an Indian majority. There will of course be experts from England who will represent Imperial interests, but I do not see why any other question except that of the question of the interest of India should enter into this matter. Other parts of the Empire do not care to consult the Government of England. South Africa does not even care to consult the Colonial Office. It does not care two brass buttons whether and when the Cabinet in England is going to return to the gold standard. It simply invites two eminent financiers, one from the Netherlands and the other from America, Dr. Vissering and Professor Kamerar and on their advice it has decided to return to a gold standard from June next whether the Government of England does or not. Why? Because the Government there watches and is concerned only about the interests of that country. The Government of India have, as the *Times of India* points out, to act under the mandates of secret conclaves at Whitehall. Sir, a man who gives short weight and measure is treated as a criminal. A forger if convicted is sentenced to 7 years' jail. A deliberate policy of higher exchange is not to be easily distinguished from the practices of a man who deals short weight and measure. The man who in the stress of economic distress gives short measure goes to jail for five years. The Government of this country have given short measure for the last five years and have practised fraud on the producer. They are still practising it. And some people who are responsible for the policy—I do not blame Sir Malcolm Hailey personally; he is a very amiable gentleman. In fact, there is no Member of this House who did not know him only to love him, and I am very sorry not to have him here. But such is the irony of fate that the forger goes to jail for years while the Finance Member under whose regime immense crores were lost finds himself on the *ga'ri* of the Punjab Government.

Mr. W. S. J. Willson (Associated Chambers of Commerce: Nominated Non-official): Is not that a kind of penal servitude?

Mr. President: I must ask the Honourable Member now to bring his remarks to a close.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I will do so, Sir. Then, Sir, I have only one more point to add; in spite of the Resolution about a gold standard being defeated, I say, as the Finance Member himself has admitted, it does not follow that the Committee will be precluded from considering the question of the gold standard for this country. The gold standard is under the present circumstances the only proper standard. The gold exchange standard is, I agree, theoretically more scientific. I am ready to agree that the gold exchange standard is more scientific and more perfect, and

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when education in the world has become general, when enlightenment has been universal, when Governments can be trusted by their subjects, when the League of Nations has become a more powerful lever for peace and goodwill, then I think the gold exchange standard can be kept not only in this country but all over the world. But to-day the gold exchange standard is neither proof against knaves nor against fools. It is neither a fool-proof standard nor a knave-proof standard. And the people of this country do not want that they should be under a standard which can be manipulated by the Government. Not only in this country. It has been manipulated everywhere, wherever Governments require more money than they are legitimately entitled to. We do not therefore want to be chained down to it if we can help it. I say, Sir, that we are free to raise that question of the gold standard when the Committee meets. I further say that the Bills of Sir Purshotamdas stand quite apart from this committee of inquiry; that we will still consider it our duty to support them. And that we will not be precluded by this Resolution from supporting them. With these words, Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment of my friend Diwan Ramachandra Rao; there is little or no difference between the Government policy and his amendment. If that is the position, why have any Resolution at all? Let us say we are satisfied with the Government's explanation. No Resolution. Go home. This is not moderation; this is not sobriety. I cannot distinguish this kind of moderation and sobriety from madness and senility. I have done.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Sir, this is not moderation and this is not sobriety, and it is time we got back to the Resolution. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta is a licenced libertine, but some of the things that he has said about other people are, I think, even inside this House, a little bit stronger than he would regard himself as justified in saying if his very eloquent gifts did not sometimes carry him away. I found it difficult to discover in the course of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's speech just whether he was opposing or voting for or against the Resolution which is now before us. The whole of his speech was devoted to an argument that no committee of inquiry of any sort is required because 1s. 4d. is the only possible rate and it ought to be introduced at once. I despair of succeeding in persuading Mr. Jamnadas Mehta that there is something to be said on the other side. Until the day comes when Mr. Jamnadas Mehta ceases to be suspicious of Government, I think that the effort in open Assembly to persuade him would be largely wasted, but I should be very glad indeed to have the opportunity of discussing with him in private—and with some of the other Honourable Members who have spoken—some of the immensely interesting subjects that have been raised in the course of this debate. I do not desire to prolong the debate now. I know that the House is very keen to get ahead and to deal with some of the other Resolutions that are coming on. My Honourable colleagues are straining at the leash in order to discuss other subjects. Even their interest in the subject of currency has not persuaded them to remain here and they have gone out to prepare themselves. So that I do not want to delay the House much longer on this particular Resolution. Let me, however, now deal with the amendment proposed by Mr. Ramachandra Rao. First of all, in regard to the word "immediately", for this word he proposes to substitute "without any avoidable delay". I recognise the very strong view held in many quarters of this House about the urgency of the appointment of a committee, but I

should be deceiving the House if, in accepting the amendment "without any avoidable delay" for the word "immediately", as I am prepared to do, I were in any way to suggest that the Government of India are prepared to go beyond what was stated very clearly by His Excellency the Viceroy in the speech that he delivered here at the opening of the Session as regards the date on which this could be established. I do not want to mislead the House or to leave any room for differences of opinion. The Government of India are prepared to accept the Resolution as thus amended in regard to the words "without any avoidable delay" if it is understood that they are not themselves thereby committing themselves to anything beyond what was definitely stated by His Excellency in the speech that he made the other day. At the same time, the Government of India recognise the view that is held in the House by a great many of those who have spoken that that is not as early as the majority in this House might desire for the appointment of the Committee. As regards the other words the Government of India are prepared to accept the amendment as it stands, that is, in place of the words "a majority of Indian non-officials and an Indian Chairman" the words "an effective and adequate representation of Indian interests". Mr. Jamnadas Mehta provided me with what I think is the very best argument that has been produced thus far for the amendment proposed by Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao. He pointed out that in South Africa they have recently had a Committee to consider the question of South African currency and they have not a single South African. . . .

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Nor any one from England.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: They did not have any one from England

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Will you promise not to have any Englishman?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I happen to know, though Mr. Jamnadas Mehta does not know it, that the two members who were appointed were originally not the first and only choice of the South African Government and two first chosen, one of whom was the late Mr. E. S. Montagu, were both Englishmen. The Government of India are therefore prepared to accept the Resolution as thus amended, provided that it is clearly understood that in doing so they are not committing themselves beyond what the words say, namely, that there should be a Committee to inquire into the currency system of India with an effective and adequate representation of Indian interests to be appointed without any avoidable delay. I have said over and over again, and even in the face of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta I repeat, that the Government of India will be concerned, in considering this question, solely with interests of India; the interests of India alone are the interests which must determine India's currency policy. But that currency policy depends not entirely on internal conditions in India. Two quite separate things have to be considered, internal conditions and world conditions. The Committee will consider what is the best currency policy in the interests of India in the light of Indian internal conditions and world conditions, and for the purpose of doing that, obviously an authoritative committee is required,—a committee that can duly take into account all the considerations. I hope that the House will be able to agree to this concordat between the slightly varying views that are held in different quarters of this House and pass this amendment unanimously.

Mr. V. J. Patel (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Before I address myself to the Resolution I should like to congratulate my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, on the excellent manner in which he presented his case. I am in entire agreement with the view point presented by him, and I may say at once that I am opposed to the amendment moved by my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao. There is no question after what Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has said that there should be a Committee appointed immediately. I was waiting to hear the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett reply to one very important argument advanced by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. Of course, Sir Basil Blackett wants Mr. Jamnadas Mehta to see him in private and hear from him all the explanations with regard to the various points made by him; but this House will not have the opportunity of being wiser by those arguments which might be advanced by Sir Basil Blackett to Mr. Jamnadas Mehta privately. But there is one argument which the Honourable the Finance Member should have met openly on the floor of the House. That argument is this. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta said that Government were waiting to see if the exchange can be stabilised at 1s. 6d. and that therefore they were not willing to appoint a Committee immediately. If that is the intention of Government, then of course a case has been made out for the immediate appointment of a Committee. We do not want Government to manipulate matters in such a way that the Committee would have no alternative but to find that the exchange should stand at 1s. 6d. A definite, deliberate charge has been made against Government that their intention in delaying the appointment of a Committee is to create conditions under which the Committee can have no alternative but to find that the ratio must stand at 1s. 6d. If that is so, then this Assembly must press with all its vigour the appointment of a Committee immediately. As I said, I was waiting to hear the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett reply to that charge, but unfortunately I was disappointed.

Now, coming to the Resolution itself, it wants three things; the appointment of a committee immediately, a majority of non-official Indians on it, and an Indian Chairman. Government are willing to appoint a Committee, but they are not willing to appoint it immediately, and the words proposed by my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao, are accepted by Government according to their own interpretation. I do not know what the interpretation of my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao, of those words is, but Government have their own interpretation and they ask the House to accept that interpretation as Government are not willing to raise any hopes in the mind of the Assembly that they are going to appoint a committee very soon. The speech made by His Excellency the Viceroy the other day is there and Government are prepared to abide by it and appoint a committee in due time in accordance with that speech. So Government are not going to shift from the position they have taken up in this respect in regard to time. I do not know what my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao, means by saying "without any avoidable delay". But Government have put their own interpretation, and, if this amendment is now passed by the Assembly, that interpretation stands and Government will be free to appoint a committee any time within the course of twelve months as stated by His Excellency the Viceroy in this Chamber the other day. Something has been said about moderation. I should like to say that moderation has run amok in this case: it is nothing else. His Excellency the Viceroy made the statement in open Council the other day. The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett made a similar statement today emphasising the statement of His Excellency and my Honourable friend,

Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao now comes forward, though in different words, with the same proposal. I do not know what is the necessity of my Honourable friend, Mr. Raju's Resolution at all under these circumstances? Let him withdraw the Resolution and Government will appoint a committee at their own convenience with such men on it as they like! Government have already stated so. Whether the amendment of my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao, is carried or not, the position of Government is quite clear. They will act in the matter as they have already outlined; there is no necessity of this Resolution at all because Government have already stated their case that they are going to appoint a committee in due course. Therefore, I submit that if we really want a committee, and a committee immediately, in order not to allow Government an opportunity to manipulate conditions under which the committee would have to find the ratio at 1s. 6d., then it is absolutely necessary that we must carry the Resolution of my Honourable friend, Mr. Raju.

Now, with regard to a non-official Indian majority, we know, we have heard something about the Babington-Smith Committee. We had only one Indian, Sir Dadiba Dalal, on it and he stuck to his guns. He expressed the Indian public opinion and wrote a separate minute of dissent stating that the ratio should be 1s. 4d. If at that time the Committee had had a majority of Indians, then the view point of the Indian public would have been effectively represented and the report would have been quite different. All these manipulations in the currency during the last 5 or 6 years would have been impossible and the country would have saved crores of rupees, as Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has very rightly pointed out. Therefore it is

necessary now to take care to see that any committee which is
1 P.M. appointed to examine the question of exchange and currency should have on it a majority of Indians. Of course there are Indians and Indians, and so long as Government are what they are and not responsible to the people, they will appoint such Indians as will play into their hands and register their decrees. That cannot be helped. But there are Dadiba Dalals sometimes. There is absolutely no reason why after the experience we have had in the past of such committees we should not demand an Indian majority on this committee. Without an Indian majority on this committee, the committee will be absolutely futile because we have already expressed our suspicion against Government that they want to manipulate this currency. They want to stabilise exchange at 1s. 6d. and it is for that purpose that they are biding their time and they want to appoint a committee sometime within the course of 12 months and not immediately, and with this suspicion against Government on the part of the Indian public, it is absolutely essential that the personnel of the committee should be such as will be above suspicion. The personnel should be so independent that they would not carry out the dictates of the Government because we have that fear that Government would like that the exchange should stand at 1s. 6d. and that the finding of the committee should be to that effect. If we have a committee with non-Indians on it in a majority, then that committee will justly register the decrees of the executive. That being so, it is absolutely necessary, in view of past experience and in view of the suspicions we have had against the Government in this matter, that we should demand that there should be a majority of non-official Indians on this committee. And if there is a non-official Indian majority on the committee it follows as a matter of course that the Chairman should also be an Indian. On these three points we are very strong and I hope that my Honourable friend Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao will not be tempted by the offer,

[Mr. V. J. Patel.]

a very good offer indeed, made on behalf of Government by Sir Basil Blackett and will see his way to withdraw his amendment in view of the arguments advised by my friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta.

Now, Sir, with regard to the Resolution itself moved by my friend Mr. Raju, I may say at once that his idea is to have a committee to examine the whole question of exchange and currency in the light of the experience gained since the date of the publication of the Babington-Smith Committee's report. What is the experience we have gained? My friend interjects and says that it is a loss of 35 crores. That is quite true and I will just say a few words on that point. The report was made fixing the ratio at 2s. gold to the rupee at the end of the year 1919 and Government proceeded to give effect to the recommendations of that report immediately. They wanted to enforce the recommendations of that report and they devised all sorts of methods for that purpose. They were determined to keep the ratio at 2s. gold as recommended by the committee. That ratio was based on gold but the exchange rate quoted was in terms of sterling because there was no free market for gold in England. Further, the sterling market was steadily depreciating as can be seen from the sterling dollar exchange rate quoted and therefore Government had to give 2s. 6d., 2s. 7d. and even to the extent of 2s. 11d. in sterling for a rupee worth 2s. in gold. This went on for months and months with the result that the money market was thoroughly demoralised, lots of people began to gamble in these Reverse Councils and several people made fortunes in the course of a few weeks. But Government could not effectively keep the ratio at 2s. gold. The market would not support them and Government went on with their policy of selling Reverse Councils. They were persistent. They were determined to keep the ratio at 2s. gold and they went on spending India's sterling resources till the loss amounted to 35 crores as my friend, Mr. Raju, just mentioned to me. Ultimately they found that it was absolutely impossible to keep the ratio at 2s. gold as they wanted to do, and therefore they gave up that mad policy of selling sterling; but the result was that trade was thoroughly demoralised. The money market was strangled and the currency of the country was discredited in the eyes of the whole world. If only a portion of so many crores wasted had been spent in stabilising the exchange at 1s. 4d. all these things would not have happened. They could easily have done so. India would have been saved crores of rupees if they had only spent a portion of these 35 crores in stabilising exchange at 1s. 4d. But they did not do it. All this manipulation could be prevented only by a gold standard. It is because there is a gold exchange standard that it has been possible for the authorities to manipulate currency in the way they have done for the last five years, and therefore it is that India demands gold standard. My friend Sir Basil Blackett says that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has not made out a case for a committee because he is for a 1s. 4d. ratio and therefore there is no necessity for the appointment of a committee according to him. No Mr. Jamnadas Mehta does not want that the exchange should be 1s. 4d. He wants a gold standard. He supports the appointment of a committee because that committee is to inquire into the question whether a gold standard should be established in India or not. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta agrees to the appointment of the committee because that committee is to be empowered to go into the various questions of the establishment

of a gold standard, the location of the reserve and like questions affecting the currency. It is wrong to say that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has not made out a case for the appointment of a committee. Now this manipulation is not the only evil of this gold exchange standard. The Secretary of State is keeping large reserves in the gold standard and paper currency reserves in England. So long as this gold exchange standard exists he will have the excuse of keeping the reserves there. These reserves, it will be remembered, amount jointly to about 60 million pounds, and had it not been for the devaluation according to the fictitious ratio of 2s. gold, this amount would have been much more to-day. But the Secretary of State keeps these reserves in England on the ground that in the case of an adverse balance he would have to pay money there on behalf of India and therefore it is necessary according to him to keep these reserves there. But if you examine the facts you will find that no more flimsy excuse for such a grievous wrong was ever given. As a matter of fact the balance of trade has always been in favour of India. It is only once in a decade that the balance of trade is against India. It is England and other countries of the world which have to pay to India almost every year regularly, and therefore, if anything, a case has been made out for keeping their reserves in India rather than for keeping ours in England. So these are some of the evils of the gold exchange standard, and therefore it is necessary to examine the whole currency question. My friend Sir Basil Blackett says he is opposed to the gold standard, but that it is possible to improve the gold exchange standard. I shall be very glad if he can show to the Committee some way by which this gold exchange standard can be so improved as to prevent once and for all the Government from manipulating it as it suits their purpose. In fact that Chamberlain Committee in 1913 in their report stated that although the gold exchange standard was a managed system, it was not managed in the sense that the Government could manipulate it for their own ends. But the experience of the last five years has shown us that it is possible under the gold exchange standard for the Government to manipulate the currency for their own ends. As we have found that this prophecy of the Chamberlain Committee has proved to be false, let us see now if, as Sir Basil Blackett says, it is possible to improve this gold exchange standard. Other questions also will be considered by this committee. The question of establishing the gold standard will also be considered; the question of the location of the reserves will also be considered; the question of starting a State Bank and of handing over the management of currency to it will also be considered. These are the various questions for the consideration of that committee, and therefore it is absolutely necessary that the committee should be appointed immediately and, in order that no suspicion might attach to the Government and that no suspicion might attach to the findings of that committee, it should consist, as my friend Mr. Raju has rightly asked, of a majority of Indians with an Indian Chairman. And I say no time should be lost in appointing a committee of that character. I once again appeal to my friend Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao to allow this Resolution of Mr. Raju to pass and then leave the Government to do what they like.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I had no desire to take part in this debate because I do not claim to understand the intricacies of the questions which are involved in this Resolution, but having regard to the amendment which has been moved by my Honourable friend Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao, I thought I might make

[Mr. M. A. Jinnah.]

the position clear. Now, Sir, with regard to that amendment there are two points involved. First, instead of the word "immediately" the words "without avoidable delay" are substituted. Secondly, instead of "a majority of non-officials being appointed on this Committee" we have "adequate and effective Indian representation on this proposed Committee". I was glad to hear from Sir Basil Blackett that he was willing to accept that amendment. But I was somewhat puzzled when I heard his commentary or his reservation on it. While he accepted the amendment, I fail to understand what were the exact implications of the reservation that he made. Does he mean that the Government have already decided that they will not appoint this Committee until the end of the year? Does he mean that the Government have already fixed any period on which auspicious day this Committee will be appointed? What did he mean then when he said that he wanted to make it clear that the statement made in the speech of His Excellency the Viceroy is final? I take it that, when this House passes a Resolution which is accepted by the Government that a Committee should be appointed without any delay, if Government have got any justification for delaying its appointment it means that, if it is delayed, the Government will account to this House as to why they delayed. (A voice: "When?") When! And supposing you say "immediately" and the Government find that it is impossible to appoint a Committee immediately, when they explain that to you . . . (Mr. V. J. Patel: "Therefore take what they give.") Therefore let us have some common sense in the matter. (A voice: "What is common sense?") Common sense is this, that when you say "immediately" that means the Government must appoint a committee to-morrow or within a week. But if you say to the Government that you must appoint this Committee without avoidable delay then I say that, if the Government accept that position, they will have to justify any delay there may be in appointing the Committee. (A voice: "That was their position from the beginning.") I beg your pardon, that was not their position from the beginning. That is why I quarrelled with the commentary or reservation of Sir Basil Blackett. What is the meaning of that reservation? That is what I want to understand before I vote. If that reservation means nothing beyond the terms of the amendment then say so. Do you accept that or do you not? If you accept it, I ask Sir Basil Blackett not to complicate it by any further commentary or reservation, and I expect the Government then to say that, unless they have got some serious reasons, some real difficulty in their way which prevents them from appointing this Committee, they will appoint it as soon as possible. If that is your intention and if you make that clear, Sir, I have no hesitation in supporting the amendment of Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao.

Now, Sir, with regard to the other point about a majority of Indians, I think my Honourable friend Mr. Patel answered his own arguments. He said, "Appoint a majority of Indians." I know, Sir, the only one committee on which I ever had the good or bad fortune to serve consisted of a majority of Indians and I know that we were reduced to a minority. I could understand the Honourable Member insisting not only upon a majority of Indians, but that those Indians should be elected by us. That I could understand. But what does Mr. Patel say? He says: "You appoint, but they should be Indians." Very well, and he himself answered that question. There are Indians and Indians he said. Then you might

appoint some Indians who will probably agree with you and register your decree. Then what is the good of it? (A voice: "Safer Europeans.") No, no. Well, I will put it bluntly. According to your argument, your neck is in the hands of Government. Very well, I will at least say this, "Give us an adequate and effective representation." I think that is the object of the Mover, and it is fairer and more reasonable than to fight over words the meaning of which, the effect of which, is useless. I therefore, Sir, strongly support the amendment of my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao, and I understand Sir Basil Blackett cannot mean anything else than what the amendment itself says (Mr. V. J. Patel: "He has already stated what he means.")

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Sir, I may intervene in response to the appeal that has been made by Mr. Jinnah, I should like to explain the difference between us. The words "without any avoidable delay" are, I take it, moved by the Mover of this amendment in the sense that he and the majority of those who support him, including Mr. Patel and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta even, are of opinion that it is desirable that this Committee should be appointed immediately. But in order to meet the difficulty that they know the Government are in, they alter the word "immediately" to the words "without any avoidable delay." The Government are anxious not to be misunderstood or to lay themselves open to any charge of breach of faith. I thought it necessary therefore to explain that I am not in a position to promise on behalf of the Government that any advance will be made on the position as stated by His Excellency in regard to the appointment of a Committee probably within a period of 12 months. I recognize that the House regards that as insufficient. But I, on behalf of the Government, am not in a position to make any promise that there will be an advance on that. If that is understood, I think that we are both prepared to agree in the meaning of the word.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: After the statement made by Sir Basil Blackett that he is not in a position to alter in any respect the position indicated by His Excellency's speech, there is no use, Sir, in pressing my amendment in this House.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: "I am not in a position to promise," I said.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: Even when promises are made, we find it extremely difficult to keep the Government to their promises. But without any definite statement in this House by Sir Basil Blackett as to the time when this committee will be appointed, there is no object in my pressing my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is that the following Resolution be adopted, namely:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Committee with a majority of Indian non-officials on it, and with an Indian chairman, be immediately appointed to examine the whole question of exchange and currency in the light of the experience gained since the date of the publication of the Babington-Smith Report, and to make recommendations as to the best policy to be pursued to secure a system of currency and exchange best suited to the interests of India."

The Assembly divided.

AYES—52.

Abdul Karim, Khwaja.
Abhyankar, Mr. M. V.
Abul Kasem, Maulvi.
Acharya, Mr. M. K.
Aiyangar, Mr. K. Rama.
Almuzzaman Chowdhry, Mr.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Chetty, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham.
Dalal, Sardar B. A.
Das, Mr. B.
Duni Chand, Lala.
Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.
Ghose, Mr. S. C.
Goswami, Mr. T. C.
Gour, Sir Hari Singh.
Gulab Singh Sardar.
Hans Raj, Lala.
Iyengar, Mr. A. Rangaswami.
Jeelani, Haji S. A. K.
Jinnah, Mr. M. A.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr.
Kelkar, Mr. N. C.
Mehta, Mr. Jannadas M.
Misra, Pandit Shambhu Dayal.
Misra, Pandit Harkaran Nath.
Mortuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Sayad.

Mutalik, Sardar V. N.
Nambiyar, Mr. K. K.
Narain Dass, Mr.
Nehru, Dr. Kishenlal.
Nehru, Pandit Shamlal.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pal, Mr. Bipin Chandra.
Patel, Mr. V. J.
Piyare Lal, Lala.
Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Sir.
Rajan Bakhsh Shah, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed.
Ramachandra Rao, Diwan Bahadur M.
Rangachariar, Diwan Bahadur T.
Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.
Ray, Mr. Kumar Sankar.
Reddi, Mr. K. Venkataramana.
Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Shafee, Maulvi Mohammad.
Shams-uz-Zoha, Khan Bahadur M.
Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.
Sinha, Mr. Devaki Prasad.
Sinha, Kumar Gangnanand.
Venkatapatiraju, Mr. B.
Wajihuddin, Haji.
Yakub, Maulvi Muhammad.

NOES—38.

Abdul Mumin, Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Abdul Qaiyum, Nawab Sir Sahibzada.
Aiyer, Sir P. S. Sivaswamy.
Ajab Khan, Captain.
Ashworth, Mr. E. H.
Bhore, Mr. J. W.
Blackett, The Honourable Sir Basil.
Bray, Mr. Denys.
Burdon, Mr. E.
Calvert, Mr. H.
Clarke, Sir Geoffrey.
Clow, Mr. A. G.
Cocke, Mr. H. G.
Cosgrave, Mr. W. A.
Crawford, Colonel J. D.
Drival, Mr. H. P.
Fleming, Mr. E. G.
Gidney, Lieut.-Col. H. A. J.
Graham, Mr. L.
Hudson, Mr. W. F.
Innes, The Honourable Sir Charles.

Lindsay, Mr. Darcy.
Makan, Mr. M. E.
McCallum, Mr. J. L.
Mitra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath.
Muddiman, The Honourable Sir Alexander.
Muhammad Ismail, Khan Bahadur Saiyid.
Naidu, Mr. M. C.
Rhodes, Sir Campbell.
Rushbrook-Williams, Prof. L. F.
Sastri, Diwan Bahadur C. V. Visvanatha.
Sim, Mr. G. G.
Singh, Rai Bahadur S. N.
Stanyon, Colonel Sir Henry.
Sykes, Mr. E. F.
Tonkinson, Mr. H.
Webb, Mr. M.
Willson, Mr. W. S. J.

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty-Five Minutes to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-Five Minutes to Three of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President in the Chair.

RESOLUTION RE GRIEVANCES OF THE SUBORDINATE EMPLOYEES OF THE INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Mr. M. K. Acharya (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move the Resolution standing in my name which runs as follows:—

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he may be pleased to take immediate steps to institute an inquiry into and report on the grievances of the subordinate employees of the Indian Railways with special reference to:

- (1) the rates of wages, methods of payment and deductions by fines;
- (2) hours of work and holidays;
- (3) provision for old age, leave, gratuity, provident fund, medical relief, etc.;
- (4) opportunities for promotion to higher grades;
- (5) housing accommodation;
- (6) unequal treatment regarding the conditions of service based on racial grounds;
- (7) unfair retrenchment;
- (8) recognition of Railwaymen's Unions by the Railway Agents;

and further that the above inquiry should be conducted by a Committee consisting of five members to be elected by the Legislative Assembly, three representatives of the Railway employees to be appointed by their organisations and three members to be appointed by the Government of India, one of whom to be the Chairman."

Before I enter into any explanation of the Resolution I have just read I desire to make a preliminary statement. The fact that I sent notice of this Resolution and tacked along with it an alternative Resolution relating to postal grievances; the further fact that in announcing the result of the ballot the alternative was also put in—this seems to have misled a good many people to think that it was in my option to choose which of the Resolutions I should move. In consequence I was flooded with telegrams from postal associations all over the country asking me to give preference to their Resolution. Under the rules even if I had the inclination it was not in my power to go against the order of the ballot; and therefore I have had to assure the postal employees that they have my fullest sympathy and the fullest sympathy of a great many members of the Assembly; but that they must wait a little longer, and that if possible we shall give them our attention at as early a date as we possibly can.

I now pass on, Sir, to the Resolution itself; and here again I desire to state that the drafting of the Resolution is not mine. Well, that does not seriously matter. If I had drafted it I might have made it—at any rate in my opinion—slightly better than it is. At least I should have eliminated all the indefinite articles which are used in the wrong places. However, I repeat the wording does not matter. In the subject-matter of the Resolution I have been taking very great interest for some years and I shall be really glad if I can be of any service by bringing to the notice of this House the very pitiable condition which obtains among those who are employed in the subordinate services of the railways. The recommendation contained in the Resolution rests upon some general and as I consider indisputable facts. The service rendered by the subordinate employees on railways is most invaluable, whether considered from the administrative or

[Mr. M. K. Acharya.]

the national standpoint; and when we consider the hard work which they perform and the efficiency with which through them the railway administration is carried on, we can make this equally indisputable assertion that in return for their hard work they are entitled to adequate remuneration, proper treatment, satisfactory service conditions and if possible a constitutional tribunal to ensure all this from time to time, along with periodical inquiries into the condition of these employees. If then it is a fact that these men are rendering great service, are earning crores of rupees for the State or the Companies concerned, and if we therefore are bound to ensure proper treatment and working wages, living wages, for the men who do all this hard work, then we cannot but know with great concern that among these men there is at the present moment widespread and, as I consider and hope to show, legitimate discontent with respect to the conditions in which they are at present placed. They have very many serious, tangible, substantial grievances such as those that are enumerated in the sub-clauses of my Resolution.

I will now, Sir, pass on very briefly to enumerate what I consider to be the root causes of these grievances. In the first place there is the commercial origin, character and standards of the Indian Railways. Almost all Indian railways have been started by private companies and some of them are still owned by private companies; and the objective of all private companies naturally is perhaps best summed up in the words—maximum profits for the company or the State, and for the employees concerned minimum wages and maximum work. I am not here to dispute the correctness or incorrectness, the rightness or wrongness, of these standards, but there is the fact—that every company tries to get as much as possible out of its employees and tries to give them as little as possible; and that is the Commercial or Company way of looking at things. Therefore, even where officers, and I have the pleasure of being acquainted with one or two officers personally, who try to be sympathetic—even when they wish to be generous to those under them, they find that the business organisation of which they are practically the agents does not permit them to be as generous as they would like to be. Owing to this commercial character of the railways, they desire to make as much profit as possible and therefore to pay as little as possible to their employees; and this very often stands in the way of adequate interest being taken in the employees.

(At this stage Mr. Deputy President vacated the Chair which was taken by Mr. President.)

Here let me answer the question which some one has put to me—the question of what is meant by the subordinate employees to whom I refer. I am not using that term in any technical sense. I am not acquainted with the technology of the Railway Department, and who exactly comes within the superior and who within the subordinate categories. I really do not know whom the Railway Department regards as the subordinate staff; but I am myself speaking of those who are not officers, of all those whose salaries are less than Rs. 300 or less than Rs. 400 per mensem. All these I regard as subordinates and they cover practically a very wide field. The number of men who come into that rank including outdoor workers, indoor workers, clerical staff and so on and so forth, according to the cadre list put in my hands, is something like 7 lakhs of men on whose behalf and for whose sake I am now moving this Resolution. These subordinate employees are under the thumb of the officers; and one of the main causes

of the grievances that these employees legitimately feel consists in the fact that the railway services draw into their ranks as officers not probably the very best men. The best men go into the Government or other services, and into more lucrative professions. If I may be pardoned for putting it in this way, those belonging to the class of boys known as “bad boys” become recruited as officers in the railways; and naturally when these boys grow older, though some of them may become and do become very good men (I know there are many honourable exceptions), the generality of them never quite get over their earlier natures, and when they get into the railways they want to rule with their fists, and try to put down all opposition to their wishes in a mechanical way. This unfortunately is called “the capacity to rule”. The man who is more considerate and more cultured is very often put down as incapable of controlling and ruling over workmen. This is one of the causes that lies at the basis of the complaint of several people that they are badly treated. But if in many cases the officers have had low qualifications to start with, the rank and file of the men for whom I am pleading to-day, are of course very much worse from the point of view of education. They are therefore unable to take care of themselves. They get into the railways in the lowest grades and after working there for some years they find they have made a mistake; they cannot get out after putting in five or ten years’ service. Further in the case of Indians, they are generally burdened with a family by the time they get to Rs. 30 or Rs. 40, that is after some years’ service, on which they have to support themselves and their families. They find they are unable to make both ends meet; their low educational qualification and their middling status, if I may so put it, stand very much in the way of their improving their lot.

Fourthly the racial discrimination is a very old question. Here I have got a copy of the G. I. P. Railway Union Magazine, a very well edited paper, containing a list of the grievances categorically set out: Leave rules outstanding for 3 years, time-scale one year, working hours for two years, education for three and a half years, medical for two years, free pass rules for two years, racial bar for seventy years—this is an old legacy of the East India Company; that is the fact. I know that many deplore it; we all deplore it; at times attempts are made to lessen the rigour of the racial bar, but its existence is a fact. The only place where its rigour is not perhaps so much felt is my own happy, though sometimes called benighted, Presidency. But in Northern India I find that practically an Indian has to stop at the most at Rs. 300; he cannot get to anything above that. There is the G. I. P. classification into ‘A’ class, ‘B’ class and ‘C’ class: only white-skinned men can get into the ‘A’ class. Here then is the fact; and the theory that these are better men, with better qualifications and better aptitude and better capacity is only invented to justify the existing state of affairs, and does not justify the fact itself. This differentiation is kept all along—in the matter of recruitment, training, pay, leave, housing, gratuities, etc. These I consider, Sir, to be the general causes of almost all the grievances of the subordinate railway employees.

I now pass on—I am very anxious, Sir, to finish as quickly as possible—to a word or two about the detailed grievances that are put down in this list. Pay and promotion is perhaps the most important. I shall just give one or two instances by way of illustration, and, as I say, I shall be very brief. Here is a small statement which I happened to draw up in 1923 with respect to the South Indian Railwaymen, when I was a Vice-President of one of their Unions; and although I know that some slight relief has been

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given since 1923 the facts have not materially changed. Here is the calculation I then made which in the main stands correct to-day. "Of 5,000 and more out-door employees, 30 draw salaries ranging from Rs. 250 to Rs. 400, about 100 draw from Rs. 150 to Rs. 250, and some 230 between Rs. 90 and Rs. 150—total 344. The remaining 4,600 and odd draw below Rs. 90 and may again be divided into two classes—those drawing above Rs. 50 and those drawing below that figure. There are 700 or 800 in the former category and over 3,800 in the latter, drawing below Rs. 50. It is the lot of these 4,500 and odd men that is hard to think of. For almost all of these are family men who have put in long service of at least 15 years on the average. Here are a few instances taken at random. There are 7 booking clerks in the Madras district on Rs. 36, the youngest of whom has put in 20 years' service; one has actually served 27 years; and he still gets only Rs. 36. Again, there is a clerk in Chingleput who joined the railway in 1894 and who after 28 years' service gets only Rs. 41. Among the clerks on Rs. 31 the youngest have put in 6 years; the vast majority more than 10; while there are two who have put in 23, one 24, and one 29 years. Among the station masters on Rs. 50, two have put in 31, one 33, one 36 and one 39 years. Among the guards there are nine getting Rs. 33 after 5 to 10 years' service and one drawing Rs. 31 who joined in February 1908." I do not wish to weary the House with any more details; it may be said that the South Indian Railway is a Company-managed railway and must therefore be allowed to give its subordinates what salaries it likes. But I will take another railway, the Eastern Bengal Railway, which is a State railway. Here I find that an assistant station master gets only Rs. 40 and that is at least after five years' service and he can rise to Rs. 170 at the very maximum, unless somehow he happens to get into some kind of officers' grade. The scales of pay for Indian station masters and assistant station masters are as follows:

	Rs.
For Assistant Station Masters, "A" class	40 to 76
" " " " "B" class	80 to 95
" " " " "C" class	100 to 120
For Station Masters, "A" class	52 to 80
" " " " "B" class	85 to 120
" " " " "C" class	130 to 170

In the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway I find there are more divisions still. I have perhaps heard a great deal more of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway during the past year than I have been here than of any other Company. There too they have to begin at Rs. 40 and the maximum is Rs. 290 so far as Indians are concerned, while Europeans and Anglo-Indians can go up to Rs. 475 and Rs. 550. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway has its own classification of employees. Europeans get Rs. 300 and above; Anglo-Indians between Rs. 120 and Rs. 300 and Indians below Rs. 120; these are called A, B and C classes. The 'A' class draws the most pay and is entitled to most privileges; those who draw the least pay get the least things. I am here reminded of the old biblical saying that "Unto him that hath more shall be given and from him that hath not, even the little he hath shall be taken away". So it is here. To them that have not much, very few facilities are given; and to those that get more pay, more and more facilities are given. I know that that biblical saying was not intended to be used in that sense, however. This then will

show, so far as pay and promotion are concerned, that these men who earn small salaries are very hard put to make both ends meet. As for the burden of work it is not the officers in the railway service, or anywhere else for that matter—it is not the top men that do the most work, it is the toiling men, the rank and file to whom we owe the good work in every department. So it is also in the railways. It is the men that work day and night with no holiday, no Saturday, no Sunday, working twelve hours per day, whose conditions have to be considered. An attempt is being made to bring down the twelve hours to eight—I do not know how far it has been established in all railways; it is in fact one of the points of grievance that the hours of work are not yet reduced reasonably. So these men who work day and night and toil hard for 20, 25, and 30 years rise to the magnificent salaries of Rs. 50, Rs. 70 and Rs. 120; I believe in the South Indian Railway a station master gets Rs. 170 and perhaps in the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, Rs. 200 after 30 years of service.

I hope, Sir, I have made out a case from these instances. I have got here cartloads of representations. I do not think I shall be able to read out to you even the names of all the places from which I have got these representations. I have got a lot of material here to show how keenly the men feel the very low salaries they are getting.

I now pass on to the next item—provision for old age, leave, gratuity, provident fund, medical relief, etc. And here the story is even sadder. Not only do the men have to work for many long years, but at the end what do they go home with? In many cases they are made to retire compulsorily, or shall we say, dismissed? The department objects to the word "dismissed" being used, they prefer to say that the services of the man are dispensed with "with a month's salary in lieu of notice." But whether the man is dismissed or whether his services are dispensed with, the effect is the same. In this connection, Sir, I wish to refer to a case which has been the subject of many interpellations in this House, I mean the case of Mr. Naidu, who after 23 years' meritorious service, found himself one day with a notice that his services had been dispensed with "with a month's salary in lieu of notice." This man I say had to go away after 23 years' meritorious service and think out what else he could do to live on for the rest of his life. Now, Sir, I am sure such a thing would not be tolerated anywhere else. Here is the case of a man, mark you, who gave all his best life and all his time to railway work, who gave 23 years to railway work, who received very high commendations from all officers above him; and he has been sent away with a month's salary. Here is a small typed sheet put into my hands. I suppose it has been put into the hands of several other Members also. This sheet gives the story of Mr. Naidu, and because in this House, as I said, many Members have tried to raise interpellations and to obtain redress for Mr. Naidu and because up to date their attempts have been of little avail, therefore it is perhaps worth while to read a line or two from this typed sheet. "The case is of Mr. Naidu who after 23 years' meritorious service rose to the position of a senior station master on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway but alas, was one day packed out bag and baggage, 'with a month's salary in lieu of notice', and has since been refused his gratuity as well. What was Mr. Naidu's crime? In the course of his 23 years' service, Mr. Naidu made many good friends, but also made some enemies. One of these who rose from very low ranks in the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway service to the position of an officer has managed somehow, by means more foul than fair, to get most of the higher officers under his

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influence, and has been able to have everything his own way on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway. All those who purchased his good-will have got fat appointments; those who dared to incur his ill-will have been summarily got out. Mr. Naidu was one of the latter. He dared to bring a charge of corruption against the Khan Bahadur gentleman; after a confidential departmental inquiry behind the back of Mr. Naidu, in which the Khan Bahadur's tactics had full play, the charge was held to be false, and Mr. Naidu was dismissed, or in the official language sent away 'with a month's salary in lieu of notice'. Mr. Naidu demanded an opportunity openly to prove his case, but could get none. Interpellations in the Assembly failed to secure any redress. Appeals to the Railway Board and to the Viceroy alike have received no response. Mr. Naidu was denied even his hard earned gratuity and has gone back a ruined old man home." I was one of those, Sir, who put interpellations on this subject, because Mr. Naidu is a Madrassi and indeed some of his people are my voters. Mr. Naidu has gone back, as I said, a ruined man. This is a case which demands surely the sympathy of the higher officers, who were responsible for sending away Mr. Naidu. Even supposing he had made

a mistake, you have not only sent him away after 23 years meritorious service, but you have doubly punished him by denying him even his gratuity. Gratuity technically is supposed to be given only as a matter of grace. We believe however that gratuity is earned for service rendered and not that it is given as a matter of grace dependent on the good-will of the immediate superiors. Anyhow, this is one of the points which the Committee will have to investigate. After all, Agents generally endorse what the General Traffic Managers say, or what the immediate superior of the aggrieved party says. The question whether gratuity is to be given only to people who have earned the good-will of their immediate superiors, or whether it is to be given to all those who render good service, is really a matter that should engage the attention of this Committee. In this present case, Sir, Mr. Naidu was not only sent away after 23 years' meritorious service, but he has been denied his gratuity. What is he to do in his old age? I tried to see and influence the Agent of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway but to no purpose. I tried to see Mr. Hindley, but he will not receive me. The case of Mr. Naidu is a most tragic instance, it is the case of a man who worked hard for 23 years. Mr. Naidu conducted the operations of the railway at the last Kumbha Mela in Hardwar; he received a very brilliant certificate from the officers above him; and such a man has been dismissed from service and has also been denied his gratuity. I do not know, Sir, how many more cases there are of this description. Mr. Naidu has been lucky to interest some of us in his case, though all our interest in Mr. Naidu has not got him any benefit. But how many thousands of cases there may be of men absolutely unknown, who have been dismissed or sent away, who cannot approach us and about whom we know nothing. This is a state of affairs which, I trust, will appeal to the sympathetic heart of the Honourable Sir Charles Innes.

Now, Sir, I will pass on to another point. I mean the question of retrenchment. There is a good deal of feeling about the manner in which retrenchment is effected in the railways. If it is desired to effect real retrenchment in any department, it must be all round. I would like to ask:—During the past three or four years since the retrenchment policy was inaugurated, how many cases of officers have been seriously taken

in hand. I mean how many officers have been retrenched? Has there been any reduction in the number of officers at all? After all, even if 200 low paid men are sent away, the saving effected would not in most cases be equal to the salary of even one highly paid officer. That is the position. From what I have read, the worst cases would seem to be in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, where low paid men are sent away and top men are in too large numbers kept on. This is really inexplicable. Of course, top men have great influence; it is they who formulate "the fundamental rules" on which depend the well-being and prosperity not of the Companies or State but of themselves. Under these fundamental rules furlough is granted to the top men for 6, 8 or 14 months on half pay and full pay. I have here some information in last week's Gazette regarding two cases on the Eastern Bengal Railway. Two officers are granted furlough, one for 3 months and the other for 14 months; these rules with regard to furlough are more in favour of the officers than of the low paid men. An officer can take leave for 8 months and 14 months on average pay; but if a poor Indian employee, or for that matter an Anglo-Indian employee,—I do not think that the electors of my friend, Colonel Gidney, are very much better off than their Indian compeers, in this respect,—but if a poor Indian employee applies for a month's leave, I know what is put on his leave application, "Leave granted—to be availed of when available", but it is never made available. The leave never is really granted, the exigencies of the service demand that the man should stick to his post; but in the case of officers, the leave is always at hand. The more service an officer puts in, the greater the amount of privilege leave, the greater the passage money given to him; and we are all quite familiar with such cases from the Lee Commission's report.

Lastly, Sir, I will say a word or two about the question of recognition of Railway Unions. I have noted the deplorable fact that in most of the railways there are Unions but they are not recognised. Many of them, of 3 or 5 years standing, even remain unrecognised. They are unrecognised. Why? Because the Unions will not work according as the officers want the Unions to work. If the Unions are constituted in the way in which the officers desire, then of course it is all right with the Unions. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway staff Unions are doing excellent work; they are not recognised. The Eastern Bengal Railway had a Union in 1920. It was recognised at first, but disaffiliated in 1924. The Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway Unions were recognised at first but later on disaffiliated. The Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Union is struggling for recognition. I cannot understand, Sir, what difficulty the railway Agents have in the matter of recognising the Unions. On the other hand, I should have thought from the speeches made by big men interesting themselves in the question that these big men were anxious that there should be well-constituted Unions in the lines with which they are connected. But, of course, we are familiar with the attitude of some of them, we know how there is a great deal of grand talk on the platform and little doing outside. That probably accounts for the general disinclination on the part of these gentlemen to recognise the Unions. Of course, this is an old story. My friend, Mr. Joshi, will probably talk about it at greater length, and with more knowledge, as to how these Unions are discouraged for fear of strikes and so on and so on. And this is exactly one of their grievances. A very major grievance indeed it is that Railway Unions do not get recognition. And another grievance, Sir, about which the men are very keen is with regard to what is called the fines fund. These men are fined arbitrarily. They want to appeal but cannot. The fines are spent arbitrarily for the

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amusements of the officers. The funds are spent not for the benefit of those who contribute to them but for the benefit of those who do not.

Now, Sir, I hope I have established the following facts, namely: that these railway men work hard. That is an indisputable fact. And it was admitted by His Excellency the Viceroy the other day that there has been a marked increase in the gross receipts of railways. And the marked increase in these gross receipts were almost entirely due to the hard work of these toiling men, plus of course, the supervision, I have no objection to admitting that. But we owe the receipts mainly to the men who are toiling in the ranks. Therefore they have a right to proper treatment. And I hope from the number of examples I have cited, more examples are not required—the House will see that there are widespread grievances and that discontent is spreading fast among these people. It is to our interest that these hard-working men are content. It is to our interest that they are kept well. We ought not to drive them into discontent, because, if we do so drive them, we shall be harming our own interests. If these three facts are granted, Sir, the fact of their good work, their right to proper treatment, and the existence of grievances, I trust that if these things are granted, the recommendation follows which this Resolution makes; the reasonableness of the recommendation which it makes ought to be admitted. I do not know on that grounds, if any, there is going to be any opposition to this. I cannot, of course, forestall those objections. But possibly one or two that I can think of I propose to answer very briefly before I sit down. Possibly, it may be stated that these railways are under different managements, some under State and some under Company management, and so on. The answer is simple: the committee that will investigate the matter will make recommendations some of them suitable for Company railways and some suitable for State railways. And that is exactly why the committee should be appointed. Or it may be objected that after all the grievances are not so very grave and serious as we are trying to make out. If that be so, let a committee go into the matter, and if such a committee as is here recommended say that there are no serious grievances, I will bow to the decision of the committee. But if simply the department says, the railways are doing their best, the officers are doing their best, the matter will be duly considered, that will not be a satisfactory answer. Or it may be said, the field is too wide. We cannot help it. Or it may be said that the cost will be very heavy. Well, they are earning crores for us, these men. A little bit may certainly be given back to them—it is not too much. I forget what it cost to carry out the recommendations of the Lee Commission. If a very small percentage,—5 or 10 per cent., of what these men are earning is given back to them, it should suffice. I therefore, Sir, reiterate that I have made a case for the appointment of a committee. As to the constitution of the committee, here is some number given, but I personally am not very keen about the number. Three men I would suggest to be elected by this Assembly, three men by the Railways employees' organizations and one officer to represent the whole Government and because he will represent the whole Government, three men are not necessary. If thus a smaller committee will please better the Member to whose department this Resolution relates, if a smaller committee will please him, I certainly will have no objection. And therefore, Sir, I make this appeal. It is a bare duty we owe to the poor men who are struggling to earn their livelihood and who are earning for us as I have said crores

of rupees, it is a bare duty we owe to them to listen to what they have to say and to decide what we can do for them. I hope, Sir, I have done my best in the very limited time at my disposal to present their case. I am ready to confess that I may not have done sufficient justice to the subject which is so very wide. I am old enough to know that in this very imperfect world of ours the incapacity of the pleader damages the cause of his client. But in this House, Sir, where every Member has evinced such keen interest in railway matters and where I am sure the bulk of my Colleagues have great sympathy with the sufferings of the weak and the down-trodden, I trust that my shortcomings will not prejudice the case of these seven lakhs of men who are toiling day and night. I am appealing to the Members of this House, both official and non-official, for the better treatment of these men in order that in our own interests these men may become more contented, more hard working; so that both the efficient working of Government and our national interests may be safe in their keeping. I move this Resolution, Sir, and commend it to the most sympathetic consideration of this House.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Commerce Member): Sir, before we go any further, I wish to raise a point of order in regard to the amendments on the paper. I wish to bring to your notice, Sir, the fact that I received notice of all these amendments, except No. 2, yesterday at 2-30 P.M. Under rule 116, I am entitled to two clear days' notice of amendments. This Resolution has been for some days on the paper and I take formal objection to these six amendments on the ground that I have not received proper notice of them and because I feel that Honourable Members of this House ought to treat Members of the Government Bench with more consideration. We have a lot of work to do and we ought to have more time to prepare for amendments.

Mr. W. S. J. Willson (Associated Chambers of Commerce: Nominated Non-official): And other Members of the House.

Mr. President: The Honourable the Commerce Member has raised an objection under Standing Order No. 65 against 6 out of the 7 amendments on the paper, the exception being amendment No. 2 standing in the name of Mr. Joshi of which due notice was given on the 23rd instant. The notice in respect of the other 6 amendments was given on the 26th. I confess at once that I have some sympathy with the objection raised by the Honourable the Commerce Member, and yet I am not sure that I shall be entitled to use the discretion with which Standing Order No. 65 invests me in view of the fact that this is not a Resolution inviting the Governor General in Council to take immediate action on the different questions. It is a Resolution inviting them to institute an inquiry into them and it is quite open to the Member representing Government to say that he is prepared to consider the matters raised by the amendments though perhaps he is not prepared to commit himself to them. Therefore, I do not propose to deprive the proposers of these amendments of an opportunity of speech upon them. At the same time, I must deal with the amendments from this point of view, whether they are within the scope of the original Resolution. The first amendment standing in Dr. Lohokare's name is in order. It appears to me to entail only a slight alteration of sub-paragraph (1) of the Resolution. Mr. Joshi's is equally in order and also within the period of notice. Khan Bahadur Saifuraz Hussain Khan's amendment is also in order. The amendment standing in Lala Duni Chand's name is, I think, not in order, because the Resolution is deliberately framed to exclude from

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discussion all subjects except the grievances of subordinate employees on the Indian railways and therefore the grievances of the public against those employees are not in order in this debate. Amendment No. 5 standing in Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's name is also in order as also No. 6. Amendment No. 7 in the name of Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally is out of order in respect of the new sub-paragraph (9) which he proposes to add to the Resolution, and in respect of sub-paragraphs (10) and (11) I am not certain as to precisely what he means by the use of the words "concessions to some employees of railways". But it appears to me that whatever doubt there may be about his proposed new sub-paragraph (10) there can hardly be any doubt that the "working of refreshment rooms, dining cars and food stalls at railway stations" is rather a matter for contracts entered into by the Railway Administrations than any matter connected with the grievances of subordinate railway employees who in the ordinary course of events do not make use of these establishments. Therefore I propose in the course of the debate first of all to call upon Dr. Lohokare when the time for moving amendments comes.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): I have only to say a few words with regard to the amendment that I have sent in. My object in sending in these further heads of inquiry was to make the inquiry a perfect and comprehensive one. That was the only object I had, otherwise it may result in the appointment of another committee which will be expensive to the State. I admit, Sir, that sub-paragraphs (9) and (11) are not quite in consonance with the original Resolution, but if you are going to have an inquiry by a committee, I think the committee should once for all inquire into all matters relating to the working of the railways, make a comprehensive inquiry and save further cost to the State.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member from Karachi has used the words "all matters connected with the administration of railways." Those matters are precisely not in order here. I understand he accepts my ruling regarding the proposed new sub-paragraphs (10) and (11) and proposes to put in a plea to the Chair in favour of sub-paragraph (9). But it appears to me that if the Honourable Member were able to substantiate his contention, on which I do not pronounce, that there is corruption in the Indian railways it would not be an accusation directed against the subordinate employees but against those responsible for the administration of railways as a whole.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally: So far as the admission of corruption is concerned, we have it in our own records. In 1923 there was a question put by Dr. Nand Lal and the reply was that there was corruption.

Mr. President: In that case the Honourable Member should have used his influence with the Honourable Member from Madras to include that in his original Resolution.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally: I hope he will include it now.

Mr. President: It is too late.

Mr. E. F. Sykes (Bombay: European): My reason for intervening so early in this debate is that my experience in various grades of railway service will enable me possibly to introduce into the debate a certain degree

of proportion and possibly a little calmness which may later in the debate be necessary. In this matter of proportion I think many of the Honourable Members will have received this card referring to the grievances of railway men. I do not think that anybody who has ever occupied any responsible position in any large organisation will admit that nine lakhs of railway men have grievances. If you were to go down any assistant engineer's beat and ask him about grievances in his beat I am afraid he will say he has many needy knife-grinders. At the same time I have no intention of denying that railway subordinates like most other people have grievances. But I think it will be admitted that they are not so universal as the Honourable Mover and the gentleman who has issued this card will like to make out. I do not wish to go into the causes because I have no immediate knowledge of the specific grievances of railway subordinates, but I know generally that the railway world like all other worlds has been a great deal disturbed. I do not think that there is any profession or occupation that did not suffer from the results of the war and was not disorganised, and disorganisation and discontent mean much the same thing. Then we had the Incheape Committee. I do not want to enter into that part of the Incheape Committee's report that dealt with railways. I think there are some things there which one finds rather surprising and from what one can hear there was a certain amount of panic in the methods that were adopted to put them into force. However, in the railways as in any other occupation there are permanent causes of discontent, and there are one or two perhaps that are peculiar to railways. In the first instance, owing to facilities for supervision there are not a very large proportion of superior posts to the inferior posts and there is stagnation, I have got a pamphlet here that gives a lot of instances of stagnation. Stagnation there is I agree and you will certainly find assistant station masters stagnating at a wayside station for years, but it is rather difficult to expect the railway organisation to adapt itself to the requirements of assistant station masters. Everybody knows when he enters the railway service that there is stagnation. Further one possible reason why the stagnation is accentuated is that on the whole railway service is remarkably popular. You do not find people who once they get into it wish to get out of it. However there is no doubt that in any service where there is no great scope for promotion there will be discontent. Cases of discontent were referred to by the Honourable Mover. I do not propose to go into them in any great detail except to say that owing to the exigencies of the service it is necessary at present, in the present state of education and development, to employ men of different races in various jobs and these points cause, as we know, a considerable amount of discontent. This is a matter on which my friend Sir Campbell Rhodes will perhaps have something to say later. Further there will always be grievances that arise from excessive zeal on the part of officers and on the part of subordinates. There is another probably a worse class which arises from the indolence of the same parties. So you have got to reckon on these grievances. They are going to exist and so I think the Honourable Mover will agree with me. But when it comes to remedies, then I must part company with him. The Honourable Mover as a matter of fact went into a great deal of detail but the motion on the paper is for the appointment of a committee to consider these questions. In enumerating the grievances that can be fairly recognised among railway subordinates and many railway officers, for the matter of that, there are those that we may regard as permanent and I think it is optimism on the part of the Honourable Mover to think that these

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grievances are going to be remedied by the appointment of a committee or of any kind of inquiry because, as soon as one set has been removed, another set will have cropped up. That is inevitable. There is a further point about the remedying of these grievances. The Railway Department includes very large numbers of administrations and the conditions are very diverse. If the inquiry is conducted by a single committee it will probably find it very laborious to inquire into all the grievances that are brought before it and into the circumstances in which the aggrieved persons are working. From the point of view of the administration of railways the appointment of a committee of this nature would be extremely serious. We have only got to see this card once more. No sooner than Mr. Acharya's motion was put up, we find that nine lakhs of railwaymen have developed grievances. If a committee were constituted, as proposed by the Honourable Mover, probably it would tour the country for a couple of years during which time everything will be in a ferment and the effect on discipline, which is as important in a railway as in an army, would be very serious. Now the Honourable Member will see that I have agreed on the existence of the grievance but I differ from him on the means for remedying them. I may be asked what I propose to do in the matter. I am not quite sure whether it is my business to make any proposals of this kind but at the same time destructive criticism is always deprecated in this House, as elsewhere, and I would suggest to the Honourable Member and those who feel with him that if these grievances require any action on the part of this House they should look and see whether there are no other means of bringing about those remedies. There are a good many things that can be done. The Lee Commission made some proposals about the Public Services Commission and subsequently we heard some more about it. We may perhaps in the course of this debate expect to hear from the Government whether the Public Services Commission when it comes into existence would be in a position to deal with matters connected with railways. Perhaps they may not but short of a Public Services Commission it is a little difficult to see how any organisation except a local one will be able to deal with these grievances. The committee proposed by the Honourable Mover would not be able to deal with those things that are permanent and it will not have the local knowledge to deal with it. I should suggest that the House might inquire from the Government whether any further measures of decentralisation are possible, whether greater powers can be given to Agents so that the remedies for grievances may be not only sure but swift because after all delay in disposing of grievances constitutes an additional injustice. I think the committee proposed by the Honourable Member will fall short of requirements in that it is neither permanent, nor local, nor, and I need not produce any arguments for it, is the constitution of it one that will command a very great deal of confidence. I therefore oppose this Resolution.

Maulvi Abul Kasem (Bengal: Nominated Non-official): Sir, I do not deny that there is a good deal of force in the arguments placed before the House by the learned Mover of this Resolution. There is a real and substantial grievance of the railway employees, subordinate and superior, but I do not believe like some people that a Committee, like pills, is a remedy for all evils and will remove all grievances. I oppose the formation of a committee on the ground that the committee will not be able to remove those grievances and in the second place it will be a very expensive matter,

but mainly because there is an Advisory Railway Committee and this matter along with other matters may be referred to that committee for consideration and advice to the railway authorities. After all this committee which is proposed to be created will be an advisory committee. Why not hand over the matter for decision and inquiry to that very committee. That committee is elected by the Legislature and I believe to some extent it enjoys the confidence of this House. I have been told that some of the rules of this committee are defective and that individual members of the committee are not under the rules allowed to put forward Resolutions or to bring forward subjects which they want to be discussed. I think the rules may be amended in that respect and that will satisfy the present demands. Secondly, even if the rules are not amended or cannot be amended immediately, I think the President of the Committee may bring forward this matter for consideration by the Central Advisory Committee and that if necessary a small committee of men may be chosen from the Central Advisory Committee to inquire into the grievances of railway employees and to report the matter to the railway authorities for their consideration. That will save time, expense and, if I may say so, botheration. And I hope and trust that, though the amendments standing in the names of Lala Duni Chand and of my friend Mr. Wali Muhammad Hussanally have been ruled out of order, when the Standing Railway Committee, if my suggestion is accepted, comes to consider this question it will consider also the allied question as well. Because if we have to consider the grievances of railway employees I think the Railway Committee will be quite justified in considering the grievances of the people who have to deal with the railway employees.

Lala Duni Chand (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I see that the Honourable the President is inclined to rule my amendment out of order, but I venture to think that I am equally entitled to submit for the kind consideration of the Honourable the President that my amendment is in order. I submit that the principle underlying my amendment is exactly the same as that underlying the Resolution. There is no inconsistency or contradiction between the principle of my amendment and that of the Resolution. All that I want is to bring out prominently one aspect of the case, namely, that, when the question of the salaries, etc., of the subordinate employees of the Indian railways is considered, it should be also considered whether there is any corruption prevailing amongst a certain section of railway employees. In fact my amendment simply seeks to emphasise the reason why the demand made in the Resolution should be complied with. One of the main reasons why further concessions should be allowed to railway employees is the fact that they are so poorly paid that they cannot withstand the temptation of being corrupt. Therefore, what I submit is this that my amendment represents one side of the question, and the Resolution represents the other side of the question. I say so far as the Resolution goes it is very good, it is all right. But I submit that if this Resolution is considered the other aspect of the question should also be considered, namely, whether the public has got any grievances against the railway employees. The question underlying my amendment is closely connected with the matter of the Resolution and the two cannot be separated. The railway employees demand that they are entitled to certain concessions. I say that they are entitled to those things, but at the same time the public is also entitled to place before the Government the grievances which they feel against the subordinate employees of the railways. Assume for the sake of argument that my amendment is out of order, suppose this Resolution is passed and a committee is constituted

[Lala Duni Chand.]

to go into the whole question, and the attitude then taken up by the other side is that the employees are entitled to all their demands because they are extremely insufficiently paid and cannot resist the temptation of taking illegal gratification from the public; then I do not think it will be open to any committee to rule that kind of evidence out of order which some representatives of the public may like to produce in support of their case.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is suffering from some confusion of mind. The Mover of this Resolution had only in mind the grievances of subordinate employees of the railways and therefore that is the only question under discussion to-day. But if my Honourable friend were happy enough, or perhaps unfortunate enough, to have to undergo the labours of this inquiry he would be perfectly well entitled sitting at the table of inquiry to press that all the wages of all the employees of the railways should be raised and so place them beyond the reach of bribery and corruption. But here he is not entitled to argue it because unfortunately his Honourable friend from Madras has chosen to restrict the debate to the grievances of subordinate employees. I hope he appreciates the distinction.

Lala Duni Chand: As I see that the arguments that I have so far submitted before the Honourable the President have not convinced him, I will not pursue the matter any further. But the Honourable the President will be indulgent enough to allow me a few minutes to support the Resolution as it stands. My amendment may raise a certain amount of implication that I am in some way against this Resolution. I want to make it clear that I am whole-heartedly and fully in favour of the Resolution. In spite of the shortcomings of the railway subordinates and in spite of those things that I have attributed and rightly attributed to them, I say that they are the most deserving class of public servants. They are the people who keep awake while the rest of the world sleeps. They work while other people enjoy holidays. In most of the Departments of the Government six hours is the maximum amount of time for which work is taken from the employees. But railway subordinates are required to work not for 6 but for 8 and even 10 to 12 hours. Therefore, so far as the demands of these people are concerned, they should be generously responded to. It has always appeared most unnatural to my mind that the people who are at the top of the administration should get very fat salaries, while the poor people who are at the bottom get very very insufficient wages. I am one of those people who would like to take away good slices from the salaries of these high Government officials who are paid fat salaries, and distribute them amongst the subordinates. I am a believer in what I should call the process of levelling down the whole administration. (Hear, hear.) I do not like to see a man, perhaps an unmarried man, or even a married man with perhaps one or two children, drawing three or four thousand rupees, while another man who I think really does equally good work gets only Rs. 50 or Rs. 100. That is the policy which has been pursued under this Government and I consider that it is a most pernicious policy. I do know that there should be a certain amount of difference between the pay of the subordinates and that of the higher officers, but the contrast, the difference, should not be so great as it is. I want to place this aspect of the question for the consideration of this House. Why is it that all the officers whose case is dealt with in the Lee Commission's Report should get much more than they are entitled to, while the poor railway subordinates should be altogether neglected? If I know

that the financial condition of my country cannot afford to pay so much, I will be the first man to cut down the salaries of these people who are paid too much. So long as the present conditions are what they are, it is the duty of the Assembly that the case of these poor people should be brought prominently before the Government. I know it is only in our power to cry in this House and that it is not in our power to do anything substantial. But we should continue to cry and cry till the cry is heard and responded to.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated: Labour Interests): Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting this Resolution. Sir, the grievances of the railway employees are of various kinds and are many also. I do not propose to go over all of them in detail just now. I think the Mover of this Resolution has placed some details before this House which I feel will be quite sufficient to convince this House that these grievances are real and that they require to be removed as early as possible. I feel, Sir, that it is not difficult to make out a case that the grievances require to be investigated. It is not possible for non-official Members like myself to place all the details before this House. I shall therefore content myself by making only a few remarks about some of these grievances. As regards the salaries, naturally they vary from grade to grade. If we take the lowest grade of people, known as the inferior servants, the pointsmen and porters, their salaries vary from Rs. 8 a month to Rs. 20 a month. I hope, Sir, that there is nobody in this House who considers that this salary is sufficient for the maintenance of a family. Rs. 8 a month may be sufficient for one man, but Rs. 8 certainly will not be sufficient for maintaining a family. I know, Sir, there are people who maintain that in case of people who take up jobs like those of pointsmen and porters the women and children also work, but is it right, is it in the interests of humanity that women and children even of these poor people should give up the proper work which they should do? The children ought to go to school, and the women ought to manage the household. Sir, if you take another grade of railway employees, the station masters, their salaries vary generally from Rs. 20 a month to Rs. 80 a month at the time of retirement. This too will I hope not be considered a very high salary. I feel, Sir, if the Members of the Assembly can place themselves for a moment in the position of people who begin on Rs. 20 and end their service on Rs. 80 a month, they will realize how hard the lot of these people must be. Sir, the guards and drivers, especially the Indian guards and drivers, generally get the same salaries. There are railways on which the Indian guards begin on Rs. 20 and end their service on Rs. 50, and I am told that in the case of the Rs. 50 grade there may not be more than four or five people. But, Sir, this is not the only thing. On railways there is a practice of fining these subordinate employees, and that practice is very general. Fines of Rs. 5, fines of Rs. 10, fines of Rs. 15 are very common, and these fines are pooled into a fund. This fund is utilized for the recreation and entertainment of the better paid railway employees. I do not say that there is any rule that the fines fund should be spent for the education, recreation and entertainment of only the better paid railway staff on the railways. Moreover, Sir, I feel that if the fines fund is utilized for the entertainment and recreation of the better paid employees of the railways, there is a temptation for these better paid employees to get a good fines fund by fining the subordinate people. I therefore feel that the railway administrations should at once look into this matter, and if they at all want to have the power to levy fines on the subordinates, let the fines be credited to the general treasury of the railway instead of pooling them into a separate fines fund. I should also like to

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recommend to the railway administrations that they should spend money out of their general treasury for the recreation, education and entertainment of the railway employees. But there should be no connection between the fines fund and the entertainment of the better paid employees of the railways. Now, Sir, let us also now look to the hours of work. Generally, the railway employees have to work for about 12 hours a day. Sir, even for factory workers we have got a law that the maximum hours of work should not be more than sixty hours a week. The Government of India have accepted the convention passed at Washington as regards the hours of work, and that convention applies to some branches of railway work. I do not know what the Government of India have done to see that this convention is enforced, at least as far as they have accepted it. But, Sir, for the majority of the people on the railways the hours of work per day is twelve; and I may say that in the case of some people the hours of work are twenty-four. There are stations on branch lines where there is only one station master, and he must work for all the twenty-four hours. (Mr. W. S. J. Willson: "How many trains run on that line?") I will come to that question. Sir, my Honourable friend there asks me how many trains run on that line. There may be few trains. But, Sir, I can quote instances of station masters of these small stations having been fined and dismissed because they were not on duty. If a man, Sir, has to do duty for twenty-four hours and has to be in the station, it does not matter to him how many trains pass that station. If he is absent for five minutes, he is liable to be fined, liable to be dismissed. He has no leisure. It is easy for you to say that only a few trains go there, but when the man is always in fear of being fined and dismissed even for a moment's absence from the station, certainly he has to be on the station for twenty-four hours if he cares for his job. I am quite ready to satisfy any friend of mine here with instances of people, simply because on a particular occasion they had to leave the station or they left the station, having been fined and reduced to a lower grade. It is therefore no good saying that there are only few trains on branch lines and therefore one station master is quite sufficient and he can do duty for 24 hours. Moreover, Sir, as regards the housing conditions of these people, the Indian staff and the European staff are provided with different kinds of houses. I challenge any Member here to say whether people of the same grade do or do not get the same kind of houses. An Indian gets a worse kind of house than a European even if he belongs to the same grade. Then, Sir, there is the question of retrenchment. Thousands of people during the last two years have been dismissed from the railway service on the ground of retrenchment. Sir, if proper inquiry is made I shall be able to prove that thousands of new employees have been also taken into the railway service. Complaints have been made several times that soon after dismissal of some employees, new people practically for the same work have been re-engaged. Retrenchment has been made an instrument of economy in this way. A man is dismissed and he loses sometimes his gratuity. But, Sir, if a new man takes his place he always gets a lower salary. This is the temptation to which the railway administration falls a victim and which makes them dismiss people and employ some others in their place. Sir, if a Committee is appointed I am quite sure this point will be amply proved. Then, Sir, I would like to say one word as regards the method of dismissal on the railways. The Honourable the Mover has already said, that on the railways it is the easiest thing to dismiss an employee. No doubt he has a right of appeal; but, Sir, my experience is that the right of appeal is very seldom

allowed. If a man sends an appeal, generally the appeal is not forwarded.

4 P.M. If the appeal is forwarded, the Railway Board generally does not see any ground for interference. Sir, if a question is asked in this Assembly the Honourable the Member in charge of the Department generally tells us that he cannot interfere in the action of the railway administration. Sir, where are these poor people to get justice from? Let the railway administrations make some arrangement by which proper hearing will be given to these people before they are dismissed. But, Sir, it is not the intention of the railway administrations to give justice to their employees. For this very purpose, when a railway employee takes service an agreement is taken from him. That agreement is that his service is temporary; therefore the railway administration will always be entitled to dismiss him after a month's service or by giving him a month's salary in lieu of notice. Sir, I will just read to the House the second paragraph of the agreement which is taken from the railway employees:

"The railway servants will serve subject to the following conditions of service, namely, that such service is temporary and terminable, etc., etc."

I do not know, Sir, why the service of every railway employee should be considered temporary. I appeal to the Honourable the Commerce Member to say whether it is a good method of securing good service from your employees. Sir, the service to which he belongs and several other services want all sorts of guarantees. They are not content with the guarantees given by the people of India or the Legislative Assembly. They want guarantees from the Secretary of State and from Parliament. I should like to know whether these poor railway employees need some guarantee or not, and whether it is proper that an agreement should be taken from them that the services of every one of them should be considered temporary. Is it a proper method of treating your employees? Sir, this is the case of the monthly rated men; but on the railways there are thousands of people who are considered to be daily rated. Not that they serve the railways casually like day labourers. They serve the railway administration for years together, perhaps till the end of their lives, but still their service will be regarded as the service of daily rated men. This is very useful to the railway administration. Some concessions as regards leave and provident fund and other things are given to the monthly rated men, and in order that these concessions should not be given to all poor labourers and artisans, they are generally treated as daily rated men, so that they should not be given leave or even if they are given leave, that they should be given only a very small amount of leave. I do not know, Sir, why Government should treat people who serve in their workshops all their lives, for 20, 25 or even 30 years, as daily rated men. I hope the Government of India will inquire into this question, and if people are serving in their workshops for years together, for 20 and 25 years, let them be treated as permanent servants and not even as monthly rated or daily rated men.

Mr. President: I may observe that the Honourable Member has exhausted his time and further that, as he will have another opportunity of speaking on his own amendment, I think I had better enforce the time limit strictly on this occasion and call upon another Member to speak.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If you will let me, Sir, I will finish in a very short time. Shall I have another opportunity?

Mr. President: I may point out to the Honourable Member that I cannot help giving him a further opportunity!

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Commerce Member): Sir, I may say at once that I regard this as a thoroughly dangerous Resolution. For the last two and a half years our relations with our men have been on the whole very good indeed. As is bound to happen with a labour force of 700,000 men we have of course had occasional disputes now and then; but these disputes have on the whole been easily settled and you may say that for 2½ years the railways have been free from any serious labour trouble. Now I regard that as proof that our railway servants are, generally speaking, happy and contented and the reason for that contentment is that in 1919-20, we gave all the railway servants in India a very liberal increase of pay and since then prices have tended to fall. Now, partly as the result of these favourable relations with our men, our railway prospects I think I may say are for the moment favourable. You all know that a short time ago for about 2 years we were a charge upon the State; we were not able to pay even our interest charges. Last year we paid you from the Railways, over and above our interest charges, 6½ crores of rupees. This year we have undertaken a very heavy obligation. We have undertaken to pay 519 lakhs of rupees, and that contribution increases year after year. Just as we have undertaken that obligation, just as we have entered upon a new order of things, my friend Mr. Acharya selects this very moment to throw an apple of discord between the railway administrations and their men. I know that Mr. Acharya is not the real culprit. I could see that from his speech, from a certain vagueness, I may say, in his remarks. You will note that he admitted to us that he did not draft the Resolution. I have here, Sir, a very interesting document which throws some light upon the origin of this Resolution. It is dated "Servants of India Society's Home". I may at once reassure Mr. Joshi.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know how the Honourable Member came by that document?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I may at once reassure Mr. Joshi that this is not part of the machinations of my Honourable friend the Leader of the House. We do not in any way intercept his correspondence. But what happened was that this letter was addressed to the Secretary of a certain railway union. Now, Sir, we all know that many of these railway unions have a temporary existence and frequently fade out of existence altogether. In this particular railway union, that is exactly what had happened. There was no such person as the secretary of the railway union and it was delivered to the railway administration. It was opened by a railway clerk and the Agent found it upon his table next morning; he read it with some surprise and sent it to the Railway Board with the dry remark "This is the way that railway grievances are manufactured." Let me read the letter:

"DEAR SIR,

I am sending you herewith a copy of a Resolution drafted by me and which I propose to move during the next session of the Legislative Assembly if I get an opportunity to do so. But before I gave notice of this Resolution I feel it may be useful for me to consult you regarding the terms of the Resolution as well as regarding the desirability of moving it at this time. Kindly let me know if you can suggest any change in the Resolution. I also want to know whether you will supply me at an early date with the necessary information regarding the subject. You may be able to give detailed information regarding each grievance so that the case may be included in it."

(*An Honourable Member:* "Signed by whom?") "N. M. Joshi." Sir, in the days of my innocence I used to regard Mr. Joshi as a really responsible labour Member of this House, as a man who believed that the way to improve labour conditions was to work with the employers and not against them. But, Sir, I am afraid that that letter must make me revise my conclusions. I think that Mr. Joshi may have been studying science at his Servants' Home. I am aware that it is a common scientific method first to frame your hypothesis and then to proceed to prove it. That may apply to a cold and aloof science like astronomy, but let me tell Mr. Joshi that it is an extremely dangerous method to apply to the difficult and delicate relations between master and man. (*An Honourable Member:* "Who is the master?") Sir, what is his proposal? It is proposed to set up a roving commission composed mostly of people with very little knowledge of railway administration—indeed I may say of managing men at all. It is proposed to set up this commission to wander about our railways and to nose about 700,000 men and find out whether they have got any grievances. Now, Sir, what must be the inevitable result of a commission of that kind? Mr. Acharya said that we ought not to drive our railway men to discontent. Sir, if you send this commission round about our 700,000 railway employees, most of whom are illiterate men, that is the very way to excite them to discontent. What will they regard the commission as? They will regard the commission as an automatic machine for raising their pay. Now we all want more pay; I want it myself. (*An Honourable Member:* "You have got it.") But I want more. If you appoint this Commission the men will apply for more pay. The mere fact that this commission has been appointed will excite their hopes and will create general unrest; and when their hopes are disappointed their discontent will become greater still. So I say without hesitation that the mere discussion of this Resolution is a very bad thing indeed, and it would be fatal if this House passed the Resolution.

You are bound to create a general labour unrest among the biggest labour force in India and that unrest will not stop with the railways; it will spread to all other forces of labour in this country. It will set caste against caste, community against community, man against master, and it will throw back our railways for years to come. I should just like to draw the attention of the House to the terms of this very extraordinary Resolution. There is a very long list of grievances in this Resolution and I regret that time will not permit me to deal in detail with every one of these grievances. I do not pitch my claim too high; as Mr. Sykes said, in every large labour force of this kind you are bound to have grievances. But my point is that, even if there are grievances, a roving commission is not the right way to remedy them; and what is more I claim that in the matter of wages and general conditions of service, railway servants are as well off as, and probably better off than, any other large labour force in this country, and I propose to prove that statement. I have just told the House that in 1919-20 we gave very liberal increases of pay to all railway servants in India. Now, that is not a mere figure of speech. In 1921, in response to certain representations made to us we appointed, not a railway officer, but an expert officer of the Finance Department, to examine the increases of pay we had given to all the railways and report whether those increases were adequate or whether we should give more. That officer reported to us that his deliberate opinion was that we had treated railway servants more generously than any other class of Government servants. That was in 1919-20 and since then it is a matter of

[Sir Charles Innes.]

common knowledge that prices have fallen. Let me give you some statistics. I cannot go into the matter in very much detail. For purposes of prices let me take the latest *Labour Gazette* published in Bombay which I picked up the other day. It is dated December 1924. The cost of living index number shows that, taking food grains, the amount purchasable per rupee was less than the amount purchasable in July 1914 by the following percentages: Rice 26; wheat 22, jowar 26; bajri 26. The actual percentage of increase of prices according to the above figures since July 1914 was: Rice 35, wheat 28, jowar 35, bajri 35. Now, as a result of the investigations of that officer, I have a statement here which shows that in 1920 our staff was costing us 52 per cent. more than it cost us in 1913-14; a small amount of that increase may be due to an actual increase of staff, but the greater part of the increase was due to the increase of wages which we gave in 1920. We have increased the wages of our men, taking it broad and large, by 50 per cent. If you consider that whenever you have a reorganisation of pay you always deal far more liberally with the lower-paid men than with the higher paid men, that will show that the actual increase as given to the lower paid men was very much greater than 50 per cent., and I have got figures here to prove it. I just take at random certain figures. In the North-Western Railway the pay of the watermen. Head Office in 1913-14 was Rs. 7; in 1919-20 it was Rs. 15, and an increase of pay over a hundred per cent. I have got many instances of that kind; but I will give them by percentages. In the increases of pay to menials on the North-Western Railway the maximum was 167 per cent.; on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway it was 158 per cent.; on the East Indian Railway 200 per cent.; on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway 200 per cent. on the Eastern Bengal Railway 156 per cent. on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway 134 per cent. and on the South Indian Railway 88 per cent. (A Voice: "And on the Bengal and North-Western?") That is not a Government railway, Sir. Then, again, let me take the increases of pay given to men on pay of less than Rs. 50. On the North-Western Railway the actual increase of pay varied from 51 to 78 per cent.; on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway from 44 to 156 per cent.; on the East Indian Railway from 33½ to 112½ per cent.; on the Bengal Nagpur Railway from 26 to 93 per cent.; on the Eastern Bengal Railway from 31 to 130 per cent.; on the Great Indian Peninsula and Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railways from 50 to 73 per cent.; on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway from 25 to 66½ per cent.

Now, Sir, I have shown that, taking the figures in the *Labour Gazette*, the prices of food grains in December 1924 were something like 30 per cent. greater than they were in July 1914, and I have shown that in 1919-1920 we increased the pay of our men roughly by 50 per cent. all round and by a great deal more in the case of the lower paid subordinates. But the story does not end there. You have got to remember that we have done a great deal more for our railway servants than merely give them an increase in their pay. What is it that the poor man feels the increased price of, I ask my Bombay friends. They will give me an answer at once; it is cloth, is it not? Well, Sir, the price of cloth has gone up probably more than that of any other article. Now a large percentage of our railway staff receive substantial aid in this matter. Drivers, shunters, firemen, guards, assistant station masters, station masters, ticket collectors, in fact all running and station staff are provided with uniforms. Linemen

and others are provided with warm coats. We give housing accommodation to a large proportion of our railway staff, and all our staff get their travelling absolutely free. The increase in the third class passenger fares which my friend Mr. Joshi stresses so much, when he is not talking about the grievances of the subordinate employees, does not hit them at all. We give them medical attendance free.

Now, Sir, I think that I have proved taking the railway staff as a whole, the grievance of which Mr. Acharya has made so much, boils down to very little. We have given our men a very liberal increase of pay, a much greater increase than the rise in the cost of living would warrant, and in addition we give them numerous benefits, clothing, housing accommodation, free medical attendance and the like.

Now let me just read a sentence or two from the report of the expert of the Finance Department, to which I have already referred:

"I did not commence the investigation as the result of which this note has been written with the object of trying to prove that railway servants had received more than others. My endeavour was to get at the truth. . . . It has surprised me more perhaps than it will surprise some of those who read this note to find how much really has been done in recent years—at, of course, enormous cost, present and prospective, to the State—to make the lives of railway servants easier and their prospects brighter. I am absolutely convinced that though there still may be isolated cases in which further concession is permissible, as much has been done for these men as a body as they can in reason demand."

That was written in 1921, and since then, as I have said, prices have fallen.

As I have said, I have no intention of going through the long list of grievances. I think that every one will agree that what the men think most of is the amount of pay they get, and I have shown that in the matter of pay I do not believe that railway servants as a body have any grievances at all.

Let me just refer to the question of hours of work, of which Mr. Joshi complained. For the history of the matter, as Mr. Joshi himself said, we have to go back to the Washington Conference. At that Conference Mr. Joshi was present. The Conference appointed a Committee to consider this question of hours of labour, and my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi was a member of that Committee. This Committee pointed out as follows:

"In India conditions do not approximate to anything which is known in the western world . . . and that conditions in India are not such as to make easy in the immediate future the application of western standards in the restriction of working hours."

That was Mr. Joshi's own report,—at any rate, he signed it. Consequently, the Convention contains an Article which specially refers to India. It is as follows:—

"In British India the principle of a 60-hour week shall be adopted for all workers in industries at present covered by the Factories Act administered by the Government of India, and in such branches of railway work as may be specified for this purpose by the competent authority."

That is to say, while the Indian Labour Organization did not recommend less than a 60-hour week for ordinary factories, they left it to us to decide whether we could properly apply even this recommendation to railway labour. That was Mr. Joshi's own recommendation. He says that a majority of the railway servants work something like 12 hours a day. That is not true. We have applied the 60-hour week to all our railway workshops which are governed by the Factories Act. We have applied it to all our clerical staff. He says that we have not applied it to the running staff. That is true, but we are within the terms of the convention.

[Sir Charles Innes.]

Now, just let me refer to this question about the poor station master who works for 24 hours a day. That poor station master is generally a station master at a small wayside station. He has a nice little house, close to the railway station and he has to come twice or four times a day to the railway station in order to let a train through. This is all, and Mr. Joshi calls it 24 hours work a day.

Then again my friend Mr. Acharya gave some very heart-rending stories about provident funds, dismissals and forfeiture of deposits. I would like the House to realise what nonsense it all is. Let me give him some figures. Last year 8 Railways distributed 82½ lakhs in provident fund bonuses. They withheld on account of dismissals Rs. 25,000. Sir, railways withheld their provident fund bonuses from 28 men of over 5 years' service. 17 of these men were implicated in thefts, two were dismissed for misbehaving with women, one was dismissed for being found drunk, and two were dismissed for taking bribes. Now I ask the House whether there is anything to complain of in those figures. Mr. Acharya also referred to the question of gratuities. These gratuities are supposed to be a reward for good, faithful and continuous service. The railway staff, I agree, had a grievance when we treated absence on strike as a break in the continuity of their service. That grievance has been remedied, and now I say they have no grievance if we do not give them their gratuity if the Agent cannot honestly say that their service was faithful or efficient or good.

Sir, I do not want to go any further into details, but I am just going to take one more general objection to this Resolution. My first objection, as I told the House, is that it would be absolutely fatal if this House, were to appoint at this time this Commission to wander about India and call railway men to come before them with their grievances. If you do this, I guarantee that you will have strikes on every Railway and you will throw back trade and commerce. Again, let me advise those who are anxious to get the third class passenger fares reduced to be careful about passing this Resolution. It will start fresh labour unrest. Once you get your railway men to believe that if they want a rise in their pay, they have merely to apply to this House, then good-bye to any chance of running your railways in an efficient and economical manner. And if you do not run your railways in an efficient and economical manner, you yourself will pay in higher fares and in higher goods rates, and it will ruin in every possible way the prosperity of this country.

There is one other general objection which I have got to take. This is a more delicate matter. I am aware that a democratic Assembly invariably tries to get details of administration into its own hands. It is my business to try to prevent that. I do not like doing it. You will no doubt call me a stiff-necked bureaucrat for attempting to do it. But the experience of every democratic country in the world shows that, if the democratic Assembly gets its own way and if it gets details of administration of Railways into its own control, then the game is up. Your railways inevitably must be a charge upon the State instead of paying money to the State. You paralyse the efficiency of your Agents. How is the Agent going to do his work? How is he going to control his staff if he knows that at every attempt to punish a clerk or station master that station master or clerk is going to a Member of the Assembly and is going to try and have pressure put upon him in that way? That is the way to paralyse the efficiency of your railways and moreover

you are going to corrupt your own Assembly. You are going to corrupt your own politicians. To-day we have seen the results of this Resolution. Mr. Acharya moves it. It is down in the papers. He at once gets letters from a gentleman writing and saying: This is my case, cannot you do something for me. I do not for a moment suggest that Mr. Acharya had any improper notice in bringing that matter before this House. It is only natural nowadays that Members of the Assembly should not object when disgruntled constituents of theirs come before them and ask them to take action in this Assembly. But, Sir, where is it going to end? If it is going to be known that, if you come to the Assembly, individual Members will get power in that way, what is going to be the effect on this Assembly itself? Let me remind you what I have often said in this House and what is said by Sir William Acworth in his book, if you start allowing the Legislature to interfere in the details of railway administration, politics will corrupt the railways and railways will corrupt politics. And I do hope, Sir, that whatever the Members of this Assembly may feel about individual grievances upon the railways—as I say there may be some—I do hope that you will take your stand against this Resolution, that you will have nothing to do with it and that you will express your agreement with me that if grievances exist, a roving commission of this kind is not the way to remedy them.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the case of this Resolution has just been objected to by the Honourable Member opposite. His main objection is that this sort of Resolution will firstly create discontent in the staff. This will be the instrument on account of which it will be very difficult to conduct the administration and it will be the first seed of further strikes and discontent. I am afraid I have to give the Honourable Member an idea of what things actually are in the railway service. Mr. Joshi has just been accused of manufacturing the Resolution. But, so far as my knowledge goes of the railway service, amongst whom I had been one formerly, I know so many of their grievances, so much discontent, that Mr. Joshi must have promised by this Resolution to organise a constitutional effort of redress of their grievances without having anything to do with their ebullitions of discontent and other feelings. If Mr. Joshi has done anything, I think he has given them the proper remedy by putting in a circular by which he directed their attention to constitutional methods of work rather than doing things which are perhaps wrong even. So the Resolution, instead of creating any discontent in the rank and file of the railway service, will I think teach them the proper method of getting their grievances redressed. The second objection is that the railway administration will corrupt politics and politics will corrupt the railway administration. It is not the whole of the railway administration, Sir, that we have been taking into consideration; it is only the subordinate staff. And as this subordinate staff is a part and parcel of the population of India, I think it is no sin that the Legislative Assembly Members may have taken their case down to this floor because they did not find redress anywhere else. If this is a sin that is going to put politics into conflict with the railway administration I am sorry the case is misunderstood. On the other hand, if it does anything, it will set not only the railway administration but the Legislative Assembly Members even on their proper track in putting any questions regarding individual servants and other persons. If once the general lines have been laid down, there will be no opportunity of creating individual disturbances and putting individual cases for being heckled here before the official Benches. So if they at all want to avoid that sort of

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thing, I think it is much better for them to put on definite lines the practice of the administration which deals with the services.

The second argument in regard to the futility of the Resolution has just been advanced in terms of price levels. The index of the cost of living in 1914 was 100 and now it is 160 and a comparison of pay in 1914 and 1920 is the argument. I beg to invite the attention of the House to one fundamental fact in referring to these figures; that wages scarcely follow the rise in prices. If you compare the index figure for 1895 and the rate of pay in 1895 with the rate of pay they got in 1919 and the price index I am afraid I shall have sufficiently answered the Honourable Member's argument. Now, in 1895 the starting pay in railways was Rs. 15. Was it adjusted in 1914 according to the standard of prices then? That is my first question. If it was not adjusted, the adjustment in 1919 was long overdue. The adjustment in 1919 was simply a result of the adjustment which was due in 1913-14 already. The adjustment in 1920 does not satisfy the case that they were sufficiently paid then. Secondly, the question of the percentage of rise in the starting and the maximum pay of the railway services is still on the same lines. A man drawing Rs. 15 to start with in the railway subordinate service has now only to start on Rs. 20, or at most in some cases on Rs. 25. That means he is only increasing his start by 60 per cent. If we take the start of Rs. 15 that used to prevail in 1895, the first basis as it were, and if we compare it with the prices of 1895 and the prices to-day, I am afraid the theory that the wages have not followed the prices prevails here too and consequently the argument of the railway servants having been paid according to the rise in prices falls to the ground.

(At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair, which was taken by Mr. Deputy President.)

I leave the other things and come direct to my amendment. My amendment proposes to put in place of clause (1) of the original Resolution the words "Methods of recruitment, rates of pay or wages, service conditions, punishments including fines and removal from service, and disposal of fines funds." At this stage I may state that it was only on Saturday night that I got a copy of the agenda for to-day. Sunday was a holiday and I am sorry I troubled the Honourable Member in charge by sending the amendment too late. But I beg to point out that this difficulty was not of my own make. I got the agenda on Saturday night, the office was closed on Sunday. I drafted the amendment and posted it on Sunday only but the office having been opened only on Monday he got it only 24 hours earlier. The delay therefore is not of my making. The wording of my amendment is "methods of recruitment." Sir, methods of recruitment have much to do with the satisfactory conditions of service in the railways and if properly laid down they leave no room for favouritism. I shall give instances to support my contention. Government try to lay down the standards of qualifications for employment in various departments under their control. Is there anything like that in the railways? Let me take the engineering department of the railways, or rather what you call the transport department in these days. In the engineering department persons with acknowledged qualifications are to this day never admitted. If a man wants to get in even as a permanent way inspector the railway administration would think more of a man who has served as a time-keeper than of a man who is actually qualified. The Government engineering department want at least the sub-overseer's qualification for being entrusted with engineering

work. The railway departments want nothing of the kind. I do not know if that is the keynote of the whole railway administration in India, making the railway departments spend unnecessarily heavily upon the working and administration of the railways. If properly qualified persons are put in proper places I think the railway departments will gain, the people of India will gain and the employees, that is, the shareholders of the railways, will get a good return from the work that will be expected of such subordinates. But the methods that are followed even to this day are absolutely such as to leave every room for favouritism and corruption everywhere in employing men. I mean to say that if they had introduced some sort of system or certain qualifications for certain branches and then made the selection of employees I would have nothing to say about it. At present a fad of selection is going on. Selection! selection! selection! and no qualification at all is required. If you have a certain examination and then selection, it will be something—I mean to say a certain standard is absolutely necessary. Similarly, in the case of mechanical engineering appointments Government require a person who wishes to take charge of a boiler or machinery to pass the boilers' certificate examination or a mechanical engineering examination. In the case of the railways nothing of the kind is necessary and any man may be put in charge anywhere, so that there is absolutely every room for favouritism. In order to avoid this favouritism and give proper scope for the energies of the people, it is absolutely necessary that all these branches of our subordinate railway service should have some standard of recruitment. The second point I put in here is punishment. At the time of the Provident Funds Bill I explained my case as regards punishments. I will give you an illustration now. In 1921 the District Traffic Superintendent, Belgaum, dispensed with the services of not less than 30 people for the sake of retrenchment. I have here questions in my name, Nos. 513, 514 and 515, giving some of these cases. In order to find money for retrenchment and put in new persons he asked them to resign. He said, "If you do not resign I will dismiss you." By this the men lost their gratuity and thus money was found for retrenchment. This is a case in which I really feel that there should be a judicial hearing or some such method before such a step is taken. I mean to say that the method of punishment in the railways ought to have some form—put it in any form you like, in any way you choose without any detriment to the interests of the employer. I shall never question that there is always the paramount interest of the employer, the shareholder and the Government in the railways, but at the same time I feel that there should be a judicial hearing of these cases. No such system prevails now and the same unsatisfactory manner in which these cases were dealt with in the days when I worked in the railways still continues. That is why I want that these cases of punishment should be properly dealt with according to a certain code if the Committee to be appointed deems it desirable.

The last thing I come to is the disposal of the fines funds. I know that there will be objection raised to this, but I beg to inquire if the fines fund, as Mr. Joshi said, is not used for the entertainment of persons getting high salaries. Let the railways if they so like, set apart a separate fund for the entertainment of highly paid officials, but why should the railways spend money out of the fines fund for the recreation of highly paid officials? The fines fund is not utilised for the education of the menial staff or their children or for giving amelioration to the lot of the low-paid labourer. If the railway administrations are so inclined, let them found a certain fund known as the Entertainment Fund out of which they can lavishly entertain their

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highly paid officials, but why do they use the fines fund, which is made up of the fines levied from the low-paid staff for the recreation of highly paid officials and thus create an inducement in the minds of the higher paid officials to levy more fines from the low paid staff? Moreover, this use of the fines fund causes heartburning in the minds of the low-paid staff who think, "A fine of four annas was deducted from my pay yesterday and with that amount these big people are making a *tamasha* out of it." This is keenly felt by the low-paid men and that is why I have put in my amendment in place of item (1) of Mr. Acharya's Resolution. I hope the Hon-ourable Mover as well as the House will accept my amendment.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved:

"That for clause (1) of the Resolution the following be substituted:

'(1) methods of recruitment, rates of pay or wages, service conditions, punishments including fines and removal from service, and disposal of fines funds.'"

Mr. M. K. Acharya: I am willing to accept it, if you will permit me.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is that that amendment be made. The motion was adopted.

Sir Campbell Rhodes (Bengal: European): I do not wish to enlarge on the question of discipline which has been so ably dealt with from first-hand knowledge by my friend Mr. Sykes. But I should like to emphasise one point. Circumstances have brought me into very close connection with railway management both in India and in England and I have also had the honour of presiding over a railway conciliation committee. To my mind the successful working of any railway system depends on something more than discipline, though discipline is the foundation of it. I mean *esprit de corps*. The amalgamation of the London and North-Western Railway and the Midland Railway in England did not produce the economies that were anticipated and the cause has been put down by experts to the fact that *esprit de corps* has been destroyed between the competing lines. We are threatened with the same dangers here under State management and it must be our care to do all we can not to jeopardise but rather to increase this *esprit de corps* on the railways. For an *esprit de corps* depends, as Sir Charles Innes has said, the prosperity of the country, the prosperity of the railways and also I might add the safety of the millions of passengers who travel. It can be disturbed in two ways, from the bottom and from the top; from the bottom, as Sir Charles Innes has amply shown, by Resolutions such as this. It can be disturbed from the top if the heads of the railway administrations do not feel that they have wholeheartedly behind them not only the Commerce Member but also the Railway Advisory Committee. The watch word of every successful business is "Trust your manager wholeheartedly or sack him."

But I do want, as Mr. Sykes said, to say a word about the Anglo-Indians on the railways in India. There appears to be an idea that they are specially favoured. Nothing could be farther from the truth. They are not specially favoured but they have been found specially suitable for certain tasks on the railways during the last three quarters of a century. The Mover of this Resolution says that this is merely a theory. I could show him photographs indicating the work undertaken by some of these Anglo-Indians at the risk of their lives during the recent floods, work which I personally should not like to have undertaken. They have

an extraordinary ability for coming up to the scratch in an emergency. In my office I have had the same experience. I find that it is necessary to employ a certain number of Anglo-Indians on special tasks and I do it because I find it pays me to do so. There is nothing unique or strange in this. India draws its armies from one community, its business men from others. Certain communities have a *penchant* for law and certain communities even for politics. Our motto with so many communities in India must be "From each according to his powers, to each according to his needs." Quite recently Sir Malcolm Hailey told the Anglo-Indian community in the Punjab that they were not suited as a community for peasant proprietorship. They doubtless went away disappointed, but Sir Malcolm was right. It is useless and wasteful to the State to put round pegs into square holes. It will lead to the grossest inefficiency if we do not retain our square pegs in square holes. During December, Sir, I took a keen interest in the Anglo-Indian Unemployment Committee in Calcutta. I can assure the House that the conditions are heart-rending. Men whose only offence is that they have done their bit in the war are living with their families, not living but merely existing, under conditions which if they were Indians would bring down all the eloquence at Mr. Joshi's command. It is neither just to the railways nor just to the community that they should be deprived of work for which they are eminently suited. It is sad that for them and for them alone the Reform scheme seems to offer nothing but disillusionment and despair. Admittedly they have at times been badly led. Admittedly there are black sheep in every flock. They do not know, and that has been one of their difficulties in the past, whether to throw in their lot with the Indian or the European. They do not realise, this House itself does not realise that it is a dead issue and what the first fruits of the Reforms have really been. Some thought that the Reforms meant that the British were leaving India. Even to-day few recognise that the first effect of the Reforms has been to cause my community to take deeper root in the country than ever before. For never before were we called upon, with our Indian fellow subjects, to take an active part in the Government of the country. Five years ago would our Carters, our Darcy Lindsay, our Willsons, our Flemings, be devoting their well-earned leisure to the political interests of the community at large? I think not. Even the Government themselves hardly seem to realise the fact judging by the silence, I do not use strong words, Sir, and therefore I will not say the contemptuous silence, even from criticism, in their latest publication "India in 1923-24" presented under authority and with the general approval of the Secretary of State regarding the honest work of our community in the Central and the Provincial Councils. I feel confident that our friends on this side of the House, however we may at times differ from them, will not endorse the apparent view of the Government trumpeter that we are of no use to the State and are here merely to waste our time and yours. The Reforms have brought us all closer together and when the dust of conflict dies down I think we shall realise the fact. It will be illustrated in half an hour's time in another place. It will be illustrated once more outside these walls to-morrow, after the futile strife of tongues in the Assembly has died down for the night.

Mr. T. C. Goswami: What has this got to do with the Resolution?

Sir Campbell Rhodes: The Anglo-Indian Community, misunderstanding and misunderstood, must take its part amongst us. This House has yet to realise

Mr. T. C. Goswami: I must really protest that all this is out of order. I do not think that whatever he has got to do to square up or promise Colonel Gidney has anything to do with the matter before us. He cannot make this an occasion for it.

Sir Campbell Rhodes: Before you give your ruling I wish to say. . . .

Mr. Deputy President: I have no doubt about my ruling. The Resolution concerns railway employees and Anglo-Indians are railway employees.

Sir Campbell Rhodes: The Anglo-Indian community, Sir, misunderstanding and, as we have seen from my Honourable friend, misunderstood, must take its part amongst us. This House has yet to realize that it is the trustee of the Anglo-Indian community as it must be the trustee of all minorities if it is to impress the Indian and British public with its sense of responsibility and its capacity to assume greater powers when the time comes for the Reforms to be reconsidered. And its trusteeship of the Anglo-Indian community is especially borne in upon us by the fact that of the Anglo-Indians alone can it be said that they are the blood relations of every community practically in this House. I appeal therefore to the House to take a larger, a generous and a just view of its responsibilities and to keep this community on the rails until it has reached that station in the political and economic life of the nation which all at heart must wish it to occupy.

The debate was adjourned.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 28th January, 1925.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 28th January, 1925.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CASE OF MR. KAILASHNATH, ASSISTANT STATION MASTER, BENARES CANTONMENT.

353. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Is it a fact that Mr. Kailashnath, assistant station master, Benares Cantonment, was granted 22 months' leave and after he had availed himself of two months' leave, the rest of his leave was cancelled and he was discharged from the service without assigning any reason?

Mr. G. G. Sim: As stated in my reply to a similar question No. 318 by Maulvi Muhammad Yakub, Government are inquiring into the matter and will let the Honourable Member know the result.

PAY OF STATION MASTERS AND ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS AT ROADSIDE STATIONS ON THE O. AND R. RAILWAY.

354. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Is it a fact that formerly on the O. and R. Ry. the difference in pay of the station masters and assistant station masters on roadside stations was Rs. 5 only and after the revised scale came into force, the difference increased to Rs. 20, that is the maximum pay of a station master of "A" class was raised to Rs. 75 and that of an assistant station master to Rs. 55. What responsibility of the assistant station master has been reduced that the pay has been raised to such a low scale?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given yesterday to Maulvi Muhammad Yakub on a similar question.

PROMOTION OF INDIAN STATION MASTERS ON THE O. AND R. RAILWAY.

355. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Is it a fact that about 500 assistant station masters after reaching the maximum of their grade, have to wait for promotions for years? Will the Government please state how their promotions will be regulated with a few higher class stations?

(b) Is it a fact that while hundreds of Indian "A" class station masters are waiting for promotions to higher grades, the Railway Administration stopped their promotion by reverting many of the "B" class stations to "A" and "C" class stations to "B" class whereas Anglo-Indian and European station masters have not been affected in any way?

(c) Is it a fact that several junction stations are classified special class for providing Anglo-Indian or European station masters whereas booking and parcel clerks of these stations are granted in "A" class. Why are the clerks not given the advantage of drawing the pay according to the class of stations?

(d) Is it a fact that many "A" class Indian station masters on the O. and R. Railway, who are drawing Rs. 75, have been served with retirement notice? Is it a fact that they have been serving the railway for more than 35 years to the entire satisfaction of the authorities? If so, why were these senior station masters not given a lift for their faithful continuous services in class "B" "C" or "D" and so on?

(e) Is it a fact that "9" per cent. of the stations on the O. and R. Railway are classified as "A" and the station masters after reaching the maximum of the class, wait for promotions for years? Will the Government please state how the promotions of these station masters will be regulated with a less percentage of higher class stations?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) to (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to a similar question by Maulvi Muhammad Yakub.

APPEAL OF BABU RAJARAM, STATION MASTER, O. AND R. RAILWAY.

356. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Is it a fact that Mr. M. S. Scott O'Connor, Traffic Manager, O. and R. Railway, who recorded the statement of Babu Rajaram, station master, at the inquiry omitted to record important points and the Agent filed the appeal of Babu Rajaram without taking any notice of this fact?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The reply is in the negative.

PAY OF BRAKESMEN ON RAILWAYS.

357. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Is it a fact that when the Free Service Brakesmen were appointed to receive and deliver dak at stations, they were in receipt of a salary of Rs. 36 and since the system is abolished, the same work in addition to brakesmen's duty is entrusted to the brakesmen whereas the scale of the brakesmen is from Rs. 16—2—28? Will Government please state when the brakesmen are doing both the duties whether it is proposed to raise their scale of pay to Rs. 36.

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Government cannot answer the Honourable Member's question as he does not say to which railway he refers. In any case they do not interfere in matters of this kind. They presume the Agent gets men of the numbers and class required for the rate of pay offered.

RENEWAL OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE O. AND R. RAILWAY UNION.

358. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Is it a fact that certain facts regarding corruption and bribery were brought to the notice of the administration through the *Weekly Mazdoor* which caused the Agent, O. and R. Railway, to withdraw the official recognition of the O. and R. Railway Union and thereby withdraw the passes of the workers on the alleged ground that the tone and character of the official organ of the Union is calculated to impair the relation between the administration and the staff and generally to undermine the authority of the administration?

(b) Is it a fact that the General Secretary of the Union challenged the administration to prove that the allegations are incorrect and based on rumour but the administration refused to look into the papers which were available?

(c) Is it a fact that when a strike was threatened by the employees in June last the Agent of the Railway agreed to restore the recognition on certain terms which were sent to the Union through Mr. Inglis, Superintendent of Police, Lucknow and the Executive Committee of the Union accepted the terms without any amendment? If so, why was the recognition not restored? Will Government be pleased to inquire from the Superintendent of Police, Lucknow, if this fact is not correct?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) No. Recognition was withdrawn because the attitude of the Union as evidenced in their official organ was calculated to impair the relations between the administration and the staff and to undermine the authority of the administration.

(b) A representation was made to the Agent as stated, but the facts in the principal allegations had already been examined and in others were found to be devoid of foundation.

(c) For the information of the staff the Agent in reply to a petition mentioned certain conditions under which he was prepared to recommend to the Railway Board that recognition should be renewed. No offer was then or since made to the Union.

SCALES OF PAY OF INDIAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN OR EUROPEAN ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS.

359. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Is it a fact that the promotions of qualified Indian assistant station masters are restricted to "D" class whereas unqualified Anglo-Indian and European assistant station masters are given a lift to "E" and "F" class. Further is it a fact that at junction stations out of three assistant station masters one Indian is getting "C" or "D" class scale of pay whereas two Anglo-Indian or European assistant station masters are getting "E" or "F" class scale of pay? When the nature of the duty and responsibility of all these assistant station masters are equal, and each performs eight hours duty, why is not equal pay given for equal work?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to a similar question by Maulvi Muhammad Yakub.

REPRESENTATIONS OF THE INDIAN MATCH MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

360. ***Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether a deputation of the Indian Match Manufacturers' Association waited upon the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett at Calcutta on the 18th December last? If so, what representations did the said deputation make to him and what actions are the Government taking thereon?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The deputation in question was received by the Honourable the Finance Member and myself in conjunction. The representations made by the deputation were mainly to the effect that an excise duty should be imposed on matches manufactured in factories financed by foreign capitalists, but that factories financed by Indian capitalists should be exempt from the payment of such a duty. The Government do contemplate action on such lines.

ATTEMPTS AT TRAIN WRECKING IN NORTH BENGAL.

361. ***Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray:** On how many occasions had train wrecking attempts been made in North Bengal during the year 1924 and with what results on each particular occasion; and on how many occasions have the culprits been apprehended and punished?

Mr. G. G. Sim: On the Eastern Bengal Railway seven attempts were made. One of the attempts resulted in the derailment of No. 1 Up Darjeeling mail train, causing damage to the permanent way and rolling stock to the extent of about Rs. 2,700. Another attempt resulted in the engine of No. 11 passenger train being slightly damaged. In regard to the other five attempts the action of the culprits was detected, before any train had passed over the portion of the line affected.

Out of the seven attempts, in one case a boy was found guilty, and his guardian executed a bond; in two cases no clues were found; in another case a warrant has been issued for the arrest of the suspected person; the other three cases are still under police investigation.

On the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway there were four instances of stones being placed up on the line, but in each case the stones were discovered in time to prevent accidents. All the cases were reported to the police, but the culprits were not detected.

ALLOWANCES AND COMFORTS OF DÉTÉNUS IN BENGAL.

362. ***Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray:** What arrangements as regards supply of food, warm clothing and bedding have been made, and what allowances are being paid to each particular détenu, who has been arrested either under the Bengal Regulation III of 1818 or the Bengal Ordinance No. 1 of 1924 in the years 1923 and 1924?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply I have already given to part (f) of his earlier question on the subject.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know whether, having regard to the fact that a number of prisoners under the Regulation have now been made prisoners under the Ordinance, there has been any difference in regard to the conveniences provided, for example, in respect of bedding, food, and so forth?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I am not able to answer that. So far as I know, the existing arrangements are still continuing.

ERECTION OF A WIRELESS BEAM STATION IN INDIA.

363. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 19th December, 1924, page 7, under the heading "Beam Station in India" "Government and the Site"?

(b) If so, will they please state if they intend that a high power station should be erected in India without delay, provided the Admiralty favoured the course, as reported?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) It is not proposed to proceed at present with the construction of a high power station as originally intended. Negotiations are in progress for the erection of a Beam station.

THE TATA NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY.

364. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Forward* of the 19th December, 1924, page 9, under the heading "Tata Narrow Gauge Railway"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made therein with regard to the absence of gates, gatemen, watchmen on the railway referred to, is correct?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). Government have seen the letter referred to. They have no information on the point because the railway line is not in any way under the administration of the Government of India. They are, however, making inquiries into the matter.

RETURN OF HINDU REFUGEES TO KOHAT.

365. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government please state:

(a) the Hindu population of Kohat?

(b) the number of such refugees as evacuated their refuge in the cantonments to Rawalpindi?

(c) whether the refugees have returned to Kohat?

(d) if not, on what conditions do they wish to return to Kohat, and what is the obstacle in the way of their return to their homes?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) According to the last census 3,200 roughly.

(b) Nearly all.

(c) Not as a body.

(d) It is hoped that with the settlement recently effected the last obstacle has been removed.

EXAMINATION OF EVIDENCE AGAINST PERSONS ARRESTED UNDER BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818 AND THE BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1924.

366. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Was the evidence in possession of the Government regarding the persons recently arrested and interned in Bengal under the Bengal Ordinance of 1924 and the Bengal Regulation III of 1818 only based on police and C. I. D. information or have they any independent source?

(b) Was that evidence examined with judicial scrutiny before the orders for arrests were issued?

(c) If so, by whom, or by men of what standing or position?

(d) Was any further corroborating evidence against the persons recently arrested in Bengal found after the arrests were made?

(e) If so, was it likewise examined, and if examined, examined by whom, or by men of what standing and position?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The general grounds on which action was taken have been fully explained in several recent public pronouncements which I do not propose to recapitulate now, as I shall have an opportunity of dealing with the matter to-day. The evidence was not judicially scrutinised before the orders for the arrests were issued. If the Honourable Member suggests that this would be a normal or generally practicable procedure in cases of cognizable offences under any system of criminal law, his view must, I think, be unusual. As regards the persons

recently arrested under Regulation III of 1818, the evidence was scrutinised by two Judges of the standing of Sessions Judges who were satisfied that there were reasonable grounds to believe that all those persons were members of a revolutionary conspiracy and that their being at large involved a danger to the State.

As regards persons arrested under the Ordinance, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to section 19 of the Ordinance. I am not prepared to make any further statement which might have the effect of prejudicing further criminal proceedings which it may be found necessary in the public interest to undertake.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: With regard to the prisoners arrested under this Regulation, what was the procedure followed in expounding to them the charges and the evidence against them placed before the two Sessions Judges?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Charges were framed, and their answers were invited.

CONNECTION OF INTERNEES IN BENGAL WITH ANARCHICAL MOVEMENTS.

367. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Does the evidence against the persons recently arrested and interned in Bengal under Bengal Regulation III of 1818 and the Bengal Ordinance show that the internees had any connection with any anarchical movement after 1921?

(b) Have the Government any evidence to be convinced that Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose was in any way connected with any anarchical movement after he came back from England?

(c) Are the Government in possession of any evidence which may prove at least some of the recent internees in Bengal to be connected with any anarchical crime?

(d) If so, are the Government prepared to bring at least a selected few of the prominent internees before courts of law?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I have already replied to this.

CONDEMNATION OF THE BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ORDINANCE BY THE ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE.

368. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that the recent arrests and internments in Bengal, under the Bengal Ordinance of 1924, and Bengal Regulation III of 1818 and the very issue of the Ordinance itself have been viewed with disapproval by leaders of all the Indian political parties, at their united meeting at Bombay?

(b) Do the Government propose in any way to show any practical respect to the united Indian public opinion, expressed at Bombay, regarding the recent actions under the Bengal Ordinance of 1924, and the Bengal Regulation III of 1818?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I have seen the Resolution adopted by the Conference at Bombay. Government's attitude will be stated in the course of the debate to-day.

THE POSTAL ECONOMIC INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

369. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Will the Government be pleased to state (a) the items which the Postal Economic Inquiry Committee will consider during their investigation, (b) when the Committee is likely to submit its report, and (c) whether this House will or will not be given a chance to consider the Committee's recommendations?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given on the 23rd January, 1925 to part (a) of the Honourable Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar's question No. 171.

(b) Before the end of March, 1925.

(c) Without knowing what the Committee's recommendations are I am unable to give any undertaking in the matter. I shall in any case consider the question of placing the report if opportunity offers, before the Standing Advisory Committee attached to the Department of Industries and Labour.

AMALGAMATION OF THE ORIYA SPEAKING TRACTS.

370. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Do the Government contemplate any change of jurisdiction so far as Orissa is concerned? If so, how? How far, if at all do they propose to give effect to the recommendations of Philip-Duff Committee?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The Government of India do not at present contemplate any change of jurisdiction as far as Orissa is concerned. As regards the second part of the Honourable Member's question I refer him to my reply to Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's question No. 85 answered on the 23rd January.

INTERNMENT WITHOUT TRIAL OF PERSONS ARRESTED UNDER THE BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1924.

371. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** How long do the Government propose to shut up persons arrested under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1924, without proper trial in the ordinary law courts of the land?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply I have given already on the same subject.

PUBLICATION OF CORRESPONDENCE, ETC. IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROMULGATION OF THE BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

372. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** (a) What objections, if any, have the Government to publishing documents and other materials that have convinced them of the desirability of the Viceroy's promulgating the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1924, and arresting the persons who have been arrested under it?

(b) If they have no objection to doing so, will they publish them at the earliest possible date?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The documents are confidential and their publication would not be in the public interest.

DISCONTENT IN REGARD TO THE PROMULGATION OF THE BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1924.

373. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** (a) Are not the Government aware that there is a wide-spread discontent in India with regard to the promulgation of the Ordinance?

(b) If so, have the Government any objection to placing the materials they have, with regard to persons arrested being connected with revolutionary conspiracies, before Mahatma Gandhi on pledge of secrecy, if

necessary for perusal and expression before the public whether they are really guilty and dangerous people or not? If the Government have any objection, will they be pleased to say what they are?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) The answer is in the negative.

The facts justifying the issue of the Ordinance were fully explained both by His Excellency the Viceroy and by the Bengal Government at the time of its promulgation.

(b) Government do not propose to adopt the course suggested.

Kumar Ganganand Sinha: Will the Government trust any other leader of Indian opinion with the work?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The matter has been explained in answer to so many questions that I do not consider it reasonable to answer any further questions on the subject.

USE OF DEVANAGARI SCRIPT IN GOVERNMENT STAMP PAPERS

374. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Are not the Government aware of the fact that Devanagari is more extensively used and read in North India than any other script? Will the Government be pleased to state why does it not find a place in the Stamp papers published and sold by and for the Government?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I should hesitate to answer the first part of the question in the affirmative.

I am aware that the Devanagari script has many supporters. My researches have not enabled me to answer the second part of the question.

LOCATION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS AT HOWRAH.

375. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** Will the Government be pleased to fully state the reasons that have weighed with them to disregard the public representations for not establishing a Railway Divisional Headquarters at Sahebgunj? How do they meet the objections of the public with regard to such removal?

ABOLITION OF THE LOOP DISTRICT OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AT SAHEBGUNJ.

376. ***Kumar Ganganand Sinha:** In what way do the Government propose to keep supervision over the loop line after the abolition of the Loop district at Sahebgunj? In what way will the proposed method of supervision be efficient and economic?

Mr. G. G. Sin: I propose to answer these two questions† together. It is understood that a Resolution on the subject will be moved on the 5th February when a full statement will be given of the reasons for locating the Divisional Headquarters at Howrah.

377. (Answered on the 22nd January, 1925.)

COMPENSATION TO CERTAIN PUNJAB POSTAL EMPLOYEES REINSTATED AFTER ALLEGED WRONGFUL DISMISSAL.

378. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Do Government intend to consider the question of compensating certain Punjab postal employees who have been reinstated by orders of the Government after their wrongful dismissal by local officials, for the unnecessary suffering caused to them?

† Nos. 375 and 376.

(b) Will Government state as to what punishment has been meted out to the officials directly and indirectly concerned in these wrongful dismissals?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government do not admit that there has been any case brought to their knowledge of wrongful dismissal by the local officials in question and are not prepared to take any action in the direction suggested by the Honourable Member.

RESULT OF APPEALS FROM THE DECISIONS OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, PUNJAB.

379. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many appeals submitted against the decisions of the Postmaster General, Punjab, between 23rd March, 1922 and 7th May, 1924, have been overruled either by the Government of India or the Director General and how many upheld?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Eighty-seven appeals were submitted against the orders of the Postmaster General in the period in question. In 16 cases the decision of the Postmaster General was overruled by the Director General. Nine appeals were submitted to the Government of India of which 5 were withheld and 4 were rejected. In one case the decision of the Director General regarding subsistence allowance of an official was modified by Government.

GRANT OF GRATUITIES TO POSTAL OFFICIALS EMPLOYED IN CONNECTION WITH THE WAZIRISTAN FIELD POSTAL OPERATIONS, ETC.

380. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** 1. Will Government be pleased to state (a) what postal staff including the Postmaster-General was employed at the headquarters of the Postmaster General to cope with the Waziristan Field postal operations, and (b) whether any remuneration or gratuity or allowance or staff pay for such work was disbursed or is contemplated to such officers?

2. If so, will Government be pleased to state the amounts drawn or sanctioned for disbursement and the names of the recipients?

3. Is it a fact that the Postmaster General, Punjab, never visited the war area during the course of his official duties connected with the Waziristan operations?

4. Is it a fact that he has nevertheless drawn some remuneration for this service in addition to his pay?

5. Is it a fact that the Postmaster General, Punjab, who has done this is the same individual who drew an allowance for several days for a trip to Islamabad giving the reason that he had spent these days inspecting the small sub-post office of that village?

6. Have Government taken any action against that Postmaster General for having drawn such allowances?

7. Is it the general practice of postal officials to draw allowances ostensibly for inspection but in reality for pleasure trips?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: 1 and 2. A statement furnishing the information is laid on the table.

3. No.

4, 5 and 6. Do not arise.

7. No.

Class.	Name.	Substantive appointment.	Period.	TEMPORARY PAY OR ALLOWANCE PER Mensem.		Total amount drawn.	REMARKS.
				Temporary pay.	Temporary allowance.		
Officers	Mr. P. G. Rogers, C.I.E., I.C.S.	Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier.	6-5-19 to 6-4-20	...	Rs. 25 per cent. of pay.	Rs. A. P. 6,524 4 5	Performed the duties of Deputy Director of Postal Services, Field Army, India, in addition to his proper civil duties.
1	Mr. O. H. Bulach	Officiating Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier.	7-4-20 to 25-4-20	...	...	...	Ditto.
	Mr. H. N. Hutchinson, O.B.E., I.C.S.	Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier.	26-4-20 to 5-8-20 and from 11-4-21 to 22-3-22	...	...	...	The question of granting these officers a suitable allowance is under consideration.
	Mr. W. A. Rousseau	Ditto	6-8-20 to 10-4-21	...	...	...	
	Mr. J. R. T. Booth, I.C.S.	Ditto	23-3-22 to 30-4-24	...	...	...	
Clerical staff.	Rai Salib Monohar Nath.	Superintendent, office of the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier.	1-4-20 to 11-11-20	...	50	368 5 4	
1	Mr. Bajinath Singh	Officiating Superintendent, office of the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier.	14-2-21 to 30-11-21	...	50	476 12 6	
			1-2-21 to 30-6-22	...	100	700 0 0	
			12-11-20 to 13-12-21	...	50	154 14 1	

2	Pandit Chuni Lal.	Clerk, office of the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier.	6-5-19 to 31-12-19	200	...	1,567 11 10	
3	Pandit Sant Ram	Ditto	1-1-20 to 9-7-22	...	50	1,514 8 3	
4	Mr. Ishar Das	Ditto	6-5-19 to 31-5-24	150 to 200	...	10,967 13 11	
5	Mr. Uttam Chand	Ditto	14-9-21 to 13-3-22	180	...	1,077 7 8	
6	Mr. Puran Chand	Ditto	7-6-19 to 31-3-20	100	...	980 0 0	
	Mr. Beni Pershad	Ditto	8-1-20 to 26-4-20	60	...	218 7 2	
	M. Sarwar Khan	Ditto	27-4-20 to 30-9-21	60	...	1,023 0 0	
	Pandit Suraj Kishen	Outsider	31-10-21 to 31-5-21	60	...	480 0 0	
7	M. Ghulam Rasul	Clerk, office of the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier.	1-6-22 to 24-9-23	81 to 85	...	1,333 2 1	
Menial staff 1	One peon	Ditto	1-7-21 to 31-5-24	80 to 89	...	2,643 9 7	
			6-5-19 to 31-5-24	16 to 17	...	997 6 8	
		Total	...	...	...	31,032 7 6	

N.B.—The office of the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier, controlled the work of the Postal Staff in Waziristan as well as other Field Service areas on the Frontier and in the Base Postal Depot at Lahore from the 6th May 1919 to the 31st May 1924.

PROMOTIONS FOR WAR SERVICES RENDERED BY POSTAL OFFICIALS.

381. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) With reference to starred questions already asked regarding specific promotions for war services rendered by postal officials, will Government be pleased to state the number and the names of Superintendents and Postmasters so promoted and the number or names of those superseded?

(b) Is it a fact that the officials who were superseded have also rendered meritorious war service?

(c) Will Government state the exact reasons for superseding these officials in view of the admission by Government that such promotions are wrong in principle and have been forbidden?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) to (c). No Superintendent was so promoted. In the case of Postmasters only one officer in the gazetted cadre was so promoted, going above four others, three of whom were shortly to retire and none of whom rendered any war service or had any particular claim. No further information is available beyond what was stated in my reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 1482 on the 2nd June 1924. Government do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by publishing the names.

EXTRA REDIRECTION CHARGE OF POSTAL PARCELS.

382. ***Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if any increase has been effected in postal rates on articles other than postcards and envelopes, since the Legislative Assembly sanctioned an increase in rates for postcards and envelopes in 1922?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India have imposed an extra charge on postal parcels redirected from the original place of address to another place, in case of the addressee not being at the original place?

(c) If the reply to (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reason why such a charge was not imposed by them till 1922, and the reasons which induced them to levy such a charge since then?

(d) What is the total number of postal parcels during each of the last three years, and what is the number of such parcels redirected from the original place of address during the same period?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the estimated revenue from this extra charge on redirected parcels?

(f) Is it a fact that a postcard or an envelope may be redirected from Feshawar to the utmost south of the country and again from there redirected to Rangoon and again from Rangoon to Karachi without any extra charge?

(g) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why they propose to impose a special charge on parcels, which have to be redirected in the ordinary course of events?

(h) Has the above increase in charges called for any protest from the commercial community and if so, will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take in this connection?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) There has been no increase in inland postal rates since 1922, excepting the revision with effect from the 16th January, 1924, of insurance fees from one anna for every Rs. 50 to two annas for every Rs. 100 of insured value.

(b) Yes.

(c) Considerable labour and expense are incurred in dealing with the transmission of postal parcels and the labour and expense are no less in the case of redirected parcels for which the Department previously received no remuneration. The extra charge has been imposed to reimburse the Department for the work done and if possible to put some check on redirection. No country in the world carries redirected parcels free of charge.

(d) The total number of parcels posted during each of the last three years is:

1921-22	12,662,997
1922-23	12,653,430
1923-24	13,566,890

No information relating to the number of re-directed parcels is available.

(e) About Rs. 50,000 a year.

(f) Yes.

(g) Unlike letters and postcards the work involved in dealing with a redirected parcel is just as great as for first transmission. The differential treatment between the former and latter classes of articles is also recognised in the International Postal Regulations.

(h) A protest was received from the Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay. Government do not propose to abolish the redirection fee on parcels.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Is this Government's beginning with the effort of commercialisation of the Postal Department, Sir, then?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: It is one of the effects.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Have they made any other efforts except increasing the rates payable by the public?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government are making efforts towards the commercialisation of the accounts. I think I explained the position fully on a previous day in answer to a question asked by Mr. Duraiswami Aiyangar.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Would I be correct in understanding that the first effort Government have made at commercialisation of the department has been in the direction of the public having to pay more in regard to certain service for which the Government did not see their way to charge the public till now?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: In connection with the commercialisation of the accounts, Government had to scrutinise the various items in regard to which the department was not receiving full credit and this is one of the items.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Do Government intend to make any other effort in the same direction hereafter, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Well, that will depend on facts brought to light after we have examined fully the question of commercialisation of the accounts, but I may say this that as a result of our examination so far, the Postal Department is receiving credits from other Departments of Government for services which were rendered free in the past.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: I am concerned more with the public and not with the Departments of Government.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: As regards the public, as I say, the question has not arisen up to now except in this particular matter. If the result of commercialisation of the accounts shows that there is a large deficit in the combined accounts of the Post and Telegraph Departments, what will happen I really do not know. It primarily rests with the Honourable the Finance Member.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Are Government aware that the public want reduction in postal rates whilst Government's first effort at commercialisation of the Department has been in the direction of an increase in postal parcel rates?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government are fully aware that the public, or rather a section of it, want a reduction in postal rates.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally: Is it a fact that the Telegraph Department has such a large deficit that it is made up by the income of the Postal Department?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I am not yet in a position to fully answer the question. In answer to Mr. Duraiswami Aiyangar's question I have already explained that the new commercialised accounts will show profit and loss on each branch of the Department and this House will get information on the subject, though it will necessarily be rough information, in connection with the Budget Demands for 1925-26.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: The Honourable Member has stated that a section of the public want a reduction in the postal rates. Will he please explain what section of the public want to retain the postage rates at the present high level?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Finance Member, Sir.

SEPARATION OF JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS.

383. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Have the Government of India received the opinions of Provincial Governments about the scheme of the separation of the Executive from the Judicial?

(b) When will the above mentioned scheme be given effect to?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) The opinions of the Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the United Provinces and Madras Governments have been received.

(b) They are under the consideration of the Government of India and no decision has yet been arrived at.

ECONOMIES EFFECTED BY THE RETRENCHMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE INCHEAPE COMMITTEE.

384. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money saved by the various schemes of retrenchment recommended by the Incheape Committee?

(b) the number of Government servants (I) Indians, (II) Europeans affected by the above-mentioned scheme?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) So far as the civil side is concerned the Honourable Member is referred to the statement printed on pages 59 to 106 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume IV, No. 3, which shows that the total reductions effected during 1923-24 amounted to Rs. 721 lakhs.

As regards the military expenditure the Committee recommended reduction of the budget figure for 1922-23, namely, 67½ crores, to Rs. 57½ crores in 1923-24, subject to such addition as might be required for "lag". The compiled actuals for that year indicate that the net expenditure amounted to Rs. 56½ crores. This reduction was due generally to the cumulative effect of retrenchment operations and in particular to the consumption of surplus stocks without replacement. Fuller details will be available when the revised estimates for the current year and the budget for the ensuing year are laid before the Legislature.

(b) I do not think the Honourable Member can have realised how wide the scope of his question is. Even if the inquiry were limited to those who were directly and materially affected by the retrenchments it would be a very large task and the accuracy of the resulting information could not be guaranteed.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: With reference to part (a) of this question, the Honourable Member referred to a previous statement furnished to this House. If I remember aright, the Retrenchment Committee recommended exploration in other directions which they indicated. May I know if the Finance Department has undertaken such an exploration since the presentation of the last statement?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Finance Department spends day and night in exploring such particulars.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Has there been any result of such an exploration?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: If the Honourable Member will wait till the Budget he will perhaps be able to answer his own question.

COST OF INCREASED PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF THE IMPERIAL AND SUBORDINATE SERVICES.

385. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money spent over the increased pay and allowances of the Imperial and Subordinate Services during the last 3 years?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I have examined very carefully into the possibility of framing a useful answer to this question; but I regret to find that an accurate reply could not be given without an altogether incommensurate expenditure of time, labour and money.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE MOSLEM WORKING COMMITTEE, KOHAT, HELD ON THE 12TH DECEMBER, 1924.

386. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 20th December, 1924, page 7, under the heading "Kohat Rioting"?

(b) If so, will they please state if they have received the report of the meeting of the Moslem Working Committee, presided over by Nawab Baz Mohammad, Chief of the Khataks?

(c) If so, will they please lay a copy of it on the table?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) A copy is laid on the table.

Proceedings of meeting of the Muslim Working Committee, Kohat, held on 12th December 1924 under the presidentship of Nawab Baz Mohd. Khan, Chief of Khataks.

(1) Resolved unanimously that this meeting having gone through the Government of India's Resolution in respect of Kohat disturbances published in an Extraordinary Gazette of the Government of India, views the proposal of establishing the Punitive Police at Kohat with great wonder and anxiety. The Mussalmans of Kohat have ever remained loyal and faithful to the British Throne and have always respected the law and order inasmuch as the biggest of their demonstrations have never so far occasioned any breach of peace. This meeting records its opinion that the disturbances of the 9th and the 10th of September last would never have occurred if the Kohat Hindus had not provoked the Mussalmans by insulting their religion by publishing the objectionable pamphlet and by opening fire without any rhyme or reason on the innocent Muslim boys and by pouring vitriol on unarmed Mussalmans and the Government servants.

This meeting advises the Government not to burden the Mussalmans who have been already troubled and reduced to penury, with the extra expenses of maintaining the Punitive Police when it is admitted by the Government both Local and Central that the Kohat Muslims have not hesitated in saving hundreds of mischief-making Hindus and their families from having been burnt and slaughtered, in sheltering them in their own houses and escorting them to places of safety even at the height of their retaliating passion.

This meeting strongly protests on behalf of the Mussalmans of Kohat against any such proposal and warns the Local Government to cancel the proposal of establishing the Punitive Police so that the Mussalmans of Kohat and the inhabitants of the continuous Independent Territory should not be given any further cause of anxiety and restlessness.

(2) Resolved unanimously that this meeting considers the proposal that one-third of the total of the Punitive and ordinary Police should consist of Hindus and Sikhs as an outcome of the Hindu Propaganda of demanding under communal representation in services of the Government and in the Local Bodies and this meeting views this proposal as detrimental to the Muslim rights and interests which they have got on the strength of population.

This meeting further views this proposal as very injurious to the rights of the Mussalmans of the North-West Frontier Province, as this proposal if enforced, might be used as a precedent in the matter of their demanding under communal representation.

(3) Resolved unanimously that this meeting brings again to the notice of the Local Government the Resolution No. 7 passed at the meeting of the Muslim Working Committee held on the 5th of December 1924 and reiterates its demands of enforcing the said Resolution at this meeting is of opinion that the Kohat Hindus would have never dared to open fire on the unarmed Mussalmans after wounding their religious feelings at a place like Kohat, had the Mussalmans been given their due rights in Government services and Local Bodies in proportion to their population.

(4) Resolved unanimously that this meeting respectfully places on record its conviction that the main object of the Hindus in entreating the authorities to arrange for their departure to Rawalpindi was to secure undue rights (from the Government) by intimidating the Government by the support of the Hindu agitators in down countries.

(5) Resolved unanimously that copy of the above Resolutions be submitted to the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, the Deputy Commissioner, Kohat, Assistant Commissioner, Kohat and Superintendent of Police, Kohat, etc., etc.

*President,
Muslim Working Committee, Kohat.*

GRIEVANCES OF THE KALIGHAT FALTA RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

387. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Forward* of the 21st December, 1924, page 11, under the heading "Grievances of Kalighat Falta Railway Passengers"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the complaints made therein specially with regard to latrines in the trains, water closets and platforms are correct?

(c) If correct, do they propose to issue necessary instructions to the authorities concerned to remove the public inconveniences complained of?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Government have seen the communication referred to.

(b) and (c). The Kalighat Falta Railway is only 29 miles in length and the provision of latrines in vehicles is therefore not considered necessary. Latrines are provided on the platform at each station and in all the female waiting rooms. Rail level platforms exist at all stations?

CONSULTATION BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WITH THE SELF-GOVERNING DOMINIONS *re* FOREIGN POLICY, ETC.

388. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the British official wireless cable, dated Leafield, 20th December last, in which an announcement is made that the British Government had consulted the Self-governing Dominions on the subject of foreign policy and general Imperial interests?

(b) Will the Government of India lay on the table the correspondence referred to in the said cable for information of the Members of the House?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have not yet received a copy of the correspondence.

THE NATAL BOROUGHS ORDINANCE.

389. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) Are the Government aware of the passage of the Natal Boroughs Ordinance and the assent reported to have been given to it by the Governor-General?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what action they took to prevent its passage and what action they contemplate now taking to prevent its enforcement?

(c) Do the Government propose to draw upon the powers conferred on them by the Reciprocity Act?

(d) If so, when? If not, why not?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a), (b) and (d). The Honourable Member is referred to the statement made on the subject by His Excellency the Viceroy on the occasion of the opening of the Indian Legislature on the 20th January.

(c) No.

RESTRICTION OF THE EXPORT OF OPIUM.

390. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state when and in what circumstances they agreed to restrict the export of opium overseas?

- (b) What annual revenue did the Government sacrifice by their action?
- (c) Was the new policy which they adopted dependent upon the abstention of the production of opium by other countries?
- (d) Has that condition been fulfilled?
- (e) If not, what response has the humanitarian effort of the Government received from the country primarily intended to profit by it?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a), (c), (d) and (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to the remarks under "export traffic" contained in the report on the traffic in opium and dangerous drugs for the calendar years 1921 and 1922 submitted by the Government of India to the League of Nations. A copy of this report has already been placed in the hands of the Honourable Member.

(b) The gross revenue from opium in 1905-06 was Rs. 8,20,31,694 and in 1922-23 Rs. 3,78,92,068. The net revenue for the same years was Rs. 5,36,45,078 and Rs. 1,92,31,425, respectively. The net loss to the Central Government therefore on this basis is Rs. 3,44,00,000 per annum. As however the price of opium has risen considerably in the meanwhile, the real loss is of course much greater.

If by the annual loss of revenue the Honourable Member contemplates the difference between the revenue that would accrue if the trade with China were revived and the revenue now derived, the Government are not in a position to give this figure nor do they see any useful purpose in trying to estimate it.

EMBARGO ON THE OPIUM TRADE.

391. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) What is the present attitude of Government on the subject of the opium trade?

(b) Do they propose to continue their embargo on the opium trade?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the value of opium grown by Persia, Turkestan and other countries including China since its prohibition in India?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) and (b). If, as I presume, by "the opium trade" the Honourable Member is referring to exports out of India, I would point out that India is a signatory to the Hague Convention. The Government of India do not therefore export opium except to countries which require it and to the extent required by them and have no intention of doing so even if, as is possibly the case, the result is as suggested in the question. On the contrary the Government of India have gone beyond the strict requirements of the Convention by the imposition of additional voluntary restrictions on export and by negotiating wherever possible for direct sales to the Governments of importing countries.

(c) The Government have no authoritative statistics regarding the value of opium grown in Turkestan and China. The production in China is now estimated at 9/10ths of the world's production now. The production in Persia in 1922 according to the figures supplied by the League of Nations was 528,241 kilogrammes—which is I am informed equivalent to nearly 8,500 chests of Indian export opium.

WEMBLEY EXHIBITION.

392. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state their decision if any regarding the Wembley Exhibition?

(b) Is it a fact that they have declined to take part in it this year?

(c) What was the net cost of India's participation in that Exhibition last year?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I have already answered (a) and (b) of this question.

As regards (c), the Government are not yet in a position to furnish information of the net cost of the Exhibition.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: May I ask the Honourable Member whether, if the Government of India decide to continue to take part in the Wembley Exhibition, any fresh financial burden would be imposed on this country?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: As far as I know, the answer to that question is in the negative.

HOLDING OF AN EMPIRE EXHIBITION IN INDIA.

393. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) When was the last All-India Exhibition held in the country under the auspices of the Central Government?

(b) Have Government considered the question of holding an Empire Exhibition in a central place in India?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) In 1902-1903.

(b) No, Sir.

CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH POWER WIRELESS BEAM STATION IN INDIA.

394. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state their decision regarding the proposal to construct a high power wireless beam station in India?

(b) What offers have they received and what consideration have they given to them and what is the present stage of their negotiations on the subject?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer I gave to-day to Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's question No. 363.

MANUFACTURE OF LOCOMOTIVES IN INDIA.

395. ***Sir Hari Singh Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the position of the Locomotive industry in the country?

(b) What has become of the Peninsular Locomotive Company?

(c) What action do they propose to take to encourage the manufacture of Locomotives in India?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). The question has been discussed at length in paragraphs 74 and 75 of the Administration Report on Indian Railways for the year 1923-24, and the Government have come to the conclusion that, for the reasons therein stated, the possibility of locomotive manufacture in India on an economic basis is at present remote.

The Government propose to depute an experienced officer to Europe during the year to investigate the question of the ultimate possibilities of such an industry.

(b) The Company is still in existence and has recently entered into an agreement for the construction of 500 railway wagons, for the manufacture of which the Company propose to adapt their works.

ACTION TAKEN ON THE REPORTS OF CERTAIN SPECIFIED COMMITTEES.

396. *Sir Hari Singh Gour: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the action they have taken to give effect to the report of the following Committees:

- (a) Indian Marine Committee.
- (b) Indian Bar Committee.
- (c) North-West Frontier Committee.
- (d) Military Requirements Committee.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) The recommendations made by the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee are still under consideration.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's question No. 1267 on the 5th June 1924, and to the answer to his own question No. 1715 on the 3rd September 1924. The replies of one Local Government and other authorities consulted by it are still awaited, but every effort is being made to expedite them, and their replies are expected shortly. It is hoped that the Bill to give effect to certain of the proposals involving legislation in India will be introduced during the current session. Some of the High Courts have already issued rules to give effect to some of the recommendations of the Committee.

(c) The many and complex questions raised in this report are still under the consideration of Government.

(d) This part of the question could not be answered without disclosing the contents of the Report of the Military Requirements Committee, and my Honourable friend was informed, in reply to his question No. 38 asked on the 2nd July 1923, and in reply to his question No. 168 of the 5th February 1924, that, in the public interest, this could not be done. My Honourable friend, however, was also informed, in reply to his question of the 2nd July 1923, that the recommendations of Lord Inchcape's Retrenchment Committee, which, financially, have now been carried out, involved larger economies in military expenditure than the Military Requirements Committee had anticipated would be possible.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: May I ask the Honourable the Leader of the House in regard to (c) whether he would afford facilities for ascertaining the opinion of this House in regard to various recommendations made by the Committee on the North-West Frontier Province?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I do not think it will be of any advantage if I were to do so because the Government have not made up their mind in this matter. I have said that the report is still under the consideration of the Government.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: May I ask the Honourable Member whether it is the policy of the Government to come to decision beforehand, and then ascertain the opinion of this House in regard to these various matters?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Not at all; but it is obvious that the Government speaker must be provided with some case to put forward. It is not possible for him to come into this Assembly and not put forward a case of some kind. When a matter is under consideration that is not possible.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: May I know whether it is their intention to come to provisional conclusions before there is a discussion here of this, and to alter their decisions in the light of discussion in this House?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: That would be the view I should think would be the correct one in cases of this kind.

397. (Answered on the 26th January, 1925.)

PROGRESS MADE WITH REGARD TO THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER AND THE SECRETARIAT BUILDING IN NEW DELHI.

398. *Sir Hari Singh Gour: (a) With reference to the Honourable Mr. Chatterjee's reply to question No. 185, dated 5th February, 1924, will Government be pleased to state if the progress made with the construction of the Assembly Chamber and the Secretariat building still justifies the anticipation then made that the Secretariat would shift into its permanent quarters from November next?

(b) When is the Assembly likely to meet in the new building?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me on the 26th January 1925, to starred question No. 203, asked by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AT RAISINA.

399. *Sir Hari Singh Gour: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the recurring cost of whitewashing the Government buildings at Raisina?

(b) Will it please state why these buildings were coated with an outer plaster?

(c) Why have they been not provided with porticos for motor cars and carriages?

(d) Have any complaints been received that they are unduly cold in winter, unduly hot in summer, unduly wet in the rains, and unduly uncomfortable all the year round?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The accounts are not kept in a form which gives the information asked for. Government do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by their undertaking the trouble and expense of collecting the information from the measurements and bills.

(b) Because plastered brickwork is cooler than unplastered brickwork.

(c) A few have porches; the majority were not provided with porches first because the number of wet days in the year in Delhi is not large and secondly to keep down costs.

(d) The answer is in the negative.

MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS IN 1924.

400. ***Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer:** Will the Government be pleased to furnish (1) a statement showing in tabular form the movements of troops of all arms in British India during the calendar year 1924, (2) the places from and to which they were moved, (3) the purposes for which they were so moved; and (4) the amount of the transportation charges involved in each move?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) and (b). I lay on the table a statement giving the information specified by the Honourable Member but for the trooping year 1924-25 instead of the calendar year 1924. This is the more appropriate and convenient method of exhibiting the statistics.

(c) There is an annual programme of relief within India determined mainly by the following considerations:

- (1) The necessity of moving units after serving a certain prescribed period in stations which are unhealthy or are reckoned as "bad" stations for other reasons which specially affect the troops.
- (2) The necessity of affording to as many units as possible an opportunity of gaining experience on the frontier.
- (3) Certain moves are dictated by the exigencies of the programme of home and overseas reliefs.

Each move in the chain of reliefs is therefore connected directly or remotely with every other move; and I hope this general explanation will suffice for the Honourable Member's purposes. The reason for each individual move could not be given separately except at very great length.

(d) The actual cost of each move cannot be given unless a laborious examination of accounts is made in many Accounts offices, and this would not in the opinion of Government be justifiable unless the Honourable Member has some special object in view which is not at present apparent. I may mention however that the total estimated cost of reliefs in 1924-25 is Rs. 11 lakhs approximately and that the expenditure on transportation of troops has been greatly reduced in recent years since the post-war reconstruction of the Army in India has been completed, surplus units have been disbanded, the intensity of operations in Waziristan has diminished and it has consequently been made possible to revert to the normal peace system of reliefs.

Reliefs—British Cavalry, 1924-25.

Unit.	From	To
Royal Scots Greys	Risalpur	Meerut.
11th Hussars	Meerut	Risalpur.
<i>Reliefs—British Infantry, 1924-25.</i>		
1st Battalion, the Gordon Highlanders	Bombay (from Malta)	Secunderabad.
" " " Hampshire Regiment	Bombay (from Egypt)	Jubbulpore.
2nd Battalion, the Highland Light Infantry	" "	Bangalore.
1st " " Royal Scots	Secunderabad	Bombay (for Aden).
2nd Battalion, the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment	Kamptee	Bombay (for Iraq).
1st Battalion, the Green Howards	Madras	Bombay (for Egypt).
2nd Battalion, the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment	Karachi	Jullundur.
2nd Battalion, the King's Own Royal Regiment	Rangoon	Rawalpindi.
2nd Battalion, the Lancashire Fusiliers	Landi Kotal	Madras
1st Battalion, the Royal Berkshire Regiment	Razmak	Lahore.
1st Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers	Jullundur	Landi Kotal.
2nd Battalion, the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry	Rawalpindi	Razmak.
2nd Battalion, the Northamptonshire Regiment	Lahore	Karachi.
2nd Battalion, the Manchester Regiment	Jubbulpore	Rangoon.
" " " Wiltshire Regiment	Bangalore	Kamptee.
<i>Reliefs—Royal Artillery, 1924-25.</i>		
20th Field Brigade, Royal Artillery	Bangalore	Bombay (for United Kingdom). Bangalore.
12th " " " "	Bombay (from United Kingdom).	Nowshera.
23rd " " " "	Mhow	{ Peshawar.
27th " " " "	{ Nowshera Peshawar	{ Mhow.
22nd " " " "	{ Jhansi Nowgong Nasirabad	{ Rawalpindi. Campbellpore.
24th " " " "	{ Rawalpindi Campbellpore	{ Jhansi. Nowgong. Nasirabad.

Reliefs—Royal Artillery, 1924-25—contd.

Unit.	From	To
22nd Indian Pack Brigade, Royal Artillery.	Peshawar . . .	Kohat.
	Nowshera . . .	Rawalpindi.
	Landi Kotal . . .	Quetta.
24th " " " " "	Kohat . . .	Thal (Kurram).
	Rawalpindi . . .	Peshawar.
	Quetta . . .	Nowshera.
	Thal (Kurram) . . .	Landi Kotal.
111th (Dehra Dun) Pack Battery, Royal Artillery.	Maymyo . . .	Dehra Dun.
114th (Rajputana) Pack Battery, Royal Artillery.	Dehra Dun . . .	Maymyo.

Reliefs—Royal Tank Corps, 1924-25.

6th (Armoured Car) Company, Royal Tank Corps.	Bareilly . . .	Bannu.
9th (Armoured Car) Company, Royal Tank Corps.	Bannu . . .	Bareilly.
11th (Armoured Car) Company, Royal Tank Corps.	Kirkee . . .	Lahore.
8th (Armoured Car) Company, Royal Tank Corps.	Lahore . . .	Kirkee.
1st (Armoured Car) Company, Royal Tank Corps.	United Kingdom . . .	Quetta.
2nd (Armoured Car) Company, Royal Tank Corps.	United Kingdom . . .	Secunderabad.

Reliefs—Indian Cavalry, 1924-25.

7th Light Cavalry	Dera Ismail Khan . . .	Secunderabad.
9th Royal Deccan Horse	Secunderabad . . .	Dera Ismail Khan.
18th King Edward's Own Cavalry	Risalpur . . .	Quetta.
19th King George's Own Lancers	Delhi . . .	Loralai.
20th Lancers	Loralai . . .	Delhi.
21st King George's Own Central India Horse.	Quetta . . .	Risalpur.

Reliefs—Indian Infantry, 1924-25.

Unit.	From	To
2-1st Punjab Regiment	Waziristan . . .	Kohat and outposts.
5-2nd " " " " "	Rawalpindi . . .	Hong-Kong.
2-4th King Edward's Own Bombay Grenadiers.	Hong-Kong . . .	Cannanore.
1-5th Mahratta Light Infantry	Secunderabad . . .	Santa Cruz.
4-5th " " " " "	Lahore . . .	Waziristan.
4-6th Outram's Rajputana Rifles	Waziristan . . .	Jubbulpore.
2-8th Punjab Regiment	Waziristan . . .	Baluchistan and outposts.
4-8th Prince of Wales' Own Punjab Regiment.	Alipore . . .	Waziristan.
3-9th Jat Regiment	Waziristan . . .	Rawalpindi.
Kumaon Rifles	Bareilly . . .	Chitral.
3-10th Queen Mary's Own Baluch Regiment	Baluchistan and outposts	Lahore.
1-11th King George's Own Sikh Regiment (Ferozepore Sikhs).	Santa Cruz . . .	Mhow.
2-11th Sikh Regiment (Ludhiana Sikhs)	Mhow . . .	Waziristan.
3-11th Sikh Regiment (Rattray's Sikhs)	Cannanore . . .	"
3-12th Frontier Force Regiment	Kohat and outposts . . .	Baluchistan and outposts.
5-13th Frontier Force Rifles	Abbottabad . . .	Kohat and outposts.
6th Royal Battalion, 13th Frontier Force Rifles (Scinde).	Iraq . . .	Delhi.
2-14th Duke of Connaught's Own Punjab Regiment.	Baluchistan and outposts	Ferozepore.
4-14th Punjab Regiment	Chitral . . .	Peshawar and outposts.
1-16th " " " " "	Rawalpindi . . .	Persian Gulf and Quetta.
2-16th " " " " "	Peshawar and outposts . . .	Iraq.
4-16th " " " " "	Jubbulpore . . .	Waziristan.
2-17th Dogra " " " " "	Ferozepore . . .	"
3-17th " " " " "	Delhi . . .	Alipore.
1-19th Hyderabad Regiment	Waziristan . . .	Rawalpindi.
3-19th " " " " "	Persian Gulf and Quetta	Secunderabad.
1-3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles	Waziristan . . .	Almora.
1-5th Royal Gurkha Rifles	Kohat and outposts . . .	Abbottabad.
2-5th " " " " "	Abbottabad . . .	Malakand.
1-6th Gurkha Rifles	Malakand . . .	Abbottabad.

Reliefs—Indian Pioneers, 1924-25.

Unit.	From	To
1-1st Madras Pioneers (King George's Own).	Waziristan	Bangalore.
2-1st Madras Pioneers	Bangalore	Mandalay.
1-2nd Bombay "	Iraq	Kirkee.
3-2nd "	Mandalay	Waziristan.
4-2nd "	Kirkee	Iraq.

Sapper and Miner Reliefs, 1924-25.

No. 9 Field Company	Bangalore	Waziristan.
No. 12 "	Waziristan	Bangalore.
No. 2 "	Roorkee	Rawalpindi.
No. 5 "	Rawalpindi	Roorkee.
No. 6 "	Roorkee	Peshawar.
No. 3 "	Peshawar	Roorkee.
No. 18 "	Kirkee	Quetta.
No. 22 "	Quetta	Kirkee.
No. 26 Railway Company	Waziristan	Kirkee.
No. 41 Divisional Headquarters Company	Roorkee	Rawalpindi.

Indian Signal Units, Reliefs, 1924-25.

"E" Divisional Signals	Peshawar	Meerut.
"A" "	Meerut	Peshawar.
"G" "	Kohat	Jubbulpore.
"F" "	Jubbulpore	Kohat.
"A" Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop	Risalpur	Meerut.
"B" "	Meerut	Sialkot.
"C" "	Sialkot	Risalpur.

CHARGES AGAINST MR. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

401. ***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the statement made by Mr. John Scurr, M. P., in the House of Commons that the only charge against the Chief Executive Officer of the Calcutta Corporation was that he had attended a meeting at which there was talk of criminal conspiracy and Mr. C. R. Das also attended that meeting, is correct?

(b) If not, will the Government be pleased to publish the real facts?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether Earl Winterton has been informed of the real circumstances and if so the reason for not contradicting Mr. John Scurr in his otherwise elaborate reply?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) The statement is incorrect.

(b) and (c). The Secretary of State has been informed of the circumstances, and I am not prepared at this stage to make any further statement in the matter.

BRITISH PORTLAND CEMENT FOR THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

402. ***Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** (a) With reference to question No. 1695 (starred) replied to in the Assembly on 10th September 1924 regarding tender for the supply of British Portland cement for the South Indian Railway Company, will Government be pleased to state the result of the negotiations between the Government of India (Railway Board) and the South Indian Railway Company in continuation of the Honourable the Commerce Member's official reply to me, namely: "I have already told the Honourable Member, through Mr. Parsons, that we are taking up this question with the South Indian Railway"?

(b) Have the Government of India seen a statement made by the Chief Engineer, New Delhi Works, stating that Indian cement is better in quality than imported cement?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) The Agent, South Indian Railway, after discussion of the matter with the Railway Board on the 10th October 1924, agreed that future tenders should not specify "British" cement but should be left open so as to give Indian manufacturers an opportunity of tendering.

(b) Yes.

PILGRIM TRAFFIC ON THE BARSİ LIGHT RAILWAY.

403. ***Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** (a) With reference to my starred question No. 1696 replied to by Government on 10th September last regarding Pilgrim Traffic on the Barsi Light Railway, will Government be pleased to state the result of the communication with the Agent of the Barsi Light Railway referred to by the Honourable the Commerce Member in the course of supplementary replies to questions on that occasion?

(b) Do the Government of India expect the Barsi Light Railway to take any substantial action in the direction of remedying the grievance of transport of third class passengers in goods trucks? If so, when?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). The matter is still under the consideration of the Agent and his Board of Directors and Government are not yet in a position to make a definite statement.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: When do Government expect that a definite statement would be feasible?

Mr. G. G. Sim: It is hoped to make a definite statement in about two months.

BORROWINGS IN INDIA UNDER THE TRADE FACILITIES ACT.

404. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) how much money has been borrowed under the Trade Facilities Act for public and private enterprise in India, respectively?
- (b) how much of this money has been spent in India and how much in the United Kingdom?
- (c) were tenders called for any of the projects, for which loans were taken under this scheme?
- (d) what were the tenders in each case?
- (e) what was the difference between the lowest tender and the tender from the United Kingdom and at what rate was the United Kingdom tender converted into rupees in all cases?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: No money has been borrowed under the Trade Facilities Acts for State enterprises in India. As regards private enterprise, the Government are aware that use was made of the Act of 1921 by a Hydro-Electric Company in Bombay, but this is the extent of their knowledge.

BORROWINGS IN LONDON UNDER THE TRADE FACILITIES ACT.

405. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) How much money has India sacrificed by paying higher prices for equipment in Britain from the time of, and including, the seven per cent. sterling loan as compared with the lowest quotations,
- (b) What is the saving in interest in connection with these loans by borrowing in London, which can be set off against these loans,
- (c) Do Government propose to have further loans for public works and bodies under the Trade Facilities Act, or, do they propose in view of the indirect losses to go to the open market?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I am afraid that neither parts (a) and (b) of the question are intelligible to me. As regards part (c), the Government of India have no present intention of borrowing in London in the immediate future either under the Trade Facilities Act or otherwise.

EXPANSION OF REVENUES SINCE 1914.

406. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) what new and increased taxes have been levied in the Central Government and in each of the Provincial Governments since 1914?
- (b) what is the yield of the enhanced duty in each year since that date?
- (c) what is the total amount of increase in the land revenue in each of the provinces during the same period?
- (d) what has been the percentage of increase in railway rates and fares and the gross new yield during each of these years?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The full information desired regarding taxation imposed by Provincial Governments is not available nor is it possible to calculate accurately the yield from the enhancement of duties. Three statements giving the remaining information are placed on the table.

Statement showing the more important items of new taxation imposed by the Government of India and other measures adopted by them to expand revenues since 1914.

Year.	Details.
1916-17	(1) Import and excise duty on salt raised from Re. 1 to Rs. 1½ a maund. (2) General revision of import tariff, main changes being as follows:— General <i>ad valorem</i> rate raised from 5 to 7½ per cent. except in case of cotton manufactures. Duty on ale, beer, etc., raised by 50 per cent. to 4½ annas a gallon; on spirits and liqueurs by 20 per cent. (<i>i. e.</i>) to Rs. 11½ a proof gallon for portable spirits and all spirits tested, and by 50 per cent. (<i>i. e.</i>) to 7½ per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> for denatured spirits with special rates for liqueurs, cordials and toilet preparations untested and perfumed spirits; and on wines by 16½ per cent. (<i>i. e.</i>) to Rs. 1½ per gallon for still wines and Rs. 4½ per gallon for other classes. Quantitative rate of duty on cigars and cigarettes replaced by <i>ad valorem</i> rate of 50 per cent. and rate on manufactured tobacco, other sorts raised from Rs. 1½ to 1½ per lb. Duty on arms and ammunition doubled (<i>i. e.</i>) raised to 20 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i>. Duty on sugar doubled (<i>i. e.</i>) raised to 10 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i>. Duty on iron and steel raised from 1 to 2½ per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> and various articles which were previously free, <i>e. g.</i>, machinery other than cotton spinning and weaving machinery and railway material taxed at latter rate and certain other articles at 7½ per cent. Coal, coke and fuel taxed at 8 annas per ton. (3) Imposition of an export duty on tea at Rs. 1½ per 100 lbs. and on jute at Rs. 2½ per bale of 400 lbs. in case of raw jute with special rates for cuttings and rejections, and in case of jute manufactures at Rs. 10 per ton for sacking and Rs. 16 per ton for hessians. (4) Income tax on incomes of Rs. 5,000 and above raised from a uniform rate of 5 pies to 6, 9 and 12 pies per rupee.
1917-18	(5) Imposition of a super-tax on incomes exceeding Rs. 50,000 a year at rates rising from 1 anna to 3 annas per rupee. (6) Export tax on jute doubled. (7) Import duty on cotton manufactures raised from 3½ to 7½ per cent. <i>ad valorem</i>. (8) Imposition of surcharge on railway goods traffic at 1 pie per maund on coal, coke and firewood and 2 pies per maund on other articles. (9) Imposition of an excise duty on motor spirit at 6 annas per gallon.
1919-20	(10) Imposition of an excess profits duty for one year. (11) Imposition of an export duty on hides and skins at 15 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> subject to a rebate of 4½ of the duty in the case of exports to other countries in the British Empire. (This duty was reduced to 5 per cent. in 1923-24 and the system of rebates abolished.) (12) Postage and telegraph rates raised as follows:— Enhancement of foreign postage rates for letters from 1 anna to 1½ annas, for a letter not exceeding one ounce in weight, the rate for every additional ounce or part thereof, remaining unaltered at 1 anna. Inland postage rate for letters fixed at one anna for a letter exceeding one tola but not exceeding two and a half tolas in weight and one anna for every additional two and a half tolas or part thereof. Telegraph rates raised to one anna a word with a minimum of twelve annas for ordinary telegrams and two annas a word with a minimum of Rs. -8-0 for express telegrams. Parcel rates altered to two annas up to 20 tolas, three annas up to 40 tolas and three annas for every additional 40 tolas up to 440 tolas.
1920-21	(13) Substitution of a coporation or Companies' tax at flat rate of one anna in the rupee on total income of each company in excess of Rs. 50,000 a year for super-tax previously in force.

Statement showing the more important items of new taxation imposed by the Government of India and other measures adopted by them to expand revenue since 1914—contd.

Year.	Details.
1921-22	(14) Import duties raised as follows :— General <i>ad valorem</i> rate raised from 7½ to 11 per cent. except in case of matches and certain articles of luxury. Specific import duty of 12 annas per gross boxes levied on matches in place of 7½ per cent. <i>ad valorem</i>. Duty on sugar raised to 15 per cent. and on certain articles of luxury to 20 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i>. Duty on ale, beer, etc., raised to 6½ annas per gallon, on spirits, liqueurs to Rs 18½ per proof gallon with special rates for liqueurs untested and perfumed spirits: and on wines to Rs. 9 a gallon for sparkling wines and Rs. 4½ for other wines. Duty on tobacco other than unmanufactured tobacco raised by 50 per cent. (15) Surcharge on railway goods traffic raised to 2½ annas per rupee of net freight payable on all goods except foodgrains, pulses, firewood and fodder. (This was discontinued in 1922-23 when railway rates were enhanced.) (16) Postage rates raised as follows :— Rates for book, pattern and sample packets raised from ½ anna for every 10 tolas to ¾ anna for every 5 tolas. Rates on money order commission raised to rates in force up to April 1902. Rates for registered newspapers raised from ¼ anna for newspapers not exceeding 8 tolas and ½ anna for papers not exceeding 40 tolas to ¾ anna up to 8 tolas and 1 anna up to 20 tolas. Rates for letter postage altered to ½ anna up to ¾ tola, 9 pies up to 1 tola, 1 anna up to 2½ tolas and 1 anna for every additional 2½ tolas. (17) Rates of super-tax and income-tax on higher incomes revised so as to work to a maximum of 4 annas in the rupee in the case of super-tax and 16 pies per rupee in the case of income-tax.
1922-23	(18) Increase in railway passenger fares by 25 per cent. approximately. (19) Revision of postal rates, viz., raising to ½ anna of ¼ anna postcard. Abolition of ½ anna and 9 pies postage for letter, rates in future to be one anna up to 2½ tolas and one anna for every additional 2½ tolas. (20) Revision of import tariff as follows :— General <i>ad valorem</i> tariff raised from 11 to 15 per cent. Import duty on iron and steel and railway material raised from 2½ to 10 per cent. on foreign sugar from 15 to 25 per cent., on articles of luxury from 20 to 30 per cent. and on liquors by 20 per cent. Import duty on matches doubled (i.e.), raised to Rs. 1-8-0 per gross boxes. Import duty levied on yarn at 5 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i>. Imposition of excise duty of one anna per gallon on kerosene produced in India with corresponding increase in import duty. (21) Rates of super-tax and income-tax on higher incomes revised so as to work to maximum of 6 annas per rupee in case of former and 18 pies per rupee in case of latter.
1923-24	(22) Raising of the Salt tax from Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 per maund. (This has, however, been reduced to Rs. 1-4-0 in 1924-25.) (23) Raising of the duty on saccharine and withdrawals of concessional rates in respect of tea chests.
1924-25	(24) Imposition of specific duties on certain materials for match manufacture, viz., 4½ annas per pound on undipped splints and 6 annas per pound on veneers. (25) Levy of protective import duties on certain iron and steel articles—vide Steel Industry (Protection) Act (XIV) of 1924.

Statement showing rates and fares of passenger and goods traffic and the earnings therefrom of all Indian Railways during the years 1913-14 to 1923-24.

Item.	Year.										Percentage of increase in 1923-24 over 1913-14.
	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Average rate charged per passenger per mile (in pice)	14.48	12.79	13.68	13.32	16.68	15.28	16.04	16.72	20.25	23.74	24.33
1st Class	6.67	6.23	5.60	5.07	6.76	7.15	7.69	7.84	9.18	11.75	11.73
2nd "	3.14	3.16	3.16	3.14	4.02	4.17	4.21	4.38	4.45	5.31	5.42
Inter "	2.45	2.20	2.20	2.32	2.78	2.96	2.84	2.92	3.04	3.52	3.53
3rd "	3.45	2.44	2.44	2.48	2.90	3.08	3.00	3.18	3.33	3.78	3.75
Total*	68.54	59.76	66.76	72.26	95.25	1,11.69	1,25.80	1,30.48	1,58.47	1,99.72	1,20.80
Earnings from passenger traffic carried (in thousands of rupees)—	88,70	80,80	1,01,41	1,30,01	1,43,30	1,72.66	2,17.04	2,26.49	2,20.63	2,11.77	1,95.90
1st Class	1,03.48	1,03.31	1,12.82	1,22.41	1,15.73	1,42.88	1,69.68	1,91.19	1,77.80	1,88.30	1,37.88
2nd "	15,37.03	17,62.06	18,04.65	19,61.59	21,44.51	24,42.81	27,68.01	28,91.25	28,41.83	32,20.85	32,91.78
Inter "	21,17.51	20,35.29	20,89.57	23,08.19	25,23.15	28,97.73	33,16.29	34,70.65	34,20.31	37,59.22	36,07.15
3rd "	4.64	4.43	4.34	4.01	4.08	4.26	4.43	4.02	5.36	6.06	6.13
Total*	37,77.40	35,19.18	38,75.79	41,43.00	44,49.54	49,13.80	47,11.60	47,96.84	49,52.32	55,02.32	60,28.91
Average rate charged for carrying a ton of goods one mile.	4.64	4.43	4.34	4.01	4.08	4.26	4.43	4.02	5.36	6.06	6.13
Earnings from goods carried (in thousands of rupees) Rs.	37,77.40	35,19.18	38,75.79	41,43.00	44,49.54	49,13.80	47,11.60	47,96.84	49,52.32	55,02.32	60,28.91

* Includes season and vendors' tickets not included in details.

Statement showing the Land Revenue (less refunds) collected in each Province in 1913-14 and 1923-24.

Province.	(In lakhs of Rupees.)	
	1913-14.	1923-24.
Madras	5,71	5,87
Bombay	5,57	5,09
Bengal	2,80	3,13
United Provinces	5,90	6,92
Punjab	2,69	3,64
Burma	4,62	4,74
Bihar and Orissa	1,64	1,66
Central Provinces	1,87	2,38
Assam	79	1,03

DERAILMENTS ON THE KURIGRAM-TEESTA LINE.

407. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Forward* of the 24th December, 1924, page 11, under the heading "Kurigram-Teesta Line" "Derailment—A Daily Occurrence"?

(b) If so, will the Government please state if the statement made therein with regard to "derailment" is correct?

(c) If so, do they propose to draw the attention of the authorities to the seriousness of the situation and do the needful?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Government have seen the paragraph referred to.

(b) The statement is not correct.

(c) Does not arise.

KOHAT REFUGEES AT RAWALPINDI.

408. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph "A Rawalpindi message states that eight Hindus have been arrested by the Kohat police from among the Kohat refugees at Rawalpindi", published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 25th December, 1924, page 8, under the heading "Kohat Hindus"?

(b) If so, will Government please state why and under what circumstances these persons were arrested?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) Yes.

(b) In the ordinary course of judicial procedure which had been temporarily suspended in the hope of facilitating a reconciliation.

TENDERS FOR SERVICEABLE AND SCRAP PERMANENT WAY MATERIALS AT ENGINEERING DEPÔTS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

409. ***Lala Duni Chand:** (1) Is it a fact that the Government invited tenders for the purchase of items of serviceable and scrap permanent way material available at engineering depôts on the North Western Railway, Mogulpore, for the 28th January, 1924?

(2) Is it a fact that the following items thereof were accepted in the name of the firms noted against them instead of those noted in the next column whereby the Government suffered about Rs. 35,000 loss in revenue. Will Government please state the reasons for this?

Item No.	Description.	Name of firm in whose name tenders were accepted and the rate.	Rate offered by the other firms and the name.
2	Rails, steel serviceable, 157 tons.	Messrs. Moti Lal Raghbar Dial, Agra at Rs. 65.	Messrs. Sham Lal Bedi Chand, Agra at Rs. 82-8-0.
6	Cut rails steel 2,400 tons	L. Chanan Mal, Lahore at Rs. 30.	Punjab Metal Marts, Sialkote at Rs. 41-5-3.
7	Steel Sleepers 91 tons	Messrs. Dhanna Mall Har-charan Dass and Ram Ditta Mall, Lahore at Rs. 30-3.	Messrs. Sham Lal Bedi Chand, Agra at Rs. 32-8-0.

(3) Is it a fact that the Government invited tenders for the scrap, metal, etc., in September, 1924?

(4) Is it a fact that the tenders by Messrs. Piyare Lal Mithan Lal, Agra and Ragho Ram Tulsi Ram at Rs. 55 per ton and Rs. 38-7 per ton respectively for 3,200 tons steel sleepers were received?

(5) Is it a fact that the Controller of Stores, North-Western Railway, accepted a tender for the above item at Rs. 38-7 instead of Rs. 55 whereby the Government suffered about Rs. 54,000 loss in revenue. Will Government please state the reason for this?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The tenders referred to by the Honourable Member were considered personally by the Agent in consultation with other heads of departments and those which were regarded as most favourable to the railway were accepted. In some cases the highest tenders were not accepted because of unsuitable conditions in regard to delivery, payment and the like.

AMOUNT DRAWN BY THE PUNJAB ALLIANCE AUCTION ROOMS TO THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

410. ***Lala Duni Chand:** Is it a fact one Mr. Butt was appointed auctioneer to auction miscellaneous stores of the North Western Railway, Lahore, by the Controller of Stores and auctioned goods worth nearly 5½ lakhs? Is it a fact that he has paid to the Railway part of the money and a sum of nearly 52,000 has been due from him since last year? Why was delivery of goods made without realizing the dues of the Railway? What steps, if any, have been taken to recover the money so far? Has this firm any amount in deposit with the Government? If so, please state the amount?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The question apparently refers to a contract, entered into by the North-Western Railway, with the Punjab Alliance Auction Rooms to conduct auction sales, in January, 1923. The reference to a Mr. Butt is not understood as no such appointment has been made.

The total value of the stores sold under the contract was approximately Rs. 5½ lakhs, out of which a sum of approximately Rs. 52,000 is still due from the auctioneers. Delivery of the auctioned material was made on the authority of the auctioneers who were responsible for payments to the railway.

The case has been referred to the Legal Remembrancer to the Punjab Government, for necessary action, with a view to the amount still due to the Railway being recovered by the institution of a suit in the civil courts. The firm furnished a deposit of Rs. 5,000 which has been forfeited.

TENDERS FOR STORES FOR THE ARMY REMOUNT DEPÔTS AT SARGODHA AND MONA.

411. ***Lala Duni Chand:** (a) With reference to the reply to the starred question No. 1776 on 11th September, 1924, to the effect that "the practice is to accept the most favourable tender received from a tenderer who is considered reliable and suitable in all respects and that a factor always taken into account is whether the tenderer possesses a knowledge and experience of the work of the supplies required and is punctual and efficient in the discharge of contract", will the Government be pleased to state if the rule of conduct laid down above, has been departed from in many cases?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the negative, is it not a fact that in the year 1921-22 at Sargodha the contract of petty stores was given to a new and inexperienced man at higher rates against the lower rates tendered by Messrs. Ram Chand Kidar Nath?

(c) Is it also not a fact that Messrs. Ram Chand Kidar Nath had been given contracts for several years previously and were invariably found "suitable, reliable and punctual"?

(d) If the reply to (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, do the Government intend to take any action against the officers concerned for the breach of the above rule of conduct laid down by the Government?

2. (a) Is it a fact that a list of approved contractors for supply of petty stores at the depôts of Sargodha and Mona is kept and if so, how does the question of a suitable and reliable contractor arise?

(b) Do the Government in future propose to direct that the contracts be given to the tenderer of the lowest rates?

Mr. E. Burdon: Government are making inquiries in the matter. I will inform the Honourable Member of the result in due course.

CASES INSTITUTED UNDER THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX ACT.

412. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government be pleased to give:

(a) A statement of penal cases and the amount of fine recoveries in each under sections 25, 28 and 46 (1) of the Income-tax Act in the year ending 31st March 1924 in each Province?

(b) The number of cases prosecuted and cases compounded under Chapter VIII of the Income-tax Act and the penalty in each case in each Province in the above year?

(c) The number of cases where there was a reference to the High Courts and the final decision in each case in the same year?

(d) The number of appeals to the Assistant Commissioners and Commissioners and number decided against the appellant in each Province in the same year?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The information relating to cases under section 46 (1) is given in Return VII of the All-India Income-tax Returns for 1923-24, which are being printed and which will be published shortly.

As regards penalties levied under sections 25 and 26, the information will be obtained and furnished to the Honourable Member.

(b) The number of prosecutions is given in Return VII above referred to. The other information will be obtained and furnished in due course.

(c) and (d). The information is available in Return VII referred to above.

AMENDMENT OF THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX ACT.

413. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government be pleased to say if they have under consideration any amendment of the Income-tax Act, so as to give facilities of appeals to judicial courts in cases of alleged wrong assessment and inflictions of penalties.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: No.

THE MILITARY SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS ASSOCIATION.

414. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government be pleased to say:

(i) If they have issued orders to disorganise the Military Sub-Assistant Surgeons Association and if so what considerations led them to take this step.

(ii) If it is a fact that this was the only source to make their grievances heard, and other departments under the Government of India are allowed to have their Service Associations.

(iii) If they know that the discontent among the members of the class on account of comparative disadvantages the class is put to while in service, is growing every day. If so what steps do they propose to take to remove the grievances. If not will they inquire before finally issuing orders to stop the Association working.

(iv) Are they prepared to let the Association do its work, under certain conditions of recognition?

Mr. E. Burdon: (i) Orders have been issued by the Adjutant General in India forbidding persons subject to military law to belong to the Association. the reason for these orders being that under military regulations officers and soldiers are not permitted to participate in Associations of this kind.

(ii) No. Sub-Assistant Surgeons can, if they so desire, represent their grievances to the Government of India through the prescribed official channel. Government servants under other Departments of the Government of India are in a different position, as they are not governed by military regulations.

(iii) Government are not prepared to admit that discontent is prevailing among the members of this class in the degree and for the reasons suggested. If it were, any real grievance could be removed by an application through the proper official channel.

(iv) For the reason given in (i) above, Government are unable to modify the orders issued by the Adjutant General.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare: Is there any Association of I. M. S. officers?

Mr. E. Burdon: Not that I am aware of.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare: Have the Government of India not received applications from the Military Sub-Assistant Surgeons during the last two years regarding their grievances?

Mr. E. Burdon: Yes, I think they have.

INCOME-TAX OFFICERS.

415. **Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government please state:

- how many Income-Tax Officers have been appointed in each of the Provinces during the years 1922, 1923, and 1924?
- what is the salary given to these officers in each of the Provinces?
- if there are any qualification tests or educational standing required for appointments to these posts of Income-tax Officers before appointments by selection so as to avoid favouritism, displacing persons of capability and qualifications in this so-called process of selections?
- if there is any departmental test required to be passed by a person regarding knowledge of the technical accounts and the law necessary to perform the duties of an Income-tax Officer before persons are confirmed in appointment?
- the number of appointments made in the Income-tax departments during the last three years of Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Income-tax Officers with their qualifications, age, length of former service in other Departments and the last pay drawn before the appointments?
- if it is a fact that posts carrying salaries equal to the Income-tax Officers' posts require in the Revenue, Judicial, Finance and other Executive Departments, a test of proper qualification before selection to these appointments?
- if they will please inquire if the present incumbents in the Income-tax Department are sufficiently qualified to hold such appointments?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Clauses (a) and (e). The information is not readily available and the Government do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by collecting it as it will involve very considerable labour.

(b) A statement showing the scales of pay sanctioned for Income-tax Officers in the various Provinces is placed on the table.

(c) Income-tax Officers are appointed by Commissioners of Income-tax subject to the approval of the Local Governments. The Government of India have no reason to suppose that the Commissioners of Income-tax have not selected the best available candidates.

(d) Yes.

(f) The Government do not think that any useful purpose would be served by detailing the qualifications prescribed for candidates for the various Government Departments. The Honourable Member is mistaken if I am to take it that he believes that there is no test of proper qualifications in the Income-tax Department.

(g) The Government of India have no reason for doubting that the present incumbents are sufficiently qualified.

Province.	Scale. Rs.
Madras	300—40—500—50—900
Bombay	300—50—2—900
Bengal	300—50—2—900
United Provinces	350—30—800—25—900
Punjab	300—40—850
Burma	350—25—750—50—950
Bihar and Orissa	350—50—2—900
Central Provinces	300—25—550—30—700—40—900

Dr. K. G. Lohokare: Is there any test then?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Yes, Sir.

UNCLAIMED AMOUNTS UNDER DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF THE POST AND TELEGRAPH ADMINISTRATION.

416. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government be pleased to state the unclaimed amounts under different branches of the Post and Telegraph administration during the last 3 years?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: The information is being compiled and will be supplied to the Honourable Member as soon as it is ready.

RAISED PLATFORMS AT SHELARWADY STATION ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

417. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Are Government aware of the frequent complaints of the low platforms at the Shelarwady station on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the consequent inconvenience to passengers especially in days of pilgrimage? Do they propose to ask the Railway Administration to have raised platforms at the station?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government have no information on the subject. High level platforms are usually provided at stations where the traffic offering is sufficient. A copy of the question and the answer will be sent to the Agent.

ISSUE OF TICKETS AT POMALWADY STATION ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY TO PASSENGERS TRAVELLING BY THE BOMBAY MADRAS MAIL TRAINS.

418. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government be pleased to say if they are aware that the Up and Down Bombay Madras mails stop at Pomalwady station on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for watering and yet no issue of tickets is allowed for these trains? Do Government propose to consider the convenience of the passenger traffic and advise the railway authorities accordingly?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, a copy of the question and answer will be sent to the Agent.

CONSTRUCTION OF BHAMBURDA STATION ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

419. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** With reference to my starred questions No. 978 of 24th March 1924 and No. 1786 of the last session, will Government be pleased to state when it is expected to commence the construction of the Bhamburda station on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway? Are Government aware of the fact that during the period of the sanctioning of the Poona town planning schemes and this delay in the construction of the expected station the values of building plots in the scheme will be so affected as to put either the local bodies or the owners to a disadvantage? To avoid such liabilities, are Government prepared to undertake the construction of the station without the least possible delay?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government are unable to state when work on the construction of the Bhamburda station will be started. The question of the extent of the facilities required at this place has not yet been settled and the Agent of the railway is now preparing a revised plan.

WORKING HOURS OF THE STAFF AT WADI BUNDER ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

420. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** With reference to my question regarding the hours of work that the employees in the railway goods sheds have to put in per week, will Government be pleased to inquire how many hours per week the staff in the goods sheds at Wadi-Bunder on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway have to work? Have the authorities received the resolutions of the Wadi-Bunder Railway Servants' Union and have they taken any action on them?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Government have ascertained that the staff at Wadi Bunder work on an average 51 hours per week. The Agent has received copies of the resolutions referred to. Similar representations were made by the staff and the Agent reports that action has been taken on these representations.

LEAVE APPLICATION OF SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEON JAMADAR C. S. D. MUDLIAR OF BURMA.

421. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government be pleased to say:

(a) if they have issued orders as per Army Instruction No. 158 of 1924 to all the Provincial Governments regarding the privilege leave for period of service in the Military Department and if these orders have reached the heads of the Medical Departments in various Provinces?

(b) if these orders are circulated to medical officers from the Civil Departments who had served during the last war by the heads of the various Provincial Medical Departments, if not, will they kindly inquire?

(c) if they know that the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Burmah, has refused to forward an application for leave under Army Instruction 158 put in by Sub-Assistant Surgeon Jamadar C. S. D. Mudliar of Myitkyo, Burmah and that the Deputy D. G. I. M. S. has refused to consider his application unless it is forwarded by the Inspector General, Civil Hospitals?

(d) if they propose to inquire into this case and issue the necessary orders?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) Yes, copies of all Army Instructions are sent to Provincial Governments.

(b) The Government of India have no information on the point nor do they propose to inquire into the matter which is entirely within the province of Local Governments.

(c) Jamadar C. S. D. Mudliar is a Civil Sub-Assistant Surgeon of the Burma Medical Department and it is therefore for the Inspector General, Civil Hospitals, Burma, to obtain the orders of the Government of Burma, regarding any leave due to him under the Army Instruction referred to.

(d) No. The matter is one for the Local Government to deal with.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare: As regards (c), was this Sub-Assistant Surgeon not in the military employ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I am afraid, Sir, I must have notice of that question.

ALLOWANCES GRANTED TO RECIPIENTS OF THE MILITARY CROSS AND THE ORDER OF MERIT.

422. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government kindly say:

(1) what class of military employees are eligible for the Military Cross and the Order of Merit?

(2) which of these receive a monthly allowance as recipients of the honour in addition to the usual salary or pension and at what rate?

(3) what considerations have led Government to lay down different rates of allowance in the case of Indian officers and the Military Sub-Assistant Surgeons?

(4) How many Military Sub-Assistant Surgeons have been awarded the Military Cross and the Order of Merit in the last war and how many of these continue to enjoy the allowance?

(5) Will Government be pleased to say if they propose to consider this question while revising the rules of pensions and allowances to the Military Sub-Assistant Surgeons?

Mr. E. Burdon: (1) and (2). All Indian officers and soldiers are eligible for the Indian Order of Merit. I place on the table a statement giving the other information required by the Honourable Member.

(3) There is no difference between the rates of allowance received by Indian Officers and Sub-Assistant Surgeons ranking as such.

(4) I place on the table a statement giving the information. All the officers, except two who have died, are drawing the allowances.

(5) In view of the reply given to part (3), this question does not arise.

STATEMENT I.

Statement showing the classes eligible for the Military Cross.

- (a) British officers of and below the rank of Captain.
- (b) British Warrant officers, Classes I and II.
- (c) Indian officers, including Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Senior Veterinary Assistants ranking as such.
- (d) Indian Warrant officers, including Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Veterinary Assistants ranking as such.

The classes mentioned in (c) and (d) receive a monthly allowance. The rates of allowances for recipients of the Military Cross and the Indian Order of Merit will be found in Sections IV and VI of paragraph 137, Pay and Allowance Regulation, Part II, a copy of which is in the Library of the Assembly.

STATEMENT II.

Statement showing the Military Sub-Assistant Surgeons who have been awarded the Military Cross and the Indian Order of Merit during the Great War.

Military Cross—

Subadar Bhagwan Singh.
Jemadar Gopi Nath Agarwal.
„ Ram Krishan Ganpat Shinde.

Indian Order of Merit—

Subadar-Major Munisami Naidu.
Subadar Daulat Singh.
A./Subadar Arjan-das Gosain.
„ Lal Singh Bedi.
„ Muhammad Sharif.
Jemadar M. Abdul Rahim.
„ T. R. Govindasami Pillai.
„ Hukam Singh (No. 1111).
„ Ishar Singh.
„ Nagindar Singh.
„ Maula-bakhsh, Khan Sahib.
„ G. J. Ferris.
„ Mul Singh.
„ Mula Singh, Rai Sahib.
„ Ata Mahammad Khan.
„ Shaikh Muhammad Dadasalub.
Subadar Pandit Shankar Das.
Jemadar Riyazuddin.
„ Bhagwan Singh, M.C.
„ Ghaus Muhammad.
1st class Ram Singh.
„ Tek Chand.
„ Harnam Singh.
Jemadar Zafar Hussain.
„ Kehar Singh Chandail.
„ Hukam Singh (1274).
„ Vroj Lal Umed Ram Pandit.
„ Ganput Kanoji Rao Rane.
„ Keshav Warman Khnparkar.
Subadar Gauri Shankar.
2nd class Pargan Singh.
Jemadar Kundan Lal.
„ Daniel Israel Najanapragasam.
„ Rahim-bakhsh.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare: Before the Sub-Assistant Surgeons were given the rank of Jamadar, many had received Military Crosses. Do Government know that these persons are receiving only allowance as an ordinary Indian soldier?

Mr. E. Burdon: I am afraid, Sir, I must ask for notice of that question.

TERMS OF DISCHARGE OF MILITARY SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS, ETC.

423. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** (1) Will Government be pleased to say if they have issued orders regarding:

- (a) the terms of discharge of the Military Sub-Assistant Surgeons; the revised rates of invalid and family pensions of the Military Sub-Assistant Surgeons; the question of increased house-rent as per starred question No. 1233 of the last session?
- (b) the revision of the pay of Store-keepers of the Indian Hospital Corps as per starred question No. 1983 of the last Sessions?

(2) If any such orders are issued, will they be laid on the table?

Mr. E. Burdon: (1) (a). Orders regarding the terms of discharge of Military Sub-Assistant Surgeons have been issued in Army Instruction (India) No. 1180 of 1924. Revised rates of invalid and family pensions for Sub-Assistant Surgeons have not yet been sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India. The rates of compensation admissible in lieu of quarters were given to the Honourable Member on the 2nd June, 1924, in reply to part (g) of his question No. 1233. It is not proposed to increase these rates at present.

(b) Orders on the subject have been issued in an Army Instruction (India).

(2) Copies of the Army Instructions referred to above will be furnished to the Honourable Member separately.

VACANCIES IN THE INDIAN VETERINARY SERVICE.

424. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government be pleased to say:

1. How many vacancies are there at present in the Indian Veterinary Service?
2. If there are any proposals to curtail the number and if so what would be the total strength of the Service?
3. What would be the method of filling up such vacancies; will the expected Public Services Commission be asked to find candidates for these?
4. Is it a fact that in 1922, six officers of the Provincial Veterinary Service were deputed to Muktesar for higher training in Veterinary Science with a view to enable them to be eligible for promotion to the Imperial Veterinary Service?
5. Have Government under consideration the claims of these six officers in filling up the above vacancies; if so, when do they expect to issue the necessary orders?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: 1. 19.

2. In view of the recommendation of the Lee Commission, which has been accepted, that the Indian Veterinary Service should be provincialised, the Government cannot normally make any further appointments to the Service.

3. In view of the answer given above, this question does not arise.

4. Six officers of the Provincial Veterinary Service were deputed in 1922 to Mukhtesar for higher training in Veterinary Science; but they were clearly given to understand that their training at Mukhtesar would not entitle them to promotion to the Imperial Veterinary Service. The training was intended to make them more efficient in the performance of their existing duties and all that was stated was that by undergoing such training successfully they would become eligible for promotion to the Indian Veterinary Service.

5. As I have explained above, these six officers have no claim to promotion to the Indian Veterinary Service. The Government have their case under consideration.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare: Apart from the training of these six officers, have Government supplied any other men in the Provincial Service with a superior post?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I am afraid I cannot give a reply to the Honourable Member offhand. I must have notice of that.

USE OF A DEFECTIVE WEIGHING MACHINE AT SEALDAH ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

425. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a signed letter headed "Excess Luggage charge," and published in the *Forward*, dated the 2nd October 1924 (Town edition, page 3)?

(b) Are the facts stated therein substantially correct? If so, do the Government propose to take any action in the matter?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 30 in this Assembly on the 22nd instant.

UNIVERSITIES IN THE DIFFERENT PROVINCES.

426. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the provinces in British India in which Universities have not yet been established?

(b) the names of the provinces in British India in which Universities have been established?

(c) the number of Universities in each of the provinces in which they have been established?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: A statement giving the desired information is placed on the table.

Statement mentioned in Mr. Bhore's reply to Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's question regarding Universities.

(a) Assam, Coorg, North-West Frontier Province, Ajmer-Merwara, and British Baluchistan.

(b) and (c):

Name of Presidency or Province.	Number of Universities.
Madras	1
Bombay	1
Bengal	2
United Provinces	4
Punjab	1
Burma	1
Bihar and Orissa	1
Central Provinces	1
Delhi	1
TOTAL	13

PURCHASES OF STEEL BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND RAILWAYS.

427. ***Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if, after the passing of the Steel Protection Bill, they stipulate that steel from Tata Iron and Steel Co., should be used in tenders for supplies of Government requirements, and is such an addition laid down in all tender forms?

(b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state how many tenders have been called for by the various departments of the Government of India since the passing of the Steel Protection Bill, and also state in how many of these tenders the stipulation referred to above has been made.

(c) If the reply to (a) above be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state why they did not think it necessary to give encouragement to the Tata Iron and Steel Co., in this direction?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the total quantity of steel bought by them during the last year, which ended on 31st March 1924, and how much of this was bought from Jamshedpur?

(e) Will Government be pleased to get a statement from the High Commissioner for India in London, and statements from the various Company-managed railways, showing the total quantity of steel bought by each of these abroad, during the last year ended 31st March 1924 and place same on the table?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Rules for the supply of articles for the public service which were promulgated with the Resolution of the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour, No. S.-217, dated the 6th May 1924, state clearly the extent to which preference should be given to articles manufactured in India with a view to encouraging the industries of the country. These rules apply to all purchases made by the purchasing authorities under

the Central Government. The products of Messrs. Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., fall under Rule I, and purchasing officers are required to give preference to these provided the quality is sufficiently good for the purpose and the price reasonable. In view of these conditions Government do not consider it necessary to make any addition to the tender forms on the lines indicated by the Honourable Member.

(d) and (e) The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not available and its collection will involve elaborate inquiries. I shall collect such information as is readily available and inform the Honourable Member of the results in due course.

Sir Campbell Rhodes: Do the Government realise that if they give a monopoly, other forms of protection are quite unnecessary?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: As I have said in my reply to part (c) of Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas' question Government do not intend to grant a monopoly. The rules provide that preference should be given to articles manufactured in India only when the price is reasonable among other things.

Sir Campbell Rhodes: Having given protection, is it the policy of the Government in the interests of the tax-payer and of efficiency in the protected industry that Government should throw open tenders to the whole world?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: They are, as a matter of fact, thrown open to the whole world.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RATES TRIBUNAL.

428. ***Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state when they propose to establish the Rates Tribunal recommended by the Indian Railway (Ackworth) Committee?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reason of the delay in getting the Secretary of State's sanction regarding the appointment of a Rates Tribunal, and whether they are aware that the Indian commercial community are very anxious on the work of the Rates Tribunal being started without any delay?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Secretary of State's reply to Government's proposals regarding the establishment of the Rates Tribunal was received by the mail of 25th instant and is under consideration.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: When do Government expect to publish it for the information of the public?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I myself only saw it yesterday and I am afraid I cannot give any reply to that question.

ARTICLE IN THE *EMPIRE REVIEW* HEADED "EAST AFRICAN PROBLEMS."

429. ***Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article in the *Empire Review* by the late Rt.

Rev. Frank Weston, M.A., D.D., Bishop of Zanzibar, headed "East African Problems". (The said article is reprinted in the "Tanganyika Opinion", dated the 9th November 1924.)

(b) Are Government prepared to send a copy of this article to the Secretary of State for India with a request that the contents of the article may be brought to the notice of the Commission under the Chairmanship of Lord Southborough?

Mr. J. W. Bhole: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) I have not been able to get a copy of the article in question, but if the Honourable Member will be good enough to send me one, the suggestion will be considered.

TANGANYIKA ORDINANCE No. 10 OF 1923.

430. ***Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have received complaints from Indian merchants trading in Tanganyika, or on their behalf regarding the great inconvenience caused to them by Tanganyika Ordinance No. 10 of 1923, which imposes upon every person holding a trading license the necessity of keeping his accounts either in English or Swahili in English characters?

(b) Are Government aware that the number of Indian traders in Tanganyika is estimated at 3,000 to 3,500 (shopkeepers included)?

(c) Is it a fact that for the benefit of a few Belgian firms account books are allowed to be kept in Tanganyika in French, but they are prohibited from being kept in Guzerati which is the mother tongue of most of the Indian traders in Tanganyika?

(d) Are Government aware that Tanganyika is under a League of Nations Mandate, and that the said Mandate imposes a drastic veto on racial discrimination in administration?

(e) Have Government communicated to the Colonial Office, through the Secretary of State for India, this serious handicap on Indian traders in Tanganyika, and if so why has no relief been available to the Indian traders till now?

(f) Are Government aware that in the Malay States Chinese traders are allowed to keep their books of accounts in Chinese and Tamil traders in Tamil?

(g) Do Government propose to ask their representatives on the League of Nations to raise this question there, in order to ensure immediate relief to the Indian traders in Tanganyika?

(h) If the reply to (g) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the time when they propose to have the question thus raised?

(i) If the reply to (g) above be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for their reply in the negative?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government are aware that French has been added to the list of languages in which accounts may be kept and that Guzerati is not included in that list.

(d) and (f) Yes.

(e) Representations on the subject were made by the Colonies Committee of the Government of India last July and the results are awaited.

(g) and (i) In view of my reply to part (e) of the question, the Government of India do not at present propose to take the action suggested by the Honourable Member.

(h) Does not arise.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: How long do the Government of India propose to wait for the decision of the Colonial Office before they take final and effective steps to move this matter in the League of Nations?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I know, Sir, that the matter is under the consideration of the Colonial Office because they have told us so. That being so, we must at any rate extend to them the courtesy of waiting until they have come to a final decision in the matter.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Will Government be pleased to state the period since which this restriction has been introduced on the Guzerati-knowing public in Tanganyika and further will they be pleased to state if they do not think that by the time they come to a decision in the matter, the worst effects of the restriction may have been felt by the public concerned?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I would like to inform the Honourable Member that the Government of India have made constant representations to the Colonial Office in this matter, but it was left to the Colonies Committee to again raise this on one particular point among others on which they made representations to the Colonial Office and I am afraid I can add nothing further to what I have already said. We must await the decision of the Colonial Office on the representations made by the Colonies Committee on this point.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: How long do the Government of India propose to keep on waiting for this reply?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: A reasonable time, Sir.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: May I know the approximate period of that reasonable time?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I regret I cannot define that more precisely.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: May I know how long Government have been waiting since they made their first representation?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The first representation on which the Colonial Office came to a conclusion was over 2 years ago.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: A reasonable period of time might then extend to more than two years. Do the Government of India expect the reasonable period that they propose to wait for hereafter to extend over two years?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I think the Honourable Member may leave it to the discretion of the Government as to what is or what is not a reasonable period of time in the present circumstances of the case.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: I am quite prepared to leave it to their discretion as we have left it till now. The only question now is there must be some reasonable limit even to our patience.

431. **The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I have already answered this question.

SINGAPORE BASE.

432. ***Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether any communication has been received from His Majesty's Government about the construction and maintenance of the Singapur base and to state whether there is any proposal to make India financially responsible as a contributory for the costs and maintenance of the base?

Mr. E. Burdon: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, and to the second in the negative.

REVISION OF THE PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF THE ARMY SERVICES.

433. ***Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether any decision has been reached in regard to the revision of pay and allowances of the Army Services in India and to state the present and revised scales of pay of these services?

Mr. E. Burdon: A final decision has not yet been made in regard to the revision of pay. I presume my Honourable friend has seen the announcement on the subject which appeared in the press on the 5th January. The present scales of pay are given in paragraph 31, Pay and Allowance Regulations, Part I, a copy of which will be found in the Library of the Assembly.

EXPORTS OF OPIUM, ETC.

434. ***Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity of opium exported from India in 1923-24 and in 1924-25 up to date, (i) to each foreign Government and (ii) to the merchants having certificates from each foreign Government for importing opium?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the names and official designations of the delegates from India to the recent Geneva Opium Conference and to lay on the table the instructions issued by the Government of India to those delegates and also a statement as to the decisions arrived at by the Conference?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The exports of opium during the period in question were:

	1923-24.	1924-25. (9 months—April to December.)
	Chests.	Chests.
By Government to Foreign Governments	2,595	2,242
By Agents of Foreign Governments to those Governments	2,584	1,663
To private merchants under import certificates	3,546	1,390
Total	8,695	5,295

(b) Mr. J. Campbell, C.S.I., O.B.E., formerly of the I.C.S., now British representative on the Greek Refugees' Settlement Commission, was appointed to represent India on the Opium Conferences. Mr. H. Clayton, C.I.E., I.C.S., Financial Commissioner, Burma, now on leave, has also been helping him from time to time. Mr. Campbell had to leave suddenly on more pressing business and his place at the Conferences was taken by Mr. J. C. Walton, Assistant Secretary, Economic and Overseas Department, India Office, London.

The Indian delegate is fully aware of the opium policy of the Government of India, and the necessity of giving him any special instructions did not therefore arise. As regards the decisions of the Conferences, the Government of India have nothing to add to what has already appeared in the public press. When official reports of the proceedings are received, the Government of India will be glad to make them available.

REVENUE FROM PROTECTIVE DUTIES ON IRON AND STEEL.

435. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of revenue they have derived from:

- old scale duties on imports of steel, and
- additional duties under the Indian Steel Industry (Protection) Act,

from 1st June 1924 to 31st December 1924?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Honourable Member's question is not clearly understood. If what he desires to know is the duty that would have been levied on the old scale on the imports of those kinds of iron and steel which have been protected under the Steel Industry (Protection) Act and the actual duty that has been levied on those goods under the above-mentioned Act, I can give below the following estimate of the two figures required:

	Rs.
Total receipts from the 13th June to the 30th December of protective special duties on iron and steel	147.08 lakhs.
Amount that would have been levied on the old scale	70.48 „
Balance representing additional duty under the Steel Industry (Protection) Act	70.60 „

It should be explained that the figure for duty on the old scale is an estimated one only, since the imports in question have not been assessed to duty on the old scale subsequent to the introduction of the new tariff; but the estimate has been prepared with the greatest possible care.

BOUNTY TO THE TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

436. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (i) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of bounty given (a) to the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., and (b) to other firms, under the Indian Steel Industry (Protection) Act, from 1st June 1924 to 31st December 1924?

(ii) Will Government be pleased to state the amount which they will have to give under the proposed bounty of Rs. 20 per ton from 1st June 1924 to 31st December 1924?

(iii) Will Government be pleased to state the balance of revenue from duties on steel after deducting the above amounts, which will be credited to the general finances of the country during the period from 1st June to 31st December 1924?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (i) (a). The total amount paid to Messrs. Tata Sons Ltd., on behalf of the Steel Company from June to December 1924 under the bounty system approved last June is Rs. 18,56,864. It is expected that during 1924-25 the Tata Iron and Steel Company will receive on the whole 30 lakhs as bounties on rails.

(b) Nothing so far has been paid to other firms. The bounties on wagons for the current financial year are fixed by the Act at a maximum of 7 lakhs.

(ii) It is expected that the Tata Iron and Steel Company will receive about 25 lakhs for the period October 1st, 1924, to March 31st, 1925, under the proposals which the Government have made and which the Assembly has accepted.

(iii) This part of the question has just been answered by the Honourable the Finance Member.

DISCHARGE OF FATEH MOHAMAD OF THE MILITARY WORKS SERVICE.

437. ***Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah:** (a) Is the Government aware that one Fateh Mohamad of Multan who served as a subordinate in the Military Works Service for over 15 years (from 1908 to 16th July 1923), has been discharged from service, while on the eve of retirement, by the Chief Engineer, Northern Command, for absence owing to sudden illness of his wife?

(b) Is it a fact that the reasons for his discharge were recorded as:

- absence without leave from 17th July 1923;
- disobedience of orders, i.e., not acknowledging a letter by telegram as desired by A. C. R. E., Peshawar?

If so, will the Government please state whether his explanation to the above charges were taken, and if so, his replies may please be laid on the table.

(c) Whether rule III of Appendix XXVI referred to in paragraph 18 of Army Regulations, India, Vol. II (which lays down that neglect of duty, inattention or disobedience renders a servant liable to suspension or reduction from a higher to a lower grade), was considered while imposing such a hard punishment as discharge on an old employee like him.

If not, will the Government please state reasons under which his discharge was effected and whether at the time of issue of orders for his discharge his long service with pensionary rights was considered?

DISCHARGE OF FATEH MOHAMAD OF THE MILITARY WORKS SERVICE.

438. ***Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah:** (a) Is it a fact that the said Fateh Mohamad appealed to the Adjutant General in India against the order of his discharge but no consideration was given to it? And that he even applied to the Chief Engineer, Northern Command, more than once for fresh employment, but no response has been given to his applications?

(b) Will the Government please say why no consideration is given to his request for fresh employment and whether this discharge debars him even from fresh employment in the Department?

(c) If not, will the Government please state the circumstances under which his appeal for reinstatement and his applications for re-employment were not considered, and so far no chance has been offered to him?

* **Mr. E. Burdon:** With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions Nos. 437 and 438 together.

Inquiries on the subject are being made and the Honourable Member will be informed of the result as soon as possible.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING, BANGALORE.

439. ***Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan:** Will Government be pleased to state the yearly expenditure on the Imperial Institute of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Punjab)?

What is the length of courses provided at the Institute and the number of students attending such courses?

What is the value of the annual produce and how is it disposed of?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Imperial Institute of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is located at Bangalore in Southern India and not in the Punjab. The Imperial Cattle Breeding Farm is, however, at Karnal in the Punjab. These Institutions were worked for 9 months only during the year 1923-24. A statement showing the expenditure incurred and receipts realised on them will be found in the report of the Imperial Dairy Expert which forms part of the Scientific reports of the Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, for 1923-24, copies of which are available in the Library for the use of the Members of the Legislature.

There are two courses of instruction given at the Imperial Institute of Animal Husbandry and Dairying at Bangalore:

- (a) a post-graduate course of 15 months in Animal Husbandry; and
- (b) an Indian Diploma course of 2 years in Dairying.

Five students were admitted to the post-graduate course and 15 to the Indian Diploma course in Dairying during the last session.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following Message has been received from the Secretary of the Council of State to the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly:

"In accordance with sub-rule (3) of rule 36 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I am directed to inform you that the amendments made by the Legislative Assembly in the Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to Government and other Provident Funds, as passed by the Council of State, were taken into consideration by the Council of State at its meeting held to-day, the 27th January, and that the Council of State has proposed the following amendments to the amendments made by the Legislative Assembly, namely:

'In clause 6 of the Bill, the letter 'a' within brackets and the word 'or' at the end of the sub-clause have been re-inserted, and sub-clause (b) has been re-inserted with the following amendment, namely:

After the word 'authority' the words 'for any reasons specified in this behalf in the rules of the Fund' have been inserted.'

I am directed to enclose a copy of the Bill, as further amended by the Council of State."

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS.

Mr. President: The Assembly will now proceed to elect members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways. 17 members have been nominated for eight seats. Instructions are printed at the foot of the ballot paper. Members will proceed to the table and receive their ballot papers in the order in which I call them.

(The ballot was then taken.)

RESOLUTION RE THE BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar (Madras ceded districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, let me first convey the thanks of this House to the Honourable the Leader for having given us an opportunity of expressing the views of this House upon a question which is not simply of local importance because of its present local application, but is a question of far-reaching consequence, a question which affects the liberties of 320 millions of this country. Sir, coming as I do from a remote corner of Madras tempered by the coolness of the South Indian breeze, my remarks on this subject will not be open to the charge of being animated by passion, by excitement or by bias. The Resolution which stands in my name is:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that steps be taken forthwith to supersede by an Act of the Indian Legislature the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, I of 1924, made and promulgated by His Excellency the Governor General for and in the province of Bengal."

Sir, you are all aware that this Ordinance was issued on the 25th October, 1924, with a statement of the reasons and circumstances that led to the framing and the promulgation of this Ordinance. In that statement which has been appended to this Ordinance His Excellency the Viceroy has traced the history of revolutionary organisations in this country, and,

[Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar.]

thank God, he commences from 1912, and not from the great Indian Mutiny. Sir, the history, from the statement of reasons appended to this Ordinance, mentions that from the year 1912 up to the year 1917, there were vigorous revolutionary organisations carried on in this country, and they were put down only by the vigorous application of the old Regulation III of 1818 and the Defence of India Act, which was then in force. And it is stated further that after the Royal Proclamation of 1919 was issued and after these prisoners under the old Regulation were released, most of them returned to their peaceful avocations. But still there remained a body among them which wanted to carry on their old revolutionary organizations, though for a time it was tempered by a peaceful movement as in 1920 to 1922. The organization which was formed by them is supposed to be with the ultimate object of resuscitating the old revolutionary movement, though for a time they were impressed by the non-violent non-cooperation movement. Sir, it is then stated that in the year 1923, there was a wholesale recrudescence of the old revolutionary movement, and the history which is appended to the Ordinance states in a vague general way that the year 1923 was filled with a series of outrages; but the definite instances commence with January, 1924, the murder of Mr. Day, and in April 1924, the attempt to murder Mr. Bruce, both under mistaken identity. Sir, nobody in this country is wanting in detestation of the horrible murder that has been committed. Nobody in this country associates himself with any sympathy towards the perpetrators of this murder. But at the same time to think of one murder as having set the whole world in agitation, as having put both the Ganges and the Hooghly on fire, as bringing down the heavens to the earth, as circumstances requiring an Ordinance of a peculiar nature to be promulgated,—that is what we in this country cannot understand. Sir, ever since this Ordinance was passed there have been public meetings, public denunciations in the Press; and wherever this subject was taken up, there has not been said one word of approval from any party of Indian politics or from any section of the Indian press. We are no doubt aware that the Anglo-Indian press is in full sympathy with a measure of this kind. We know that the British press applauds the action of His Excellency the Viceroy though it would be the last to welcome such a measure for its own country. Sir, I have stated that everywhere this has received nothing but criticism. The inherent iniquity of this measure is furthermore clearly demonstrated by the various laboured defences that have been undertaken by His Excellency the Governor of Bengal and by His Excellency the Viceroy. Sir, after the promulgation of this Ordinance, the defence commenced with a speech by His Excellency Lord Lytton at Malda on the 24th November 1924. That was the first occasion when His Excellency Lord Lytton attempted a defence, an unsolicited defence as he himself puts it, of this Ordinance, and on that occasion he has stated words of such significance that we need not go to any other authority, to any Nationalist paper, for the denunciation of this Ordinance as a lawless law. Sir, His Excellency Lord Lytton has said in unmistakable terms as follows:

"Men who live within the law are entitled to the protection of the law, but men who defy the law, who live outside the law and menace the liberty of those who live within it, who take upon themselves to decide without any process of law who shall live and who shall die, these men have no right to the protection of the law. They are outlaws. They are a danger to the State, and their liberty is forfeited. It is against such men and such men alone that the special powers which my Government have asked for and have obtained are being directed."

Is this not a clear confession, Sir, that His Excellency Lord Lytton justifies the issue of a lawless law for meeting the outlaw? He thinks that an outlaw deserves no kinder treatment than being attacked by an equally bad weapon, that is, a lawless law. Sir, His Excellency Lord Lytton's second instalment of defence was on the 26th February, 1924. That was at Dinajpur. There His Excellency has made it clear as to why the papers which are connected with the information or with the occurrence of any of the offences with which these people may be charged are not placed before High Court Judges but only District Judges. In answer to that question from the public His Excellency stated:

"We cannot use the High Court except in its *judicial* capacity. The service of examining in secret our evidence and advising us as to its reliability is an *executive* service which cannot be performed by the Judges of the High Court. It is not our unwillingness to consult them but their unwillingness to serve in this capacity which precludes us from resorting to the Judges of the High Court."

Sir, when papers are submitted for investigation, when papers are submitted for judicial consideration, we expect judicial opinion to be given and not executive service to be rendered. Is it for the purpose of getting executive service that the two Judges, the two District and Sessions Judges, are taken into the bargain, and the High Court Judges are avoided? Sir, His Excellency Lord Lytton says that the High Court Judges are not prepared to give this advice in an executive capacity. Certainly they will not be prepared, but the High Court Judges would certainly be prepared to give judicial advice, and it is judicial advice that is wanted and not executive advice. One year ago when His Excellency was speaking from the Throne in opening this Parliament, a Parliament is too great a name for an imbecile Assembly like this, Sir. . . .

Mr. President: Order, order. I cannot allow the Honourable Member to refer to the body over which I preside in those terms.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: With your permission, I am quoting the speech of His Excellency.

Mr. President: That is no concern of mine. The Honourable Member has used in his argument an expression which is improper, and as long as I preside over this body, I will not allow an expression like that to be used about the Assembly.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: I withdraw the word "imbecile". I was just anxious to refer to the speech of His Excellency. His Excellency the Viceroy said:

"After the arrests in Bengal were made, as you are aware, all the documents and evidence relating to each individual have been placed before two Judges of the High Court for the purpose of thoroughly sifting the material on which action was taken, of submitting it to the technical tests of judicial knowledge and experience, and of framing recommendations in each case."

Sir, one year ago the High Court Judges were prepared to give judicial advice on these points: how is it that the High Court Judges are not willing now to give the benefit of their judicial experience, judicial knowledge, judicial opinion in regard to a question of such great importance as affects the personal freedom of the persons who have been taken under arrest under a mere suspicion? Sir, it cannot be that the High Court Judges are unwilling, but it appears they are unwilling to work in an executive capacity whereas they would be prepared to work in a judicial

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capacity. That is no justification for seeking advice from a subordinate executive service. Sir, the next occasion when His Excellency Lord Lytton spoke in defence of this Ordinance was at the St. Andrew's Day Dinner on the 30th November, 1924. In reply to a toast His Excellency Lord Lytton gave an elaborate reply to Mr. C. R. Das. I do not know exactly what the toast was, presumably the gentlemen who were assembled at the dinner were drinking to the health of Mr. C. R. Das or of the Ordinance or of the prisoners under the Ordinance. Anyhow Lord Lytton took that as a fitting occasion to defend the Ordinance, and what is the defence which he made then? He said, in answer to a criticism that this Ordinance is aimed mainly at the Swaraj party:

"If our object had been what he ('he' means Mr. C. R. Das) asserts, we should have arrested not three Swarajist Members of Council but 40, and endeavoured to remove the obstruction which he thought is so embarrassing."

Sir, we never for one moment believed, believed fondly, that the bankruptcy of statesmanship has gone to that brink, that extreme brink, as to unveil at once the veil of the Ordinance. Arresting three Swarajist Members is as good as proving positively that this Ordinance is aimed at the Swarajist Party, and it does not require the arrest of 40 Members to prove the case any better. Sir, I do not believe for one moment that the criticism has been rightly answered by His Excellency Lord Lytton. The next defence was on the 2nd December, 1924. That was at a Durbar at Government House. There His Excellency has told us in very emphatic, decisive terms and tone:

"As the Head of the Executive Government I say finally and definitely that we will not put our witnesses before any tribunal unless we can guarantee their safety if they speak the truth."

Gentlemen, remember those words, you have to remember them in a later connection when we come to deal with the Ordinance itself. These are His Excellency's words. His Excellency definitely says:

"I am not prepared to produce the witnesses before the court."

Then, Sir, in reply to a question as to why non-official gentlemen should not be invited to advise, His Excellency said:

"The belief that there were men in India or in any country in the world who in a matter of acute political controversy were free from any political bias, whose impartiality was unquestioned by anyone and whose verdict would be acceptable by all was unfortunately the dream of a visionary and entirely at variance with the realities of life."

From this we can understand very easily what the mentality of those who are called upon to judge upon scraps of paper the acts of persons who have been arrested under the Ordinance is likely to be. That bias, that prejudice, which His Excellency attributes to other non-official gentlemen will with greater force be present in the minds of those whom he invites from his own service, his own subordinate service, to judge about these matters. Then, His Excellency lays down three conditions as to the release of these prisoners, two of which are vague and indefinite and the third is an impossible condition. His Excellency said: in order to get a release of these prisoners, three conditions must be fulfilled. One is to make sure that those who organise and direct the terrorist movement have been restrained from employing their methods of intimidation. When is that list to close? Who are those organisers in the view of His Excellency

who must be brought out and when alone will the movement stop? Then the second condition is to deprive them of their weapons. Searches have been made and the weapons have not been discovered. Smuggling goes on, and yet no weapons have been discovered. When is His Excellency going to collect the weapons which have been used or which have been stocked by these conspirators in order to get the release of persons like Subash Chandra Bose? The third and the last indispensable condition is the passage of a Bill which would be introduced to take the place of the Ordinance. Sir, that is an impossible condition. If His Excellency means that there can be a Bill in the Bengal Legislative Council to supersede this Ordinance it is against the Government of India Act. No power can repeal or can supersede this Ordinance except an Act of this Legislature. Even if His Excellency is inclined to recall the Ordinance he cannot do it. The Act is clear on the point. Therefore, Sir, it is impossible to speak of any Act to take the place of this Ordinance unless this Legislature and an Act of this Legislature repeals or supersedes or controls or amends the Ordinance. Therefore, legally it is an impossible condition. Sections 72 and 67 of the Government of India Act lay down very clearly that the only power that can repeal this is an Act of this Legislature. Therefore, Sir, under section 80A of the Government of India Act the Local Government has not got the power of taking away the effect of this Ordinance unless it be that it waits for six months during which period the Ordinance will have lived its full life. Now, Sir, morally speaking he offers it as a ransom, as a heavy ransom, as a humiliating ransom, for the release of prisoners, to substitute on the Statute-book a lawless law. Is that a condition to which any self-respecting Member can consent to give his assent? Sir, His Excellency has also stated:

"It is the supreme opportunity and I am confident that in this hour of political trial, Bengal will emerge triumphant."

Yes, Bengal proved His Excellency to be a true prophet. Bengal did come out triumphant, whatever His Excellency's idea of triumph may be. Now, Sir, had it not been for this, had it not been for the way in which the Bengal Council behaved towards the Bill which was introduced, which was as black and as lawless as the Ordinance itself, and as such they could not give their consent to it, had they behaved otherwise, had they given their consent, the people of the country would have taken them as persons who are working not for real Swaraj, but for a lawless Swaraj. They would be put down as persons who were working for a lawless Swaraj and I am glad that the Bengal Council stood firm and showed that they could meet the occasion. Now, Sir, after these four defences, His Excellency Lord Lytton passed the thread of defence on to His Excellency the Viceroy in whose hands the counts of the thread became much finer. Speaking at the European Association's dinner at Calcutta on the 10th of December 1924. His Excellency Lord Reading has answered several criticisms. His Excellency said:

"It is true that the suggestion has been made that if a political panacea acceptable to a particular political party was adopted, violent crime would instantly cease. First it may be questioned whether there is any solid ground for this suggestion. According to my information the aims and methods of those wedded to crime and violence are essentially different from those of the political parties generally in India. I credit the latter with constructive aspirations, although I may not always agree with them. According to their declarations of policy they desire in different ways to follow methods of which humanity and civilisation will not disapprove. But the terrorists have never concealed an essentially different and sinister objective—the desire to destroy

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society and Government and to produce chaos by the desperate methods of crime, murder and anarchy."

I am anxious to know when His Excellency's Government began to think so charitably of the non-co-operation movement? When did they give credit to the constructive aspirations and the acceptable methods of the non-co-operation movement or of the Swaraj Party? Not when Mahatma Gandhi was arrested and incarcerated, not when the Maulanas were put in jail and were rotting in the cells, not when thousands of persons in the non-co-operation movement were made State guests for the simple offence of preaching to their fellow-men not to drink. That famous treatise "Gandhi and Anarchy" has had its own support from the Government. Sir, there was a time when this movement of non-co-operation, non-violent non-co-operation, was discredited with all the accusations with which the revolutionary movement to-day has been accused. Then His Excellency the Viceroy answers the question why this Legislative Assembly was not consulted before the Ordinance was issued. His Excellency has given three reasons. One reason is the case was not complete for the promulgation of an Ordinance. Now, I ask you, Sir, when did the case become complete and when was it incomplete. This Assembly had its Session till the 30th of September, 1924 in Simla. We left Simla only about the 30th of September and between the 30th of September, 1924 and the 25th of October, 1924, what events occurred that justified or conduced to the resolution for the issue of an Ordinance? What is that special circumstance which led His Excellency to make up his mind during those 25 days and not before the 30th of September, 1924? Sir, we all heard of a physical cyclone in Simla after we left the place, but we never heard of a political cyclone. No events are chronicled either in the statement of reasons or in so many speeches as having taken place within that short time, that short interval between the 30th September and the 25th of October, and yet we are told, Sir, that until this Assembly dispersed on the 30th of September, the mind of Government was not made up. Why do you make up your mind before consulting the Assembly? Why not take the Assembly into your confidence in order to make up that mind which was then wavering? Sir, the second reason that has been given is that action was imperative without informing malefactors of the intended step by public statement and discussion. Sir, the Government of India Act, section 72 of the Government of India Act, does not refer to Star Chamber practice. It speaks of open enactment of the Ordinance. Even an Ordinance requires promulgation. And what after all is the efficacy of secrecy? How long will it last? It will last for a day after the promulgation of the Ordinance or a day or two, not more than that. For the sake of this simple thing of bringing it all on a sudden as a bolt from the blue, is it to be supposed that the Legislative Assembly need not be taken into confidence in passing or promulgating a measure of so much importance? The third ground that was stated was "that the Ordinance was only a temporary remedy to meet the requirements of the moment. A more permanent one will shortly be introduced into the Bengal Council." Of course we have seen that now, Sir. Both His Excellency the Governor of Bengal and His Excellency the Viceroy are never tired of saying that the responsibility for safeguarding the peace and good government in this country, for safeguarding person and property, and the lives of the people of this country is the exclusive monopoly of the Executive Government. I say, Sir, that I emphatically protest against that exclusive monopoly.

We, who are here as representing the people and who have been entrusted with the duty of securing proper and legitimate legislation, are equally conscious of the responsibility that is laid on our shoulders to make good legislation, to make proper legislation and to make an effective legislation in order to safeguard the lives, the liberty and the property of individuals. The responsibility is none the less and, if only we had a Government in this country wherein the executive will be responsible to the Legislature, our responsibility would even extend further by forcing the hands of the executive, even if they be unwilling, to safeguard the interests of the people. Therefore, Sir, it is not a matter in which there is responsibility exclusively on one side and irresponsibility on the other. I protest against that statement. Then, Sir, in His Excellency's opening speech on the 20th January, 1925, His Excellency made a reference to several of the criticisms. His Excellency stated that all the weapons in the existing armoury have been exhausted and a new-fangled weapon had to be fabricated in order to detect secret societies with all their ramifications. Now, Sir, I am unable to understand what that peculiar efficacy of this new Ordinance is which would detect secret societies with all their ramifications. I am yet to be told that this Ordinance is fitted up with an X-Ray apparatus in order to discover secret societies. Societies and their ramifications will have to be discovered not by a law, but by the vigilance of the criminal administration, by the vigilance of the police and by the vigilance of those who are entrusted with the criminal administration of the province. Sir, we are also told by His Excellency that the entire Government, European and Indian, have given their hearty approval to the measure which His Excellency took. That is an important announcement and a revelation. It is but just and proper that His Excellency should have said that. I have not personally had the privilege of listening to His Excellency at the time when the speech was delivered, but I dare say that His Excellency would have laid a double emphasis on the word "Indian." And it is but right and proper that we should ask our own kith and kin as to why they were consenting parties to an Ordinance like this and not blame only the other section. But, Sir, where are these Indian Members after this revelation was made? One gentleman has retired; one has left the shores of India; and one is probably on the eve of retirement. Is it not unchivalrous to ask that one gentleman to answer for all the three? Let us therefore not ask that question and let us take the Ordinance as it has come to us. Sir, His Excellency has rightly said that true political progress can have no lot or part with terrorism. That is a perfect truism, but certainly not a truism taken from any leaf in the Western history either of Ireland or France or America or even Great Britain. It is a leaf taken from Mahatma Gandhi's literature; it is a leaf taken from the Indian history. Sir, I beg to submit that it is a consolation to us that this truism has also entered the other side as deeply as it has done with us. Now, Sir, under this Ordinance who are the persons who have already suffered? Subash Chandra Bose, about whom both European and Indian opinion is unanimous, both about his character and about his innocence, is one of those who have been arrested. In answer to a question from Mr. Scurr in the House of Commons on the 15th December, 1924, whether it is the intention of the Government of India to bring the persons arrested under the special Ordinance to public trial, Earl Winterton said: "The answer, so far as I am aware, is in the negative for reasons indicated on page 18 of the White Paper". Sir, that will be the fate of those who have been arrested under this Ordinance as well as under Regulation III of 1818 which is running along with it.

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Now, Sir, turning to the Ordinance itself, I will just draw the attention of Honourable Members to that prince of sections in the Ordinance, section 10, which lays down a special rule of evidence. It says:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, when the statement of any person has been recorded by any Magistrate, such statement may be admitted in evidence in any trial before Commissioners appointed under the Ordinance if such person is dead or cannot be found or is incapable of giving evidence and the Commissioners are of opinion that such death, disappearance or incapacity has been caused in the interests of the accused."

That, Sir, is the special rule of evidence. I have already quoted a passage from the speech of His Excellency Lord Lytton. He said:

"I have finally decided not to produce any witness before a court unless his safety is guaranteed if he speaks the truth."

So, if the witnesses are taken to any Magistrate and their evidence is recorded on scraps of paper, those scraps of paper will be the ultimate evidence upon which the men arrested under this Ordinance will be hanged. And why is that evidence not given before the Court? It is not because it is in the interests of the accused that he is absent, but because His Excellency Lord Lytton refuses to produce him before a court. Now, Sir, is it in the interests of the accused that he is absent, that he is incapable of giving evidence? And yet on scraps of papers like these used as evidence in a court of law the Commissioners may convict, the High Court may confirm it. But what does it matter who tries the case so long as the material upon which the liberty is taken away and the life is also in some instances taken away, stands upon scraps of paper produced before a Magistrate in the secret chamber. It will not be taken in a public court. A Magistrate can record any statement from any man who may happen to be a tutored informer. Now, such is the kind of special rule of evidence that has been incorporated in this Ordinance. Now, Sir, it is unnecessary for me to refer to all the sections in detail. But if you compare section 12 of the Ordinance with section 14, you will see that section 12 speaks highly of the caution to be taken in order to suspect a man and bring him under arrest, whereas section 14 of the Ordinance at once makes a devolution of powers to the meanest constable. Any officer who is satisfied that a particular man might have been arrested under section 12 might himself arrest him without a warrant. Any man who goes to a place has simply to be satisfied that a particular man is a man who is fit to be arrested under section 12 and therefore he might himself do it.

"Any officer of Government authorised in this behalf by general or special order of the Local Government can arrest without warrant any person against whom a reasonable suspicion exists if he is a person in respect of whom an order may lawfully be made under sub-section (1) of section 12."

Sir, the manner of arrest is like this and the manner of trial is like that. Now, Sir, I ask—Is this a legislation which can stand by the light of day in any civilised country? Sir, in the fifteenth century, five centuries ago, England put down once for all the King's right to legislate by Ordinance or Proclamation. The highest power which the King of England had by way of making an Ordinance or Proclamation was only in 1539 under the Statute of Proclamations. That was repealed 8 years later, and since then the power of a King is not recognised to make an Ordinance or a Proclamation to supersede the ordinary law. And, yet, what is denied to the King is given to the Viceroy. Sir, on page 48 Professor Dicey says that this Statute of

Proclamations of 1539 marks the highest point of legal authority ever reached by the Crown, and probably it was because of its inconsistency with the whole tenor of English law that it was repealed in the reign of Edward VI. What does that maximum power say? It says: "But this shall not be prejudicial to any person's inheritance, offices, liberties, goods, chattels or life." Sir, even when the King of England enjoyed the highest power to legislate by means of an Ordinance or Proclamation, there was this limitation placed on his power. And, yet, Sir, what is undesirable to England is, to this day, desirable for this country. What cannot be given to the King's hand can be given to a Viceroy's hand. I have no doubt that we have with us a Viceroy, who, according to Lord Lytton, is the best trained lawyer in India, and this Ordinance has also been drafted or framed, or approved, by the best trained lawyer in India, His Excellency the Viceroy. But, Sir, a lawyer's psychology is such that when he appears for the prosecution he curses all those sections which give benefit to the accused. And therefore it is when the lawyer becomes legislator all those inconvenient sections are taken away; and therefore I say I entirely endorse the view that this has been drafted by the ablest lawyer in India. Now, Sir, if we are to accept an Ordinance like this, an Ordinance which takes away all possible protection for the man who is brought before the court, who will not be tried on anything like legal evidence, who can be convicted and sentenced to death also by a mere scrap of paper, I have no hesitation in saying that this is a statutory assassination of a so-called revolutionary assassin. Revolutionary assassination cannot be put down by statutory assassination. Nothing is greater anarchy than legalised anarchy. Statutory anarchy does not stand in a better position than ordinary revolutionary anarchy. Sir, the one argument chiefly advanced is that persons are afraid of coming and giving evidence; they are likely to be murdered themselves. Does the Ordinance place in a better position the informer or the police coming to arrest the revolutionaries? Does the Ordinance by a process of inoculation make them immune from the assassin? It all depends on your power to administer the law; it all depends on the efficiency of your criminal administration, not upon a law; and the law is already there in the ordinary Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the ordinary criminal law contains everything that is here, except these portions which take away the liberty of the individual upon a scrap of paper. Therefore, Sir, by all means, if you are afraid that your informers will not be able to come forward as against those persons who are charged, by all means give them protection, give them a palace in the Viceregal estate, escort them by constabulary, protect them by constables, but do not for God's sake take away the life and liberty of a man on a scrap of paper without producing the man who gives evidence against him. That is the law of evidence in every civilized country. The Ordinance violates this. An Ordinance we may consent to, but does an Ordinance mean a negation of justice and equity, or good conscience? How ever high a ruler is, if he is given power to pass an Ordinance, does it mean that power can supersede the ordinary law, the ordinary justice, the ordinary equities? Sir, even an Ordinance must conform to certain general principles. Sir, it is not to be understood that there is anybody in this hall, or outside this hall, who is anxious to support anarchy. Is there one in this country who is working for Swaraj without at the same time hating anarchy? Is there one like that in the whole of this country? Sir, deep-rooted are the impressions or the lesson taught to us by our Mahatmaji, that even if we are told that Swaraj can never be obtained by pure non-violent non-co-operation, or even if we are told that to-day we will get

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Swaraj by a single act of violence, we are not going to break that law of non-violence, that law of love which has become deep-rooted in all minds by our own Mahatma's lessons. Sir, it is under section 72 that this power is taken to legislate by an Ordinance. What does section 72 say?

"The Governor General may in cases of emergency make and promulgate Ordinances for the peace and good government of India or any part thereof."

First it speaks of cases of emergency. Sir, what is an emergency? An emergency can arise only if there is a sudden development of events not anticipated or not covered by the existing law. Was there any such sudden development in this case? You have been yourself tracing its gradual growth from the year 1922 to the year 1924. Then again the emergency can arise only when you have not got the opportunity of having a law passed by the Legislature. That emergency too has not arisen in this case. Now, Sir, that particular condition, which is a condition precedent to the issuing of an Ordinance utterly fails in this case. Then, Sir, the section speaks of an Ordinance being promulgated for the peace and good government of India. If you have seen that the law which was promulgated, the Ordinance which was promulgated, is not a good law, but a bad law, is a lawless law, then I ask how can bad law make good government? How can peace be restored in a reign of terrorism? If you are anxious to have peace and good government, do it by good law, do it by good administration, not by terrorism. Sir, one year ago, or about that time, we passed a solemn Resolution in this Assembly requiring the Government to repeal the Bengal Regulation III of 1818. You are aware that this Bengal Regulation III of 1818 is now nearly one hundred and seven years old, but as vigorous as it was at its birth because of its frequent rejuvenation. It is an old antediluvian moth-eaten cadjan-leaf Regulation, and still in the year of grace 1925 we are controlled by that same Regulation. Last year we solemnly passed a Resolution in this House recommending to the Government that that Regulation must be repealed. The Government tried their best, but they were not able to convince this House that that legislation should stand a minute longer on the Statute-book. But to that Resolution passed by this Assembly with all the force, intellectual, moral and numerical, that this House could command, what is the answer that we have got from His Excellency the Viceroy? Here we have a present of this Ordinance. It is a wonder to me how, under section 71 of the Government of India Act, another Regulation was not brought into existence instead of this Ordinance. That would have been a uterine brother to the Regulation and not a half-brother like this Ordinance. Considering all the publicity that has been gone through, considering the Governor General in Council had a part in this, a Regulation could have been quite as easy as an Ordinance. Probably there were weighty reasons why a Regulation was not issued. Probably a Regulation under section 71 would have led to all kinds of criticism in this House, and the criticism cannot be shut out on the ground that it does not concern the Governor General in Council. Whatever it may be, we have got an Ordinance. It is enough for us to deal with that. What is it that this Assembly now requests you to do by means of this Resolution? I find that a number of my friends here are already alarmed at the manner in which I framed my Resolution. Probably they think I am inviting the Government to supersede this Ordinance by another law equally bad, or much worse. Therefore they have all sent in amendments asking that this Ordinance should be repealed forthwith and not superseded. Sir, I was

fully conscious of the fullest implication of my Resolution. Even if it should come to the Government accepting my Resolution and bringing in a Statute to supersede this, that Statute, being as bad or even worse than this, I would welcome that opportunity.

I would welcome a public discussion on the floor of this House of any measure which they would introduce in substitution of this Ordinance. But that is what is wanted. You, therefore, Sir, on the Government Benches, I appeal to, that in the form in which my Resolution stands, you may yourself give your vote in my favour. You may introduce a measure to supersede it, make it as bad or worse in the initiation. We know how to deal with it when it is brought before the House. To you, Sir, the European Members of this Assembly, I also make a special request. We are not here at the dinner table exchanging platitudes over a toast cup. We are here with the fullest responsibility of safeguarding the people of this country. Whether nominated or elected, every one must feel the joint responsibility of safeguarding the interests of this country by a proper and by fair, legitimate and just legislation. Therefore, Sir, I invite you all, I invite you too to join me in giving this vote. Sir, Ordinances may come and Ordinances may go, but one thing that is clear is, as His Excellency the Viceroy put it, to secure freedom, use love and non-violence. Sir, His Excellency in the statement of reasons appended to the Ordinance, said that from 1917 to 1923 there has been a lull in the revolutionary movement and in 1923 there was a resuscitation of the old conditions. To what does His Excellency attribute that lull and that recrudescence as well? Does His Excellency think that the repressive measures adopted during that long period of 1912-17 effected that lull? I repudiate it. What is that lull due to then? I will, without fear of contradiction, say that it is due to that moral power exercised by Mahatma Gandhi over this country that there has been that lull in the revolutionary movement. And what is the recrudescence since 1923, if true, due to, but to incarceration and the consequent deprivation of that great moral power? Sir, both the lull and the recrudescence are traceable only to that power. Put Bengal in the charge of Mahatma Gandhi if you cannot carry on the administration without Ordinances like this. By all means you will improve it. It is love alone that can conquer:

"The grandest heroes who have graced the earth
Were love-filled souls who did not seek the fray
But chose the safe, hard, high and lonely way
Of selfless labour for a suffering world.
Beneath our glorious flag again unfurled
In victory such heroes wait to be
Called into bloodless action. Peace, by thee.
Be thou insistent in thy stern demand,
And wise, great men shall rise up in the land."

"Thou wilt be what thou could'st be. Circumstance
Is but the toy of genius. When a soul
Burns with a godlike purpose to achieve,
All obstacles between it and its goal
Must vanish as the dew before the Sun."

Mr. President: Resolution moved:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that steps be taken forthwith to supersede by an Act of the Indian Legislature the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, I of 1924, made and promulgated by His Excellency the Governor General for and in the province of Bengal."

[Mr. President.]

Before I allow the debate to proceed, I should like to draw the attention of the Assembly to Standing Order No. 29 which forbids the use of the opportunities of speech in this House for the purpose of reflecting upon the Governor General or any Governor. This is, no doubt, an occasion where it is a little difficult to apply that Standing Order without deflecting the course of the debate, but I think I may say that, if Honourable Members will use their opportunities of speech in the same manner as Mr. Duraiswami Aiyangar, there will be no need for the intervention of the Chair.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member): Sir, if I rise thus early in the debate, it is because I think it well that the case for the Government should be stated as concisely, as simply and as clearly as possible. My Honourable friend who has just sat down has made my task a little more difficult than I thought it would have been when I was considering the possibilities of this debate. He seemed to me to think that the Ordinance, the action taken, was based on a somewhat haphazard decision arrived at after a single murder. I must disabuse him of that. I must go through the weary catalogue of crime and make this House realise that it was nothing of the sort. If all the speeches that have been delivered on this subject have not at any rate brought to the minds of the public and my friend in his distant retreat in Madras the fact that there is a long history of crimes behind all this, I will now detail these to the House. I had hoped to have been spared that.

Sir, I must ask the House to bear with me for a little while I turn to what is now history. It has been said—and I think my Honourable friend has admitted it—that during the years 1908 to 1917 the fair province of Bengal was attacked by a most virulent outbreak of revolutionary crime. That has never been denied. It began with the horrible murders at Muzaffarpur in which two innocent ladies were blown to pieces. It went on through a long history of crimes which I need not weary the House by reciting. That is admitted. And I think it will be admitted by every Member of this House. The object of that conspiracy was revolution. That revolution was to be effected by the following means. It was to be effected by secret societies, by exciting racial feelings, by obtaining funds by robbery and violence and by endeavouring to protect those guilty of these crimes from the consequence thereof by a concerted system of intimidation which was carried out to a great degree of efficiency. I am not now speaking of what Government have said on the subject. Revolutionaries of that time, many of them, have admitted it. They have written books; they have contributed articles to the papers, which fully bear out my statement. Now, that conspiracy, prolonged as it was for a long time, was attempted to be controlled by Government by recourse to the ordinary law. In those days even as now, Government did not lightly resort to any special measures. The conspiracy—and here again I speak not merely on the authority of the Government, or our views of the case but of the revolutionaries' own views of the case—was by the special measures then enacted, then taken, finally crushed. There is no doubt about it. They have admitted it. This is, as I said, history, and I will not go back on that further. But it is perhaps germane to my present task because it shows that a movement of that kind can be broken and has been broken, and was broken by means that are now sought to be employed against a similar one. After the period I have mentioned there was a period of comparative peace.

During that period, however, we, in the Government, knew that the nidus was still there; that it was not entirely dead, but it was quiescent and the matter did not seriously attract the attention or give concern to Government till about 1923, and I will pass over that period, observing, however, that it was known to Government even then that the germ of the disease was still there, although inactive and paralysed. Well, I come to more recent events, I come to the year 1923. Let me relate to this House the happenings of that year. I will not attempt to deal at this point of my speech with what is secret information received by Government. These are facts that are notorious. In many cases they have been brought before Courts. In other cases they are well known. In the year 1923 there was a definite conspiracy to assassinate Mr. Tegart, Commissioner of Police at Calcutta. Soon after, in the same year, there was a dacoity with a double murder at Kona near Howrah about 10 miles from Calcutta. In that case pistols were used. They were used absolutely without any cause whatsoever. The unfortunate victims who were robbed offered no resistance at all. They were shot down like dogs and the dacoits decamped without even taking any property. Thereafter the Ultadingi Post Office was looted. In that case also a revolver was used. On the 30th July of the same year, a robbery with murder occurred on Garpur Road in Calcutta itself. Then there was the murder of the unfortunate Postmaster of the Sankaritola Post Office. For that a man was placed on trial and I think he was finally sentenced to death. Perhaps several Honourable Members know how that Postmaster in the prosecution of his duty was slaughtered in the manner I have stated. The police got on the track then and recovered a considerable number of revolvers in connection with that case which resulted finally in a trial which is known as the Alipore Conspiracy case. That conspiracy case ended in an acquittal. It was admitted by several accused after the trial that the object of the conspiracy was to murder police officers. Then I pass on to December. In December a robbery in which Rs. 17,000 were involved was committed by persons armed with revolvers in the Chittagong district. In connection with that case reliable information was received that an attempt was made to decoy one of the chief witnesses. . . .

Pandit Shamlal Nehru (Meerut Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I put a question, Sir? I want to know if the Honourable the Home Member . . .

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can only put his question if the Honourable the Home Member chooses to give way.

Pandit Shamlal Nehru: I just wanted to make one point clear. The Honourable Member has said that there was a conspiracy to kill Mr. Tegart and he mentioned another conspiracy. I want to know whether the Honourable the Home Member has any proof of these.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: To my mind very convincing proof. I ask that I may not be interrupted in my attempt to put my case before the House. I will put it as frankly as I can and as succinctly as I can. When I was interrupted, I was drawing the attention of the House to the Chittagong robbery case, which was of great importance and I had said that in connection with that case an attempt was made to decoy one of the chief witnesses with the object of murdering him. However, be that as it may, what happened on the next evening? An unfortunate Sub-Inspector of Police, who had been deputed specially in connection

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with the case, who was known to be able to identify one of the persons suspected of complicity and who had come down to make his arrest, was shot and killed. That was in December. We will now proceed to January, 1924. In January, 1924, Mr. Day, an ordinary innocent citizen of Calcutta, who had no connection with politics so far as we know, who was pursuing his lawful avocations, was shot dead in one of the principal streets of Calcutta. He was not merely shot dead but when he was on the ground, repeated bullets were fired into him—a most ferocious murder. In April Mr. Bruce was shot at in circumstances which almost make it certain that he was mistaken for Mr. Tegart, the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta. Several outrages, the details of which I have related, seem to have been directed against Mr. Tegart. I should like to draw the attention of this Assembly—we must really get down to facts—that these are not isolated outrages that I have cited. I will, if I can possibly, convince the House that they are, many of them, connected. The connection in these cases is this. The revolvers recovered and the ammunition recovered in the Chittagong case and the revolver used in the murder of Mr. Day are weapons for which the ammunition cannot be legally obtained in India. I desire to lay great stress on this point. What happened in March? The police came across a large bomb factory in Calcutta in the course of another search. This led to the Manicktola bomb case ending in a judicial conviction and sentence. The type of bomb found was a distinct advance on any bomb that had been previously found, and it was made by persons who evidently knew how to do it. They were bombs of a highly explosive character. In connection with this case six bombs were found and one unloaded shell. That was in March. About the same time a young man was seriously injured by a bomb explosion in Faridpore. He was apparently making bombs and has since been convicted and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. Bomb making was therefore not confined to Calcutta. In those two outrages we had two distinct places where bombs were being prepared. In July a man believed by the police to be a well known member of the gang was arrested with a fully loaded revolver and was prosecuted and convicted. In July again—I am merely showing the intensive character of the campaign—the Red Bengal leaflet was distributed. I will read the leaflet to the House. There can be no doubt of the intention of those issuing it. These leaflets were circulated at the end of July and again among the crowd which attended on the 19th August at the Town Hall to protest against His Excellency Lord Lytton's speech at Dacca. It runs as follows:

"Notice.—The public is hereby informed that the Bengal Revolutionary Council has passed a resolution of a campaign of ruthless assassination of police officers. Any one in any way actively or passively putting obstruction to our comrade when in action or retiring; or helping the Government of this country as by taking briefs from the Government or giving evidence in favour of prosecution, etc., when any such comrade is in the hands of the Government or inciting the Government to take repressive measures shall be considered as doing acts highly prejudicial to the best interests of the country and from the moment any such action is taken by any one he shall be considered as condemned by us to be despatched forthwith."

That was how the pamphlet read. Those leaflets were not scattered about casually, but they were distributed in a manner which shows that the intelligence service was well organized and knew their work. They were served on people particularly connected with the suppression of these crimes. One was served on the Magistrate who held the identification

parade in the Alipore case. Another was served on a witness who had given evidence against Gopi Mohan Saha regarding the murder of Mr. Day and another was served on the Judge who tried the Manicktola bomb case, and another again on the Standing Counsel who prosecuted in that case. They knew perfectly well who were the people who were acting either legally or in the course of their duties and they took care to serve it on those persons. They were served on other persons in the same category whose names I cannot disclose because it is not in the public interest to do so. All this shows the exceedingly good intelligence service of the people who were engaged in this work. On the 22nd August the Mirzapore Street outrage occurred. This was a bomb case. A bomb was thrown and one man was killed and another seriously injured. In this case there is plenty of evidence to show us the extent to which members of this terrorist party were prepared to go. Two men were put on their trial for this outrage. One was acquitted. I will tell the House—the man is dead and therefore nothing can hurt him now—that he went to the police and he made a statement. On the 29th of September his body, brutally mangled and shockingly mutilated, was found on the railway line. There is not the faintest doubt about it that he was murdered because he, as they believed, and believed correctly, had given information to the police. That was on the 29th September of last year, the day on which I think this Assembly rose. These are facts which have been published. They have been referred to by Lord Lytton at the time of the promulgation of the Ordinance. They were referred to, though in less detail, in the statement that was issued by the Governor General, and I hope that my Honourable friend, after hearing them again, does not think that the Ordinance was promulgated because of the Day murder alone. Apart from what I have stated to the House, Government have in their possession a great many facts, a great many reports which they believe to be credible, but which they cannot in the public interest publish. When one is dealing with evidence of this kind there is always a great difficulty. People say, "If you have evidence, why don't you show it?" The answer is that if we did we should paralyse our own activities. We see what happens when a man is suspected of giving evidence, he is immediately murdered. We are told, "Why not protect these men?" Is it so easy to protect the men? Is it easy to protect even the highest in the land? Can we possibly give efficient protection? As some one said the other day, a determined assassin is extraordinarily difficult to defeat even with every possible police protection. If we can hardly defend our high officers, it is not possible that we can defend ordinary witnesses as long as this terrorist conspiracy exists and is operative.

I now turn to the question of the other evidence of attempts that have not succeeded. We have ample evidence of many attempts that have not succeeded. I will not take you back further than last July, and I will tell this House that between last July and the making of the Ordinance there were five attempts to murder. I should like to, but I greatly regret that I cannot, disclose the names of the persons against whom these attempts were made though it would be of the highest interest, but I am informed I must not do it. These attempts, in some cases, were frustrated by the vigilance of the police. In others they were frustrated by pure accident, or, as I should prefer to say, by the hand of Providence. It is perfectly obvious that in an intensive campaign of this kind an outrage was only to be awaited which would come in time, which was bound to come. What I have said proves beyond a peradventure, that the situation in Bengal

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was rapidly deteriorating. In spite of what my Honourable friend has said, I am sure the House, as a whole, will be inclined to admit that there is a terrorist conspiracy in Bengal. What they perhaps are inclined to undervalue is the extent and importance of the conspiracy. That is why I have laboured this point to show how it developed, how it became worse, and how we had the strongest reasons for believing that some spectacular outrage, some crime so extraordinary as to evoke public emotions to a high degree would occur. It may be said that we were premature in taking this action and that we should have waited. Is that reasonable? Supposing we were right in taking action, would it have been right to have waited for an outrage which we knew must happen, which we at least thought must happen, for some spectacular crime? I ask you, would that not have been making light of the lives of men? Should we not have been gambling, not with our own lives—it is possible to justify gambling with one's own life—but with the lives of others? Had we any right to treat these men as pawns in the game, to be risked to avoid political odium? Sir, that was not the view of Lord Lytton's Government. It was not the view of the Government of His Excellency the Viceroy.

Now what are the steps taken by the Government which have been criticized? The Governor General promulgated an Ordinance on the 25th October and it was accompanied by a statement. He observed therein:

"I have therefore come to the conclusion, after the fullest consultation with the Local Government, that it is necessary to arm the Government of Bengal with special powers to deal with preparation for crime, with the object of protecting not only the officers of Government, whose lives are threatened, but equally private citizens, who have frequently been the innocent sufferers from such outrages, and the misguided youths who are its tools and often themselves its victims."

His Excellency in making the Ordinance pointed out that—

"the Ordinance is directed solely to the ends I have specified and will in no way touch or affect the interests or liberties of any citizens, whether engaged in private or public affairs, so long as they do not connect themselves with violent criminal methods."

The statement further lays down a doctrine which I should have thought it unnecessary for me to argue for if there is one theory of Government's duties which is axiomatic, it is:

"The fundamental duty of Government is to preserve public security on which political advance and all the functions of a civilised social organism depend."

What are the powers under the Ordinance? The first part provides a special form of trial and lays down rules of evidence to which my Honourable friend appeared to take the greatest objection. I must confess I was surprised at it. I should have thought that a provision to enable evidence of a murdered witness to be laid before the Court was a provision that I should have had no difficulty in defending before any Assembly. There are other provisions making the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure applicable to these trials and there is an appeal to the High Court. However, I recognise that it is not against these provisions that the main charge against the Ordinance is levelled. That is made with reference to the power given by section 12, the power of locking a man up without bringing him to judicial trial. I do not for a moment

deny that it is a very grave power for any Government to take and for any Government to use. I do not stand on that at all, my own instincts are all against it. I feel as strongly as any one in this House does that Government in taking those powers take a very grave responsibility. Let me ask you to contemplate for a moment who are the men who consider the time has come when a responsibility of this kind ought to be undertaken. The Government of Bengal presided over by Lord Lytton, a well-known Liberal statesman, a man whom his worst enemies admit to be high-minded to an unusual degree, the Government of India presided over by His Excellency the Viceroy, an ex-Lord Chief Justice of England, a man distinguished in many fields of human activity and a man certainly not in the least likely to be moved to take a step of this kind without the gravest necessity, a man liberal in politics, liberal in ideals, trained in the best school of the English Bar, not a bureaucrat whose human sympathy had been dried up by the sun of this country, but one who came with a fresh mind and with fresh impressions to hold the great office which he now discharges. Therefore, I put it to you that on ordinary considerations there is a presumption that men of that character would not ask for and confer these powers without real necessity. I will go further and put it wider, that the Government of India is composed of men who will not be willing to take that responsibility unless they are compelled to do it. Does anybody in this House suppose that it is any pleasure for any officer to undertake this great responsibility? Put it on the lowest ground, we are not so absolutely devoid of political foresight that we do not see that in many ways it is an extraordinarily difficult step to take at this time. Put it on that low ground only. This is not a course that any reasonable body of men would have embarked on lightly.

Now I want the House to look a little closely at section 12 and see the classes of cases which that section covers. A great point has been made that this Ordinance is directed against political parties or a political party, or may be used to suppress legitimate political aspirations. Now I ask you to look at section 12, and you will see that there are three classes of cases in which action may be taken. If the Government have reasonable ground for believing that the person dealt with is suspected of offences in connection with the Arms Act or offences in connection with the Explosives Act. That is one class of cases and that I should think no one would object to. The second class are offences specified in the Schedule. Now if you have looked at the Schedule you will see that all those offences are offences directly connected with violence. Section 148 is rioting with deadly weapons; 302 is murder; 304 man slaughter; and so on; and if you go through them you will find they are all offences which involve violence or crimes, where violence is an almost inevitable element. And the last class of cases dealt with under section 12 is cases of interference by violence or threats of violence with the administration of justice. Those are the three classes of cases. Now, on being satisfied that the suspect falls within those classes, Government can pass six kinds of orders. They all involve interference with personal liberty and therefore they are all open to the objection that I know will be taken that this is an interference with the rights of the subject which is not justified by the circumstances of the case. I will take the big one, that is the power to deprive a man of his liberty and to remand him to custody. Now in the case of these orders under section 12 within one month of the date of the order the relevant facts and circumstances of the order must be placed before two Sessions Judges for a report to Government.

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Now there has been a tendency to treat that as a mere invitation for the formal endorsement of an order which has already been passed. I do not think really that the history of British administration in this country justifies such a suggestion. Do you really think that there are men who have attained to the rank of Sessions Judge who would regard a duty such as this as merely the signing of a death warrant already prepared? Do you really think that they would not apply their minds and give their best attention to coming to correct conclusions? It is a point I really ask the House to consider. Now, as I have said, powers of this kind are only justified by special circumstances. I have endeavoured to show to the House that those special circumstances exist. If it is stated that special circumstances do not exist in Bengal, I think that I have established it. At any rate I have placed before the House all I have to say on that point. If the argument is that under no circumstances and under no conditions are powers of the nature referred to to be given to the executive I can only say I entirely differ. There comes a time when the safety of the State is the only law and I say that time was coming close in Bengal. There comes a time when the State must mobilise its forces against terrorism or go under. Now another argument—and I think my Honourable friend used it—that I have heard is that these powers are ineffective. One can never say whether powers are ineffective or not until they have been tried. All I can say is that these powers were effective on the last occasion when a similar situation had arisen in Bengal, and therefore we may hope that they will be effective on this occasion. These powers have been recommended as the remedy for a situation such as in fact existed by all the persons and committees who have considered the matter. The matter has been very carefully considered, for unfortunately these conspiracies are not things of to-day. The unanimous conclusion that has always been come to is that save with these powers these movements cannot be checked. Now I have heard the criticism that the matter was decided without consultation with the Legislature; that we ought to have brought this matter before the House: that we were wrong in fact in striking without warning. Sir, I ask, is there any one in his senses who, believing that he is dealing with a large gang of conspirators who may be prepared at any moment to commit outrages, gives them notice of his intention of checkmating them by arresting the leaders? You may blame us in whatever way you like for our policy, but do not blame us for failing to act with obvious foolishness. If you know an offence is going to be committed, you must make arrangements for defeating it and not discuss publicly whether some new offence should be created with which you are competent to deal. (*A voice*: "How do you do it in England?") These occurrences are at least rare in England. A further criticism is that Government must have been rushed into this and that they acted without thoroughly considering the matter. That has been thoroughly dealt with in His Excellency the Viceroy's speech which Members of this House have only recently heard, and I will not delay in order to travel over the same ground again. Then you say, why don't you bring these men to trial? It is a very reasonable question. You know all these facts, why not bring them to trial? That is the question I am asked and it is a question I asked myself at once when I first saw the papers. To that the answer is this. What kind of evidence can you expect to get in these cases? Now there are lawyers in the House and they know quite well. You may get evidence of

arms and when we get this evidence we prosecute and get a conviction. (*A Voice*: "When you have no evidence you lock them up indefinitely.") That is not so, as I am endeavouring to show. You get evidence of isolated occurrences, but what is wanted, as my Honourable friend knows, though he interrupts me, is the connection between the isolated occurrences which demonstrates the conspiracy. And how do you usually get that evidence? In most ordinary cases you get it on the evidence of an approver. Now what are the facts about approvers in these terrorist cases? The facts about approvers are these, that anybody who has been an approver runs a very very definite risk of being murdered. We may try to protect approvers; we may be able to send them out of the country, but the fact remains that the choice before an approver in these cases is death by murder or perpetual expatriation. Well, approvers may hesitate to take the risk, and you cannot be surprised that they are unwilling in most cases to go into court.

Now you ask me how long do we propose to keep these men in jail, and the answer is, so long as the public interest demands it and not one day longer. We have for the time given this organisation a rude shock. We have dislocated its operations. I hope we have gone far to crush it. I cannot be sure. Time must elapse; we must have time in which to give back self-confidence to Bengal, when men will be able to give their evidence willingly and when fear of murders of this kind has passed. The effects of terrorism are not terminated in a day. Men know and remember what the giving of evidence means. They see the body of the police officer shot in Chittagong; they remember the mutilated corpse on the railway line. We who live far away, perhaps in Madras, are not in a position to appreciate local conditions. I hear at times criticism which is rather unjust and ill-natured, a jeering at the unwillingness of witnesses to come forward. The charge is true but we must remember that it requires a very great deal of courage for a man to stand up and give evidence in the circumstances. There have been exceptions and I wish to bear testimony to the great courage and bravery exhibited in some cases by uneducated men, very often mere coolies, who have helped to arrest these desperados. It speaks well for Bengal that there are men of that kind. For the police in Bengal—and particularly in Calcutta—I desire to express the most unstinted admiration for the way in which they have dealt with this alarming menace. It is comparatively easy for brave men to face open battle, but to live in the shadow of a haunting terror is a trial that may well appal the bravest. Apart from threatened outrage, intimidation of a minor degree has been infinite; it has gone to an extent which is often almost intolerable. The ordinary man in the street will not come forward till we can show that we can protect our officers and protect him if he assists us. This is well known to the conspirators, and the Red Pamphlet was their answer and their challenge. I have already read that to the House. It is said that progress in reforms will check the terrorist movement. Is this true? Do you suggest that repressive measures should cease, because terrorism will abate with political advance? Have you considered the teaching of history? Look at the history of the Irish Free State. What did they have to do? They had to resort to repressive measures to a degree that would horrify this House. I will only add, Sir, that whatever I hear in this House in this debate I do hope that I shall hear from all sides a whole-hearted repudiation, an expression of detestation of these horrible crimes. You may think we have dealt with the matter on wrong lines, but at any rate let us have your support, your assurance, that you do stand with us, that you do agree with us in this, that the cause of India will not be forwarded by terrorism but will be obstructed by it, and that

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the most criminal enemy of the country is the man who chooses terrorism as the pathway to political progress.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty Minutes to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled at Twenty Minutes to Three of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I rise, Sir, to give my general support to the Resolution that has been moved so ably and with such sweet reasonableness and with the cleverness which is his as an experienced lawyer by my friend Mr. Duraiswami Aiyangar. I also congratulate my absent Honourable friend, the Home Member, I think after the excellent case that he tried to make out on behalf of the Government, he well deserves to enjoy his lunch a little longer than usual on the exceeding good humour of his defence. Now, Sir, we in Bengal, not all of us, but some at least, do admit the presence of a movement of revolutionary patriotism in our province. It is, therefore, a matter of ancient history to which the Leader of the House tried to lead us in his speech. This movement of revolutionary patriotism owes its origin to the last anti-partition agitation in Bengal, and if we are to go into the roots of that unfortunate development we shall have to admit—and history has practically admitted—that it was due to two forces working against one another. One was the will to freedom of the youthful intelligentsia of Bengal, and the other was the will to domination of the representatives of the Imperial power in this country. Now, the Government practically provoked that conflict with the will to freedom of the Bengali young men. They adopted measures which were unnecessary. They took action which was harsh. And these measures and these actions irritated the youthful intelligentsia of the province and when open propaganda and open agitation was practically stopped not only by special legislation but by what seemed very much like pogroms in certain parts of my province, the result was inevitably what we had. We told the Government then: “Do not for God’s sake drive this open movement underground by putting down without sufficient sympathy and consideration a legitimate and constitutional movement of passive resistance.” We had the deportations, application of the obsolete Regulation III of 1818, in Bengal during the last movement, and this time when the same weapons were taken up we asked, and I personally publicly challenged the Government of Bengal to bring out the proofs which they had, the secret dossiers, in the case of two of our public men against whom not even their rankst enemy could raise any suspicion of any manner of complicity with political dacoity or murder, namely, my friend the late Mr. Aswini Kumar Datta and my friend Mr. Krishna Kumar Mitter. I asked Government: “These are matters of ancient history. You cannot plead reasons of State to keep these dossiers in your keeping. Now, bring these dossiers and let us examine these ancient records and see if you had any justification to arrest these honourable gentlemen and take them away from their homes and keep them in detention without formulation of charge or trial or any of the

ordinary processes of law. Your present action may be tested by those old records. I thank the Government of Bengal for having accepted that challenge or acceded to that request. The Honourable Sir Hugh Stephenson, in course of his speech in the Bengal Legislative Council, openly confessed that so far as these two gentlemen were concerned, the Government never suspected them of any complicity with murderous crime. Now, how are we to be assured, Sir, then, that in the present case, the men who have been similarly taken into custody, have not been taken for the same reasons for which Aswini Kumar Datta and Krishna Kumar Mitter had been taken in 1908, and because of their inconvenient, but not really criminal, activities? What reasons have we to believe this except the statement of the Government. And this is where the whole trouble comes in. We asked the Government of Bengal “Produce your proofs.” His Excellency tried to answer that challenge. At Faridpur and elsewhere he did make statements, but these were not proofs, but mere assertions. The facts which have been placed before us this afternoon by the Honourable the Leader of the House, are also not proofs of the complicity of the individuals who have been arrested under these new Regulations, but they are only evidence of a particular state of things in Bengal. We did not deny, we could not deny, that there were murders. We could not deny that Mr. Day was killed in open daylight. We could not deny that the Post Office in Sankaritolla was tried to be robbed and the postmaster was killed in his attempt to protect public property. We do not deny that there were murders in connection with the Kona case. But that reminds me—Sir Alexander Muddiman also knows it—how the Kona dacoity case failed in the High Court.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Does the Honourable Member deny that there was a murder?

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal: No, I do not deny the murder, but I deny the validity of the evidence which was brought by the police to prove the murder and bring it home to the men who were placed before the Court. I deny that. How did that case fail? It failed upon one very small and immaterial fact, and the fact was this. The man who declared that he was acquainted with the whole history of this case, namely, the approver, who deposed to it that he knew the persons implicated in that crime, and who declared that he it was who had driven the motor car from the place of occurrence to a certain village, failed to handle the same type of motor car when he was asked to do so before the court and the jury. Now, that is the kind of evidence which is often times adduced by the police to bring home these charges. So the case is not that there was no murder. Of course, you could not deny that. A man is killed and we have to admit that there has been a murder. But the whole case is this—whether the men who were suspected of being connected with this murder, were actually guilty of it or not. That is the whole issue. Then the next question also is this. We agree that there have been murders. We admit that there have been dacoities. But what is the evidence that all these murders and dacoities have been actuated by political motives? That point requires to be established. But it has not been established. And we have a right to ask the Leader of the House and the representatives of the Government to satisfy us in regard to these two points. But we go further, we admit that some of these murders are political murders. The murder of Mr. Day has been a political murder on the confession of the murderer himself. We

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cannot deny it. And, frankly speaking, Sir, before the murder of Mr. Day took place I myself had very serious doubts in my mind whether we had a real recrudescence of the old revolutionary patriotism in our province or not. But the murder of Mr. Day convinced me that there was a real recrudescence of this crime in our province. Mr. Das himself frankly and publicly admitted it. We have nothing to conceal. I frankly admitted it on the floor of this House last Session that there was a recrudescence of the political revolutionary movement in our province. Did not the Government know it? The Leader of the House said that they knew it all along. We too knew it. But what did you do to prevent the spread of it? I ask the Government to answer that question. We knew it from what? From the latitude that was given by the Government to the men who had been connected with the last movement to publish their ancient memoirs and their ancient records. Some of us did not like it. There was no call for reviving those memories. But the Government permitted this propaganda, when a word or a hint communicated in a friendly way might have prevented these publications. The Police took no steps to prevent the circulation of these things. I know it, Sir,—I have nothing to conceal—that young men have come to me and confessed that there was once more an attempt to reorganise the old campaign. But what were you doing—I ask the Government—all these months before promulgating this Ordinance? Were you asleep or were you trying to create evidence? Were you waiting to make up a case, so that you might take into your hand these extraordinary powers not only to put down real political murders, but also to prevent the legitimate propaganda of freedom in the country? That is the whole question, and I ask that question of the Government. I met a high Government official, or rather he met me, as I do not generally meet Government officials (Laughter) except on the floor of this House or at their hospitable table. Now, he met me and he put it to me: “How do you say that there has been a bankruptcy of statesmanship in the promulgation of this Ordinance?” I asked him what were you doing all these months? Why did you not stop the circulation of the poison through books? And he replied he had no powers. But that is a very lame excuse. You might have done it without infringing any of the legitimate rights of freedom of speech or freedom of thought or anything of the kind. You did not do it. We admit that there is a recrudescence of patriotic criminalism in Bengal. What is the strength of it, what is the extent of it, we do not know? There is a recrudescence of this movement of political criminalism in Bengal. We do not deny it. But what is the remedy? We do not want it; it will not help us. Mr. C. R. Das has said the same thing. Others have said it repeatedly that this movement of revolutionary patriotism will not help us to our goal. There are people who believe that if only it had a chance of success it might be supported. There are people who believe that even if it had a chance of success, that success would not bring the kind of Swaraj which we want, but would bring some other Raj and not the democratic or popular Government which we desire. So, whether it succeeds or it fails, we have no part or lot with this movement of political criminalism in Bengal or anywhere else. We are as much anxious to put it down as the Government can possibly be. But you make it very difficult, exceedingly difficult, for us to meet this menace. How? Because your Ordinance has created a very widespread sympathy, an all-India sympathy, for the men whom you have taken into custody. This debate will bear witness to the

fact that every one in this House, from whatever province he may come, sympathises with the men who have been detained under Regulation III or who have been taken up under the new Bengal Ordinance. And what is the meaning of their sympathy? You cannot say, you do not say, that we are all in sympathy with any kind of terrorist conspiracy in the country. But our sympathy goes out to the victims of your action, because you have not been able to prove to the hilt the guilt of these men in regard to these murderous conspiracies. And it is public sympathy, Sir, which feeds these movements all the world over. It is not only the secret criminal propaganda nor the example of individual crimes, but it is public sympathy which draws recruits. It is the canonization of the political criminal which adds to his fame and to the incentive to political crimes. By your hasty, unwise and unstatesmanlike action you have created widespread sympathy for these men in every part of India, and that is the real trouble. And it is this which proves lack of statesmanlike imagination. Then, again, we must take into consideration other facts also. We fully realise the predicament of the Government. Sir Alexander Muddiman has brought out a number of cases of murder and other things. I quite admit that in the face of these, it was very difficult for the Government not to do something. Something had to be done, of course, but not exactly the thing that the Government actually did. But even here I admit that it was very difficult for the Government of India not to allow something to be done. That was, in fact, more difficult, because the Government of Bengal evidently said: “Look here, the life of our highest officers is in danger and there is this conspiracy which tries to paralyse the administration and we must have your protection. We must be given special powers to protect ourselves, special weapons to fight this evil.” If the Government of Bengal could, as every public man has to, take these threats of assassination, with indifference, as part of the day's work, nothing would have to be done I take it, by the Government of India. But they refused to take these threats as part of their day's work. We have heard, Sir, during the last few weeks, a great deal of these threats. Now, what public man is there either here or elsewhere, in England or America or other places, who has not some time or other of his public life been threatened with these things? Even in democratic countries they are threatened. In our undemocratic country we are also threatened with these things. I remember the time when I was not much of a public man but was just entering public life. During the agitation over the Consent Bill in 1891 I received a number of letters because I supported that Bill and broke up one or two public meetings organised by the orthodox party against that Bill. I had these letters. Not only that, Sir, I was actually shot at. But I did not go to the police. (Hear, hear). (A Voice: “Why not?”) I was sitting in my room writing under a lamp—we had no electric lights in those days—under a bright kerosine lamp, and my room was on a public street. From the other side of the street a shot was fired. I heard only the sound, and then I saw the gas post was struck. The light went out, and I do not know where the bullet went (Laughter). In any case it did not enter my head, or even my heart. I kept my head cool, I did not run after the man who had shot, nor call for the police . . .

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: May I ask the Honourable Member why he did not give information to the police of the attempted murder?

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal: Well, I did not know the murderer, what was the good of giving information to the police? I know your police. They would come and trouble me for seven days in trying to find out the man from me, instead of finding him out themselves. Now really that is the whole trouble. You say we do not help the administration of law. How can we, because the moment we try to help in the administration of law, we find ourselves in the hands of the myrmidons of the law, who try to exact—well, many things from us, as many things as they can, from us. This is the state of things. Under these conditions we have to take life easy in this country. We cannot help it. As regards threatening letters many people get these. During the last anti-partition agitation, when Bengal was divided into two camps, I received similar letters, and if I had tried to take notice of those letters, I would not be where I am to-day. If the Government of Bengal had treated these threats in the way that they have been treated in the past by other Governments in this country and elsewhere, there would have been no new Ordinance. But when the Government of Bengal convinced itself that there was really a conspiracy to murder the Head of the Government, to murder high officials, and having convinced itself and the Executive Council, it came up to the Government of India and convinced, on secret dossiers sent by post, His Excellency the Viceroy and his Executive Council, who had to go only upon records, they could not examine the men who furnished these records, and when the Government of India were convinced of the fact of a conspiracy to murder officials, in any case when the Government of Bengal asked for special powers, what could the Government of India do? The Government of India could not gamble as Sir Alexander says, with the lives of other people. I quite admit that was the position in which you, Sir, and your colleagues found yourself when the petition from the Government of Bengal came. You could not gamble with the lives of the Bengal officials.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I may say the Bengal officials were perfectly willing to gamble with their own lives, and always have been.

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal: But you could not, that is my point. The Government are perfectly willing to gamble with their own lives, I agree, but they do not like to gamble with the lives of their subject population, with the lives of the police spies. They do not like to gamble with the lives of the secret service agents; they do not like to gamble with the lives of the approvers. That was their case, that was their difficulty. But the whole question is this. I fully realise your position; you could not refuse this help to the Government of Bengal. But the whole question is this. Will it help the situation? Has it ever helped the situation anywhere? In other countries these things are taken, as I said, as part of the work of the day. My first recollection of political murder was that of James Garfield, and I remember the deep impression which that murder created on me, a young man just entering public life; because I had been taught to love and honour Garfield as a pious man, and when such a man was murdered, I felt for him. But did the Government of America take special measures to protect the President? When McKinley was murdered, did the Government of America take special measures to protect the President? These things happen in every civilized country. They would not be civilized if these things did not happen there. In barbarism murders are committed by princes and potentates. In civilization murders are

committed by the men in the street, on men who control the machinery of Government. And those who have the power of the State in their hands have also the courage to take all these things as part of the day's work, and they do not make extraordinary laws with a view to protect themselves from these occasional or accidental criminal acts. That is all the difference between them and ourselves. Now the Government of Bengal have got their Act. What are you going to do? His Excellency Lord Lytton said, "As soon as we have got this Act, I will let the men out." My friend Mr. Duraiswami Aiyangar quoted three conditions laid down by His Excellency. This is the third, and this third condition is the most fundamental condition. If you let these men out now, I think there may yet be peace in Bengal. I do not want any disturbance in Bengal. None of us want any more disturbance in Bengal. We want peace, because we want to build up our national life. We have very serious work to do, economic work, sanitary work, educational work. All the nation-building works are being starved. We do not want that this nation-building works should be starved. We want peace, and for that peace we want that this trouble should be ended. Unless this Bill is repealed, or in any case unless an assurance is given that this Bill will not be worked in the spirit of other Bills of this kind, unless an assurance is given that the men who have been taken, now that the Government have got their weapon, will be let out, there will be no peace in Bengal, and we want peace in Bengal. His Excellency Lord Lytton wants peace in Bengal. He made a very earnest appeal to the Bengal Legislative Council to set to work in the nation-building departments. We are prepared to work those departments, but remove this grievance of the people, do not press it upon us any more, and if the Government of India can influence the Government of Bengal to let out the men who have been taken into custody, without formulation of charge, and are detained without trial, I think it may be possible yet in Bengal to have peace. We suffered a lot, Sir. You suffered a lot also. We suffered a lot during the last period. We do not want a repetition of the old thing. There is one fallacy in the whole position of the Government in this matter, and that fallacy has not been sufficiently brought out. The Government are under the impression that the last movement was crushed. It was not crushed. You practically admit it was not crushed. The seed that is crushed does not sprout forth again. You did not crush it, you only suppressed it for a time. Let us not talk of crushing then. But the conceit in the Government mind is that it was the application of the Defence of India Act and the detention and arrest under the provisions of that Act of thousands of Bengali young men which put down that earlier movement of revolutionary patriotism. That is the case of the Government. I deny the truth of that case. Was the Defence of India Act the only thing that worked during the war, Sir? Was the Defence of India Act the only thing that was passed during the war? There were other things. We had a promise of the fulfilment of our political aspirations, even in the midst of the distractions of the war. They said from the House of Commons that there was a change in the angle of their vision. We had the Montagu announcement, from the House of Commons, regarding the goal of British policy in India. We had more than that. You allowed us admission into the ranks of the Indian Army. You opened the military career to the youthful intelligentsia of Bengal who were spoiling for a military life. You had the Bengali Regiment. You had the Bengal Ambulance Corps. And by all these means was diverted the adventurous spirit of the youthful intelligentsia of Bengal to healthier

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channels. It was these things far more than the Defence of India Act which brought about the change in the situation in Bengal. And then what happened next?

Mr. President: Before I let the Honourable Member go further into recent history I must remind him that his time has expired and in the interest of those who wish to take part in the debate after him I must ask him to draw his remarks to a close.

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal: Thank you, Sir. I was not looking at the clock. I think we ought to have a clock the other side.

Mr. President: I quite agree with the Honourable Member.

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal: I wanted to say this, that other things also happened. We had fresh troubles also, political troubles, disappointments; and all these things have brought about this difficulty under which we are labouring. Give us something. Give us something tangible. Give us an assurance, not on paper, but a practical assurance that our political aspirations will be fulfilled without avoidable delay. Give us an assurance like that. And let us work together. Give us a round table conference, Pandit Motilal Nehru's Round Table Conference. Let us sit together, you and we, and find out some means for fighting this menace. But you sit there in your high chair and we sit squatting on the floor. How are we to talk together and come to any sort of understanding and arrangement to fight this, which is recognised by us as much as it is by you as a great political danger?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, may I intervene, with your permission, for a moment? I want to draw the attention, Sir, of the Honourable the Home Member as well as your attention to the very strong feeling there is in the House that full opportunity should be given for this debate, and I therefore appeal to the Home Member to give us some other day. If he cannot give an official day, I am authorised to say, take one of our non-official days. I understand, Sir, that a large body of Members wish to take part in this debate and it is not possible to finish this debate because it is now a quarter past three. If you cannot give us an official day or if the state of business will not permit it, then take one of our days.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Sir, that is rather an unusual appeal to make after the debate has proceeded so little a distance. But I do recognise, and I think the House well knows that I have always recognised that this is a matter in which the House is greatly interested. I can assure you it is neither to the interest of the Government to cut short the debate or to prevent any views being put forward. But I have already given one official day. I feel that it would be very difficult to give another. But if the Honourable Members feel that this House is prepared to give up a non-official day to this debate, I will certainly consider it. I shall have to consult with the Secretary of the House as to what day is possible. But is it the wish of the House, if we are unable to give an official day, that a non-official day be given?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Yes, certainly. (*Cries of "Yes."*)

Or, if possible why not give us Saturday?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I have a religious prejudice against that (Laughter.) Well, Sir, we will leave it at that that I will see what can be done about a non-official day for the continuation of this debate, should it go on longer.

Pandit Shamlal Nehru: May I suggest, Sir, that you give us to-morrow?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Sir, I have an equally rooted objection to sitting on holidays.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Industries Member): Sir, it may be considered impertinence on my part to attempt to take part in this controversial debate; and if some of the Members on the other side of the House characterise my effort as such, they may have some justification, because I am one of the youngest Members of this House who joined it after the events under controversy had actually occurred. I should have hesitated to raise my voice in this debate but for the fact that the Mover of the Resolution has, in moving it, questioned, or made an insinuation questioning, the action of the Indian Members of the Executive Council in subscribing to His Excellency the Viceroy's action in this matter. It was said that two of them had already left the Executive Government and the third was about to leave it. Well, the insinuation implied apparently was that, as they were about to cease to be Members of this Government, they subscribed to the policy without giving it the careful consideration which it demanded.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: That is more than what I meant.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I wish, Sir Muhammad Shafi were here to defend his action. He is not here and therefore I feel it incumbent on me to definitely refute the insinuation made by the Honourable Mover of this Resolution. I have not the slightest doubt that the Indian Members of the Executive Government who subscribed to the policy did so fully with their eyes open and after due consideration of the facts of the case and the necessities of the situation. The Honourable the Home Member has already drawn attention to the evidence about the undoubted existence of a terrorist movement in Bengal and my friend Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal has admitted that that movement existed. I hope I will be pardoned if I say that my friend Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal was not very consistent. He began by accusing Government of not having taken earlier action in the matter of stopping the growth of this revolutionary and terrorist movement. He said that Government should have intervened when books were being published extolling the action of some of the anarchists who had taken part in the previous period of the reign of terror in Bengal. Then, later on, he blamed Government for having taken the action which they took last October. Now, is not the action of Government in the matter wholly consistent? If my friend Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal and his friends in Bengal had at the stage when these books were being published stepped in and by measures which probably lay in their power had retarded the further progress of the movement at that stage, it might have been unnecessary for Government to intervene.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Some of them are subsidised by the Government.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Well, I have no information that the Government of Bengal did subsidise these books. I am pretty certain that the Honourable the Home Member will repudiate that charge so far as the Government of India are concerned.

Now, Sir, Government, for the reasons to which my friend Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal referred, probably hesitated for a long time before they decided to interfere in the matter at all. But, as has been explained by the Honourable the Home Member, things gradually came to a crisis, and there was no option for Government but to intervene and to take remedial measures. Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal then wanted to know of the evidence which had compelled Government to take certain action against certain individuals. My Honourable friend the Home Member has fully explained to the House why it was not possible to disclose that evidence. The disclosure of that evidence would have led to more murders. The way I look at the matter is this. A terrorist movement was in existence in Bengal. It was necessary to protect innocent officers of Government from being murdered and also to protect innocent youths from being terrorised into imbibing revolutionary ideas. It became incumbent on Government at a certain stage to take adequate action for the protection of both these classes of individuals. They have taken that action and I do not see why the House should take exception to the action taken by Government. If I have understood the latter part of the Honourable Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal's remarks, I believe he has a great suspicion, not about the measure itself but about the machinery which will work the measure. That is, he considers that the subordinate police of Bengal are not equal to the task of properly carrying out the measure. If so, Sir, the point at issue narrows down to a question of improving the subordinate police in Bengal and not to a discussion of the merits of the action taken by the Governor General.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I may say at once that I stand here to support the original motion made by my Honourable friend Mr. Duraiswami Aiyangar. The way I look at the matter is this. To prevent any possible misconception of my attitude I must at once disown the expression used by my Honourable friend Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal in describing the action of these youths or adults in Bengal as "revolutionary patriotism". It is neither revolution nor patriotism. The crimes which have been brought to light to-day and which have been disclosed to the public hitherto are secret, anarchical assassinations, for which abhorrence cannot be expressed too plainly. Therefore, it is the duty of all right-thinking men, those who want India to progress on the onward march towards the political freedom to which we all aspire,—it is the sacred duty, the solemn duty of every one who wishes to guide the people, to dissociate themselves openly, publicly, unhesitatingly and unambiguously in this matter, (Hear, hear) and I do so, Sir, most emphatically. I speak for those in this House and outside and I think I can claim also some knowledge of my countrymen in the north—I say that there is no right-thinking man who has any secret, inward or outward sympathy with this sort of movement and I was glad to hear from the remarks made by the Honourable the Home Member to-day that the citizens of Bengal, like the citizens in England, are also alive to their duties in protecting the country against crimes of that sort. From the way in which this movement has subsisted for some time in Bengal, I had some suspicion whether really there was some secret sympathy on the

part of the people of Bengal with this movement. But I am glad to be assured to-day by the Honourable the Home Member that there is no such sympathy whatever. On the other hand, ignorant citizens—I think I am quoting the Honourable the Home Member—ignorant citizens, uneducated citizens have come forward openly to assist in the suppression and prevention of such crimes. It is reassuring news. I have no doubt that citizens in my province would have risen to a man to put down such crimes, and I am sure that in other provinces also the situation would be similar. Sir, if I support this motion, it is because I feel, and I feel very strongly indeed, that it is an unwise course, a misguided course, to which both the Bengal Government and His Excellency Lord Reading's Government have lent their hand. I fear that by this measure which they have adopted, they are undoing the good work which was begun in 1919 when the Government of India Act was passed. Sir, when the new movement was inaugurated under the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, what was it we heard? What was it we heard from no less a personage than His Excellency Lord Chelmsford speaking from the place where you are sitting, Sir? He told us distinctly that autoeracy was at an end. I do not know what my Honourable friend the Leader of the House means by shaking his head. Does he mean that autoeracy is not at an end or that it must end some other day by some other means?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I am afraid my Honourable friend is under a misconception. I was merely shaking off a fly.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: What does the new constitution mean? It means that the Executive Government of this country, though we have not yet got responsible Government, should consult the Legislature properly constituted in the discharge of their executive duties. They should take their advice beforehand, although the responsibility is theirs still. The Legislature as it is at present constituted was intended deliberately to assist the executive in the discharge of their duties by the solemn advice which they will give them. What is it you have done now? You have deliberately chosen to distrust the Legislature on this occasion. I do not deny that the responsibility, as it now stands under the law, is yours for maintaining law and order. But, Sir, I thought we are now setting on the path of attaining gradually and eventually the goal of responsible Government. Is this the way to begin to put us in the way of attaining that goal? When a really responsible matter comes up, when really efficacious matters come up, you take it into your own hands and say, "Well, we cannot openly discuss the question in the Assembly. We must take the initiative in our own hands. We will face the decision ourselves and come to the decision ourselves." I do not think, Sir, it was at all intended that this was what was meant by autoeracy being at an end. In fact, a very responsible committee appointed at the instance of this House by His Excellency Lord Chelmsford's Government gave very valuable advice in this matter. In their report on repressive laws they made very statesmanlike observations as to the change of position, and if there are any risks to be taken, it is far better that you took the risks with the Legislature than by ignoring it. By the procedure adopted in this case I cannot but feel that the executive Government have in this case deliberately distrusted this Legislature. It is that which I feel most in this matter. Sir, if one reads the preliminary declaration issued by His Excellency Lord Reading along with the Ordinance, he will find that it is abundantly clear that there are definite materials—not merely vague generalisations but definite materials. You have simply to read the first

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two paragraphs of that pronouncement and you will come to the conclusion that there were materials on which His Lordship was satisfied as to the necessity for action. Sir, under the Act as it stands it is open to this House at the instance of Government to appoint committees of the House to advise the various departments. On a Resolution passed by this Assembly the Government of India were pleased, because they were not bound, to accept that Resolution in some modified form and condescended to invite this House to appoint committees. I know, Sir, that there is a small committee of which I believe I am a member, although I have not been called to any meeting of that committee, which is supposed to advise the Home Department. I believe the Home Department is the department which deals with these matters. Sir, if it was unwise, if it was not a sound policy, to consult the Legislature openly, what was there to prevent the Honourable the Home Member from consulting this Standing Advisory Committee of the Home Department? Did they do any such thing? If really these were matters in which the executive Government wanted to discharge their duties honestly and well in the spirit of the new policy which had been enunciated they should have adopted that course. No such thing was done. On the other hand, these materials which have been furnished to us to-day are not new. They were there during the September session of the Assembly when we were considering the question of the repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment Act and they were more or less placed before us by the Honourable the Home Member then. This power of issuing Ordinances vested in the Governor General is a very exceptional power to be resorted to only in very exceptional, sudden emergencies, by which it means that he can only resort to that power when he cannot conveniently summon the Legislature to assist him in the discharge of the legislative work of his Government. So far as the legislative work is concerned, it is by law deliberately entrusted to the representatives of the people under the new constitution and no Viceroy or Governor General is entitled to break into and destroy that right by resort to this extraordinary method which can only be used under exceptional circumstances, under exceptional sudden emergencies, which can only mean emergencies that threaten the safety of Government, the safety of the country. It is only in such circumstances that you can resort to this process of issuing an Ordinance on the responsibility of one individual, however great he may be. So, what I read in this action of the Government of India is, in the first place, that they are undoing the very good start which they began in the year 1920 after the Government of India Act was passed. They are distrusting the Legislature which has tried its level best to discharge its duties. I, Sir, speak as one who has tried to do his duty to the best of my lights and consistently with the duty I owe to the Government and the country. I feel, Sir, the slight thrown upon the Legislature is undeserved, entirely undeserved. Sir, you do not expect the Assembly to be merely an obedient Assembly. You want a very strong vigorous Assembly really to assist you in the matter of governing. You, who are not responsible to the people and have charge of the affairs of 300 millions of people—your duty is a very solemn and responsible duty. Now, we, who are hailing from different provinces, know the difficulties of the people, know where the shoe pinches, where the trouble is. You must presume, at any rate give us the benefit of that presumption, that we are here acting as honestly as you are in the discharge of our duties to assist you in governing this country. What were the circumstances which were so urgent, so sudden which made the executive Government—I appeal now to the Indian members on the right—

what was it that made them feel that it was necessary for them to give their vote in this connection? When the Assembly was sitting here you must have been corresponding with the Secretary of State over this very subject; at the very time when we were sitting here discussing the repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment Act you must have been cabling to the Secretary of State and correspondence must have been going on with the Home Government. At that time what was there to prevent you from consulting, if not the whole of this House, the Committee appointed by this House? That is the right procedure you should have adopted. Have the Committees betrayed you at any time? Sir, I have sat as a member of several committees and I have been furnished with copies of the most secret documents. On the North-West Frontier Committee—my Honourable friend, Mr. Denys Bray who is sitting there was President of that Committee and can bear witness—most confidential documents bearing upon the external and internal defence of this country were placed in our hands. Have the Committees of this House ever done anything to merit this slight which has been thrown on this House by the action resorted to in this case. I thought that the Government would have benefited by the experience they had over the Rowlatt Act. This is another repetition of the Rowlatt Act. Sir Michael O'Dwyer who is always ready to claim credit for exclusive wisdom, for his judgment in these matters, from a cablegram the other day, claims credit that this Act is going to be a permanent measure. He says that he was a wise man in advocating the Rowlatt Act because here is another Rowlatt Act being made a permanent measure on the Statute-book of the country. I thought Government would have profited by the experience they had over that Rowlatt Act. Sir, there are certain successes which are worse than defeats. You may claim some temporary relief, some temporary success by the operation of this measure. The principle which has been the guiding policy of this Government all along, of this bureaucratic Government all along, has been that the end justifies the means. That is not a principle which we can accept. Sir, the Honourable the Home Member, speaking on behalf of the Government, has given very strong expression to his horror of the methods which are to be resorted to under this Ordinance. At the same time he says, "We feel it our duty. We are quite unwilling, quite reluctant. It is not a pleasure to us. On the other hand, it is a painful operation we are performing. We do not like it. Put it at the basest of motives, the purest of motives, we do not like this measure, and yet we resort to it."

Sir, such being the measure, what is going to be the result of it? What will be the permanent result which you are leaving on the minds of the people? Let us take the risk of the loss of a few lives. But it is far better not to risk your reputation for good government with the 300 millions of people. Now, Sir, criminal conspiracies are not confined merely to political crimes. They are not exclusively confined to political crimes. I know of criminal conspiracies in my province where there are gangs of dacoits. Gangs of dacoits work through conspiracies. The police do not confess their inability to trace those conspiracies and bring them to book. These things do exist. Where do they not exist? You have here an efficient police, a very efficient police according to my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: A very brave police.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: A very brave police and an efficient police I take it. If that is so, what is the difficulty? Are they able to get a conviction in every case of ordinary murder which takes place in

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the provinces? Murders are very common. They are committed from various motives. Is every murderer brought to book? Similarly, there must be cases of failure in these cases also. The unfortunate position which naturally appertains to a Government which is not responsible to the people is that they are in constant fear that the hands of the people are against them. That is why they attach great importance to political crimes. They think that political crimes should be dealt with in a peculiar manner and by new methods foreign to British instincts. However oriental it may be to resort to these methods we ought not to redevise oriental methods in this country under the British Government. I make the charge, Sir, that you are resorting to un-British methods in dealing with this matter. On what is based your good reputation for good government in this country? On your administration of justice. And how is justice administered? Not by Sessions Judges sitting in camera perusing merely documents instead of feeling the pulse of live witnesses who give evidence before them. I am sure Sir Alexander Muddiman would admit that if he were sitting as a Judge what a different impression it makes to have your witness before you from what it is when you merely see the bare statements of witnesses taken by somebody else thousands of miles away. Are we not familiar, those of us who are accustomed to law courts, with the numerous feuds going on for generations together, and is it not our frequent experience to see enemies springing up, who are ready to stab in the dark or carry information to the police and others in order to keep their opponents safely out of the way? And what is the guarantee that the information given by these informers are not of the same kind? I quite agree that you are all honestly convinced about the truth of the charges against these people. But what is the guarantee that it is true when you have not any of the methods by which you can check falsehood, when you resort to methods which afford no guarantee whatever of getting at the truth in the cases? Look at the provisions. I have carefully read them and there are merely illusory safeguards which may mislead the lay public, but lawyers accustomed to practise in courts, a Judge accustomed to judge, will not be beguiled into believing that there is any safeguard in the simple fact that the materials are sent to two Sessions Judges who have no opportunity of testing the evidence. I am sure that if Pandit Motilal Nehru was asked to judge these men and had the same materials put before him as you have had he would perhaps come to the same conclusion to which you did. Because what has he got to go by. He has to act on what others say. He is told by the Local Governor who is again told by the head of the police (Pandit Motilal Nehru indicated disagreement). Then he must be a difficult man to deal with. This whole procedure is obnoxious, and has the necessity for resort to this obnoxious procedure been made out? Is Bengal really honeycombed with secret societies of this kind? Not on the evidence you have placed before me. While I fully sympathise with your position in the matter, I hesitate to accept the position that the conspiracy is really so widespread that it is difficult for your police to deal with it. You have to make out that your police find it impossible to deal with these cases. Some convictions they have had. In the Alipur conspiracy case for instance—I do not know the name—the conviction obtained is pregnant evidence that the police . . . (The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: "That ended in acquittal.") There was a case of conspiracy, another case which you mentioned, one of two. One ended in acquittal and in the other there was a conviction. Therefore, I fail to understand what the difficulty of the police in this

matter is. I mean that conspiracy is a well known crime. It is covered by the Penal Code. A conspiracy to commit crimes is an offence under the Penal Code. And if the police in ordinary cases can trace conspiracies and put an end to them, what is the difficulty in putting an end to conspiracies of this sort? My chief complaint against this is as a political measure. It is political unwisdom to resort to this policy of repressive laws because of a state which you yourself have brought about. We are just tumbling out of the great disturbance produced in this country by the Punjab troubles and the Rowlatt Act. We were emerging from that; we thought we had been put on to the path of constructive work for the country. We want the people to co-operate, we want the executive and the Legislature to co-operate in bringing about settled conditions. There are so many directions in which our activities have to be exercised. And now the whole country is to be agitated. That aspect is the one I ask the Government to look at. Is the whole country to be put in a state of agitation simply because you say your Bengal police are unable to deal with these crimes? Is it because of the incompetency of the Bengal police? Can they not trace crimes of conspiracies and deal with them? Let them take the risk. They are brave people. They are quite willing to gamble with their own lives. But that is a far less serious risk than this risk of creating wholesale unpopularity throughout the whole country. Now the feeling in this matter is very widespread. That is not confined to a few sections of politicians. But Indian opinion against it is strong and universal. Are you going to ignore this Indian opinion? Are you going to be guided merely by the British press which is inspired by some Anglo-Indians here? Are you going to be guided by the Anglo-Indian press here? Are you going to ignore the whole of the Indian press? Are you going to ignore the views of Indian politicians? If you want to ignore us, Sir, we must also ignore you if that is the state you are driving us to. That is the aspect of the question which appeals to me, Sir. Now what does the Resolution ask? All that it says is that you should come to the Legislature. And if you make out a case I for my part—I am not speaking for any party now, and even if I belong to any party I am prepared to disobey the mandate of that party—am prepared to assist in the passing of a law if it is shown that such a law is absolutely necessary.

Mr. President: Before I allow the debate to proceed any further—the time is advancing—I think the idea thrown out by Mr. Jinnah calls for the notice of the Chair. Honourable Members are aware that in a situation like this I am always ready to meet the convenience of the House, but I think I must warn the House as a whole, and particularly those individual Members who have been successful in obtaining places in the ballot on any day allotted by His Excellency the Governor General for the discussion either of Resolutions or of non-official Bills, that, if a place is to be found for the continuation of this debate, supposing it to be adjourned this afternoon, it can only be found on a non-official day at the expense of those who have already won a place at the ballot. Therefore I shall have to be satisfied that there is a real genuine consensus of opinion, including the agreement of individual Members who have been successful in the ballot, that that shall be done. I must point out that, if this debate is carried over to a non-official day, the matter has already passed out of my hands and I shall have to set down for that day the Resolutions successful in the ballot. But if each individual Member chooses to forego his right to initiate debate on some other subject, then this adjourned Resolution can come on on the next non-official day.

Colonel J. D. Crawford (Bengal: European): In rising, Sir, to speak on the Resolution before this House to-day I wish to associate myself and my colleagues with the new spirit which is apparent amongst some of us during this session that our deliberations on all occasions should be governed by what is best in the interests of this country; and if I and my colleagues find ourselves in opposition to the views of other political parties in this House and if we express those views with all the force and emphasis that we can command, we consider that on those grounds we should not be suspect but that we should be given credit for an honest desire to serve India, of which we claim by the right of past services the full status of citizenship. I and my colleagues are convinced that the interests of our community and the interests of all communities are identical with the interests of India. When this House rises this afternoon, some of us are going to give a practical proof of our desire to associate ourselves with Indian interests in joining a deputation to His Excellency the Viceroy to endeavour to secure a just settlement of those difficulties with which Indians in South Africa are faced. The views of my community on the question of the Bengal Ordinance are already known to the Government and to the Members of this House. The grant of extraordinary powers to the Executive of the nature of the Ordinance are more repugnant to us, with our long traditions of freedom and personal liberty, than they can be to any other Members of this House who have but learnt the meaning of freedom under the protection of the British flag. We did not accept the Ordinance at the hands of Government without taking special steps to assure ourselves that the menace to personal liberty and freedom was real; and we found that the menace did exist, and that it was the bounden duty of Government to protect it at all costs; and I feel certain that my community, and I trust also the Indian citizens of this House would take the necessary measures, should any Government fail to protect our personal liberty, to bring them to their senses. I realize that there are some Members of this House who will claim, that, in voting for this Resolution to-day, this is what they are doing, but they know in their hearts, and Bengal knows, that the dangers arising from the terrorist movement in Bengal are far greater than any that can come from the hands of the British Raj. Those who would plead for the rights of criminals can surely not realize what would be the result, if their pleading should prove successful. It must, it can, only mean that we would hand to any body of individuals who chose to band themselves together in secret the power to deprive innocent citizens not only of their liberty but of their lives without any offence against society and without trial of any description. It should not be necessary in this House to labour the existence of a terrorist movement. Those who have read their papers have had ample proof from the instances recorded therein from time to time, and if further proof were necessary, they have had the very full statements of the Government of Bengal and the Home Member in this House. But, I forget, anything that Government says is suspect, and we are asked to believe that in the Government we have a secret criminal organization far more dangerous than that which exists in Bengal. There are those who would ask us to believe that the police under this measure are able to vent their spite against innocent citizens solely because they hold political views opposed to those of Government, and that in that tyranny they are backed by Government officials, both Indian and European (*A Voice*: "No, no") and further that they are supported by such liberal-minded men as Their Excellencies Lord Reading and Lord Lytton (*Mr. M. A. Jinnah*: "Who

said that?") and worse still are encouraged in those depraved activities by the late Secretary of State and a Labour Cabinet in England. I am prepared however to endeavour to convince the House, if such is necessary after the Honourable Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal's speech, of the existence of a terrorist movement by quoting the opinions of Indian leaders. I have only to refer to the speech of the Honourable Pandit Motilal Nehru in the last September Session in which he says:

"Mr. Das says there is a more serious anarchical movement than the authorities realize. Now, Sir, I do not know upon what materials Mr. Das made that statement, but I wholly endorse it, every word of it; and not only that but I say that if you do not take care, you will one fine morning wake up and find the whole country full of a honeycomb of secret conspiracies."

If that is not enough to convince, I will quote from the leaflet of a well-known Bengali revolutionary who was convicted in the Benares conspiracy case and who is at present an absconder, Sachindra Sanyal. He says:

"Those who say that there is no revolutionary party in India are not telling the truth, for such an organization of great dimensions really exists. The object of this party is to secure the independence of India by armed revolution."

With these admissions in front of us, it is incomprehensible that there should be still left in India anyone who can qualify his condemnation of terrorism and anarchy by the words "if any". There is no necessity of further elaboration on that point. But I would crave the indulgence of the House for a few minutes to consider the dangers that may arise if this Resolution is passed and if Government were to act on it and if terrorism be allowed to go unchecked. The House, I am sure, will recognize the patience which my community has shown under very grave provocation. They will no doubt remember that on occasions in the past they have been restrained with difficulty. The passing of the Ordinance has lifted a load of anxiety from the shoulders of the leaders of my community. Feeling amongst my constituents at the failure of Government to take action against those who would interfere with the lawful activities of citizens had run very high. We trust that no action of this House will lead to a recrudescence of those trying and anxious days, but I do ask Government to realize the strength of the feeling that exists and the possible dangers that might arise if further murders of innocent Europeans in the public streets take place. But there are graver dangers with which this country is faced. The Russian revolutionaries are endeavouring, wherever they can, to find a root in India and to exploit revolution wherever it is found. They have placed India first on their list of objectives. I do not know whether the Members of this House have studied with the same care that I have, the advance of Russian communists towards eastern countries. Along the borders of India to the north-west they are gradually but surely building up the Russian Empire under the high-sounding title of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In the Cawnpore conspiracy case you have very clear proof of the definite connection of the Russian communists with India, and if you choose to examine the evidence reviewed in the judgment in that case with special reference to the accused, Nalini Gupta, it is not undue presumption to assume that they have a direct connection with the revolutionary party in India. The asso-

4 P.M. ciation of Mr. M. N. Roy in Europe with the Third International is well known, and yet a letter from this gentleman published over the names of Janaki Prasad Begerhotta and Argunall Sethi, members of the All-India Congress Committee, was freely handed out to those who attended the recent meeting of Congress at Belgaum. Sir, if the House to-day

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accepts this Resolution and the Government act on it, we are definitely playing into the hands of the Russian communists. This way the freedom and liberty of India cannot be secured, for freedom under the Soviet Republic is the very negation of all that India holds dear. Those who are authors and inspirers of that blasphemous journal, *Bezbozhnik* (which means in English the Godless), which caricatures such prophets as Christ, Muhammad, Buddha and others can find no place in India. India needs no Russians to help her to manage her own affairs. With this knowledge before us there are surely few who will deny the necessity of stern measures to deal with the menace that confronts us. Many resolutions have been passed condemning anarchy and terrorism; much lip service has been done to the spirit of non-violence, but the authors of the notorious Seraiganj Resolution, those who supported it at Nagpur and Ahmedabad in June 1924, and who extolled the so-called patriotism of a misguided stripling cannot escape the responsibility that history will attach to them. I would ask Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal if he considers that on that occasion they were creating sympathy for a man who had been arrested under Regulation III or under the Bengal Ordinance. Indian leaders have not yet shown their determination to crush out this deadly menace which is the ruin of so many youths in Bengal, which has brought so much sorrow to Indian mothers and which has been one of the main causes for the introduction of the Ordinance. The responsibility rests on their shoulders and if they have a conscience I do not envy them their position. I wonder if they will take the action that representatives of Bengal under this new Reforms scheme took in the case of the Goonda trouble in Calcutta. The Members of that Legislative Council on that occasion passed unanimously an Act curtailing the liberties of subjects of this country without any trial and that was passed by Indian representatives of the Bengal Legislative Council. Neither do I think—and here I find myself at one with Mr. Pal—that the Government can escape their share of responsibility for having allowed the situation to develop until it could only be restored by means of emergency measures. I cannot personally think that the Government were wise in appointing the Vincent Committee and in acting on their advice in the repeal of measures introduced for the special purpose of dealing with a menace of this nature before—mind you I say before—they had taken steps to provide themselves under the new constitution and through this House with powers that were adequate to cope with the emergency that has now necessitated the introduction of the Ordinance. I feel that the vacillating policy of the Government of India and the unfortunate speeches of the late Secretary of State for India have much to answer for. The main arguments to-day and since the introduction of the Ordinance amongst those who have the wisdom to recognise the facts lie round the effectiveness or otherwise of the cure which Government have introduced and as to public feeling on the question. As to the effectiveness of Government action, I think there is little doubt that it has been effective, at any rate, in keeping the terrorist movement for the moment in abeyance. There are those who say that the ordinary law is sufficient to deal with the menace and I wonder if they realise the true nature of that menace or if they have any practical experience or knowledge of intelligence work. It seems to me that in the policy of the Home Government during the war in connection with the submarine menace we have an admirable parallel to our position here to-day. On that occasion, in spite of the grave national menace and in spite of the grave anxiety arising therefrom amongst the people, the

Government refused to make any statement because secrecy was the essential to success, and because, had they done so, they would have given away to the enemy the sources of their information, and on that occasion the nation trusted them. In my experience as an Intelligence Officer I have on two occasions seen our sources of information given away by a statement on the part of Government of facts. What happened on those occasions? They did not disclose the sources of our information, but the very fact itself gave the clue to the agency and we were deprived of information at a vital moment. The position is exactly the same in this case. If you were to place the facts on which the charge against *détenus* was based in court, even if you did not produce the witnesses, those in the organisation who were outside would be able to put two and two together and you would endanger the lives of your agents and you would nullify the sources of your information. I do not believe that this House desires to shut itself off from all sources of information, but if we accept the Resolution as it stands to-day, that is exactly what we should be doing. There is an undoubted fear that under this measure the police have extraordinary powers and may and do make mistakes. But I would be surprised if they did not make mistakes. After all even the ordinary law which some Members consider infallible is, as we all know, capable of considerable error. It may assist the House if from my experience I outline to them the methods adopted by an Intelligence Officer. Information coming from an informer is treated by the trained Intelligence Officer with considerable caniness; it is naturally a matter of interest. If he mentions it in a report, he invariably adds the word "unconfirmed". That information remains suspect until from three or four other sources definitely unrelated to one another he has confirmation of his original information, when it is accepted as a fact beyond reasonable dispute. After that has been done by the police their evidence is then reviewed by two Judges who have knowledge of evidence and beyond that it is personally reviewed by the Governor of the province and by His Excellency the Viceroy; and if these are not sufficient for the elimination of human error as far as possible and for the protection of the rights of individuals in so far as circumstances permit, the Government have offered to bring in a Bill admitting the right of the accused to appeal to the High Court. I cannot think that any reasonable-minded man can, under these circumstances, demand more.

I now come to the question of public feeling towards this Ordinance. I know the Swaraj Party have done their best to inflame public opinion against it. It has come, Sir, at a time when possibly their influence was on the wane and they naturally used it, not thinking of the cost to the country. But from my own personal observation, I believe, it left the people cold. So far as the Muhammadans of Bengal are concerned, they are divided on the subject as, I am afraid, they are divided on so many interests vital to their community. But I would like here to pay my tribute to those who had the courage of their convictions and voted in the Bengal Legislative Council in favour of the Ordinance in the face of very real fear of intimidation and worse. (Hear, hear). As for the voting in the Bengal Legislative Council, it is most unconvincing. Sir Provash Chandra Mitter in his speech against the Ordinance was illogical and has ruined his reputation as a statesman. To the man in the street it was an admirable example of sitting on the fence. I would ask the House to note the number of abstentions on an important matter of this kind. They make one pause and think and give considerable colour to the grave allegation of intimidation of the Members of the Bengal Legislative Council. Now, I come to those

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who voted against the Ordinance. If the two Swarajists who were compulsorily absent were there, then you do not get amongst the members of the Bengal Legislative Council a majority in favour of doing away with the Ordinance. Further, you have only to read the letters in the press in Bengal to realise that Indian mothers were deeply concerned with the fear that their sons might be drawn away from their studies and enmeshed in the net of the revolutionaries. I am prepared to give the whole-hearted support of my constituents to the Government on this occasion and I believe that public opinion in Bengal, though not actually vocal, is silently grateful that the Government have at last seen fit to take action. There is one point with which the public and I gather from the question paper the Honourable Members of this House are troubled. They cannot believe that the late executive officer of the Calcutta Corporation was connected with this movement. The Home Member has said that this was so both prior to and subsequent to his appointment as an executive officer. If that is the case, why then was he ever allowed to be appointed to a responsible position of this nature? I am prepared to accept myself the statement of Government on this question, but they cannot expect the public to give them that support that they deserve on an occasion of this nature, if actions of this nature are allowed to go on. In conclusion, I would add that none of us believe that the country can be governed by emergency measures of this nature (Hear, hear). Though they may remain on the Statute-book, the conditions of the country should be such as to make them a dead letter. The Government must take the earliest steps to remove the real cause of the trouble and we ourselves—and here I am with the Honourable Mover of the Resolution—must individually use our influence and make every endeavour to create a state of things that shall shorten the time during which the Ordinance must remain in force. (*Dewan Bahadur T. Rangachariar*: “Help us to do so.”) There are persons who state that the only remedy is the immediate concession by the Government to their own political demands. This is the attitude of the Swaraj Party in this House. The Honourable Pandit Motilal Nehru in the September session left on me the impression that he was saying to Government: “I have locked up in this cupboard a big stick and if you do not immediately make concession towards our further political progress, it may be produced.” But, Sir, it is not the so-called tyranny of the British Raj that makes revolution and the measure of support it receives from the public. It is in this country, as in all countries, due to economic causes. Afford the people an opportunity to earn an honourable and honest livelihood and they will be contented, law-abiding citizens. We all know that when the monsoon is bad, the forces of unrest make headway and when the monsoon is good there is peace and contentment in the land. The revolutionaries draw their recruits from the ranks of the middle classes, from amongst those youths who, having taken a course of study at our universities, can find no lawful outlet for their activities. Our university system needs urgent reform. As it stands to-day our universities are simply working as machines for turning out agitators. The standard of university qualifications is so low as to secure in the labour market a totally inadequate wage. We must restrict by rigorous entrance examinations the admission to our universities only to those who can benefit by the course of instruction there. We must raise the standard of qualifications, so that those who can obtain their degrees may have hopes of getting a reasonably lucrative appointment. For the rest, primary education and technical schools should suffice. It should be

our object to fit a man to follow in the footsteps of his father either in the fields or in the market place and to make him by technical education a better and more skilful cultivator and a better businessman than his father thus increasing his prosperity and contentment. I would urge Indian leaders to give their most earnest consideration to directing the activities and aspiration of the youth of the country into channels which shall benefit India. In England the energy and enthusiasm of youth find useful outlet in social work and therein they gain that experience which is essential to their translation in due course to the higher councils of the nation. The social uplift of the masses in India is of immense importance and provides a sphere of activities in which the energy and aspirations of Indian youths have ample scope to work for India. If the Government will make a real endeavour to sift the causes of the trouble, to relieve the terrible discontent arising from the present unemployment, I am convinced that this country will benefit and that amongst a prosperous and therefore contented body of citizens there will be found no place for the cancerous growth of anarchy and revolution.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Sir, by rising to speak on this Resolution, I fear, I run the risk of ruining my reputation also according to what the last Speaker said. But I hope that anyone who does not agree with Colonel Crawford may not ruin his reputation in the opinion of others. Colonel Crawford gave us a lecture on the economic conditions and so on and so forth which have very little to do with the Resolution which we are discussing now.

(At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was taken by Mr. Deputy President.)

If Colonel Crawford had read the Ordinance carefully—and I venture to say that he has not from what he said—he would never have said that there is nothing wrong with this Ordinance. First of all he said you have a very careful Intelligence Department which prepares a case and after it has been prepared it is placed before two judicial officers and after that it is placed before His Excellency Lord Lytton and after that it is placed before His Excellency Lord Reading. What more do you want? I ask Colonel Crawford, is that the only thing in the Ordinance? Does he know what is the second part of the Ordinance? Has he read that? Sir, in another statement which he made and which was equally without foundation and intended, I think, for outside consumption perhaps, he said that you are charging Lord Lytton as a party to conspiracy. You are charging His Excellency the Viceroy and the members of his Government as a party to conspiracy. Sir, I have been following the criticism throughout the country, but I have not read, nor have I heard any responsible man ever suggest that His Excellency Lord Reading or for the matter of that any Member of his Government, is a party to any conspiracy; far from it. I will, Sir, read the words of His Excellency Lord Reading, in which, speaking to the Members of the Legislature, he said:

“I trust that the Members of the Indian Legislature will realise that my action was taken only after a most careful examination of the whole situation and with the sole object of preventing violent crimes.”

Sir, I do not want to attribute any other intention to His Excellency the Viceroy, except that his object was to prevent crimes. I am not quarrelling with the intention of Lord Lytton, who undoubtedly carries with him the reputation of a liberal statesman, that he intends anything else but to prevent violent crimes, and I am sure that my friend, the

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Honourable the Home Member, will be the last person to desire anything else. Therefore, Sir, let us leave that aside.

The question before the House, which I want to place before the Honourable Member is this. I object strongly to the promulgation of this Ordinance, firstly on the ground that it raises a most vital and a grave constitutional question. When I heard my Honourable friend, Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, I was shocked. Evidently his conscience is not yet aroused as to what this means. He said that after all the quarrel is not with regard to the measure but the machinery which is set up. Let me remind the Honourable Member it is not the machinery. It involves a grave principle, and I shall point out what that is. His Excellency the Viceroy, addressing the Members of the Legislature, said:

"It has since been urged that the Legislature should have been summoned again before I took the step of promulgation. In my judgment this course was neither in the circumstances desirable nor indeed was it possible. If the means devised were to prove effective, the responsibility was of a nature which could not be shared, and it would not be right or proper for me to try to share it with you or to place it on your shoulders."

Therefore, we are told, and very rightly told, according to the present constitution that the responsibility is not ours; it cannot be shared with us, and it cannot be placed on our shoulders. This brings out a grave constitutional question to my mind. The assertion of the existence of the power which is embodied in section 72 of the Government of India Act, which gives one single man the opportunity to exercise that power, was hitherto merely a matter of theory. We felt that, among other powers of a very autocratic kind which are given to him, that power was there, but we are face to face to-day with the enforcement of that power, and we are told that the responsibility is not ours. And yet, Sir, I am surprised that the Government and Lord Lytton appeal to every loyal citizen to support them in preventing these violent crimes which are committed. I say, Sir, that clearly brings out the true position of this Legislature, and you, Sir (to Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar), a little while ago, while you were not in that high place, but were speaking, described this Assembly as an advisory body. It is an advisory body, and it is proved that it is to be treated as if it did not exist. Now, Sir, what is the position in England? I here appeal to my English friends who are so anxious and who are so keen to support this Ordinance to bear in mind what is the position in England. I will read from a great judge sitting in the highest tribunal of their court in England, and this is what he said. He quotes from Blackstone, and he says:

"He searchingly treats the cases both of liberty and life as tests, both and equally, of one and the same principle, the very principle which is under scrutiny in the present case. 'To bereave a man of life, or by violence to confiscate his estate, without accusation or trial, would be so gross and notorious an act of despotism, as must at once convey the alarm of tyranny throughout the whole kingdom. But confinement of the person by secretly hurrying him to gaol, where his sufferings are unknown or forgotten, is a less public, a less striking, and therefore a more dangerous engine of arbitrary government. And yet sometimes, when the State is in real danger, even this may be a necessary measure. But the happiness of our constitution is, that it is not left to the Executive power to determine when the danger of the State is so great as to render this measure expedient. For it is the Parliament only, or a legislative power, that, whenever it sees proper, can authorise the Crown, by suspending the Habeas Corpus Act for a short and limited time, to imprison suspected persons without giving any reason for so doing.'"

Mr. S. C. Ghose: Where did you read that from?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: I am asked by the Honourable Member where I read it from. I read it from the Appeal Cases, 1917, House of Lords, the highest tribunal in Great Britain.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: The name of the Judge, please?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Lord Shaw. Now, Sir, everyone has argued here and every one has produced the strongest possible arguments that these revolutionaries, these anarchists or whatever you like to call them or those who are perpetrating violent crimes should be shown no mercy should be given no quarter. I agree. No exception can be taken to that. And I am willing to do all I can to help the Government. But I am surprised that not a single Speaker has asked what is to be the position of the innocent. What is to happen to the innocent? Sir, there again you will find that the whole issue is this. The Honourable the Home Member has told us of those few events which have taken place and, in order to wind up to the highest possible pitch, he sums up by saying that there was going to be spectacular murder in Bengal. Was it intended to prevent that spectacular murder? Sir, I cannot conceive that any country with a constitution can possibly tolerate a measure of this character. Sir, you put the guilty and the innocent together. You give powers to your Executive. I owe allegiance to the King Emperor. What do I get in return for it, what do I claim in return for it? Protection of my liberty, my life and my property. My liberty should not be taken away without a judicial trial in a proper court where I have all the right to defend myself. Under this Ordinance, if I were a citizen of Calcutta, I should have to transfer my allegiance to Mr. Tegart the Commissioner, because he is the only man who can give me protection and not His Majesty's High Court or His Majesty's Courts. I am very glad, Sir, that I am not in Calcutta but live in Bombay, because I can still continue my allegiance to the King Emperor. I say, if I were a citizen of Calcutta, in whose hands am I? It is all very well for Colonel Crawford to give us a lecture here as to how the Intelligence Department works. We have examined his Intelligence Department, Sir. I have spent 25 years of my life in doing so and we know what it is; I have gone through many cases and I know how it works. The less said the better. Are you going to lock up an innocent man because of the Intelligence Department? And what do we get from the Home Member? The Home Member says, "I have not got legal evidence, I am not prepared to put it before the Courts, and when I do get evidence I shall do so." You are reversing the order. A man is entitled to his liberty until you have got the evidence to place him before a Court. Says the Home Member: "I am entitled to lock him up because my Police Commissioner says he has got some evidence or he suspects, and I am entitled to lock him up and I will lock him up as long as necessary, and until I get evidence I will keep him there." Sir, I therefore say that it is shocking in the first place and next that it is opposed to the fundamental principles which I say must be observed by any civilised government which is conducted on a certain constitutional system. That is the first objection I have to make to it. And the proposition is a simple one. You can only justify a measure like this if it was for the defence of the realm or for the public safety. And you cannot say you want it for the public safety. You can only put it on the ground of public safety and public safety is in danger according to Government because these few violent crimes have been committed. Now, Sir, may I point out to the Honourable the Home Member what happened in England when the Sein Fein movement was going on? Does he remember that even the gates of

[Mr. M. A. Jinnah.]

Downing Street were barricaded and protected by the police? The life of every Minister of yours was in danger; I know it and it was patent to every citizen in London. What did Great Britain do? What has Great Britain done now? Only a few days ago you had a plot to blow up a British ship. What did you do? (Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: "A conspiracy to blow up the fleet.") Well, I am corrected. It cannot be the whole fleet, it must be a ship. Has the Prime Minister therefore rushed to Parliament and told Parliament—of course, there he cannot do it—"I want a measure of this character." I tell you, Sir, that that Prime Minister would not have 24 hours of his life as Prime Minister if he went with that request to Parliament. Sir, it only shows this that your police is inefficient. It shows that your police want a soft job so that they can lock up men, innocent and guilty, indiscriminately, and of course in the whole lot there may be a few guilty. Let them put them all together and let them rot in jail. This is the soft job you want to give to the police. I suppose, if you arrest a large number of men, quite possibly a few of them may be guilty. Well, Sir, that is my first objection. My second objection is—and I here appeal to Government—that it will defeat its own ends. It not only will defeat its own ends but I have no doubt in my mind—I hope I am wrong—but I have no doubt in my mind that it will make the breach and the gulf between the Government and the people wider than it has ever been, if you persist in this policy of yours. It is not that you want it and we oppose it, or that we oppose it and therefore you will insist upon it. I do ask you, I do appeal to you, to carefully consider it. Sir, we find in the words of one of the English newspapers which are to my mind so to the point that we have got to ask the question, why disturbances have come into existence? Have you asked that question? Colonel Crawford tried to deal with it. It may be—although I think myself it has very little bearing—it may be that it has a bearing, it may be that some young men who are probably driven into it suffer from causes which are economical causes. But, Sir, I will read to you with your permission a paragraph from a newspaper which runs as follows:

"No political progress," said Lord Reading, yesterday, "can have a lot or part with terrorism." On this it might be argued that several nations which enjoy political freedom to-day obtained it by methods of terrorism."

I think that is a historical truth.

I think it is the historical truth that several nations that enjoy freedom including perhaps Great Britain, did not attain it without some terrorism.

The article continues:

"It is not quite certain that we did not so obtain it ourselves, but that is not the point chiefly to be insisted upon"—and I agree that that is not the point to be insisted upon—"What is most necessary is that the Government of Great Britain and India should ask themselves what causes terrorism. It has been caused always in the past and it is caused to-day by lack of understanding and sympathy on the part of the rulers, by attempts to keep up the domination, by refusal to come down from the pedestals of absurd assumed superiority and to discuss changes on equal terms. The situation is grave in India already. It will rapidly become more so if the truth is lost sight of."

Sir, this is the situation.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: May I ask what is the name of the paper?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: I am sure the Honourable the Home Member would not approve of it. It is the *Daily Herald*. I knew that and that shows the mentality of the Government Bench. Sir, I am not quoting this

because it comes from the *Daily Herald* and I said so from the very start. I cannot put better what is in my own mind, and I have repeatedly said it, perhaps not in such concise language, but I have said it more than once. The Honourable the Home Member will remember that in September I said, "You want to get rid of violent crimes; you want to get rid of terrorism; you can only do so by good government." Good government does not mean autocratic government. Good government does not mean despotic government. Good government means a government that is responsible to the representatives of the people. What do we find here to-day? We find here to-day on the authority of Lord Reading—and rightly under the present constitution—that the Government cannot share the responsibility with us. The responsibility is yours. But we are, if you like to call us, interlopers, if you like to call us, busy bodies, who want to interfere with your responsibility. You may describe us in any other manner you like. But we thought that this debate should be raised, and we must tell you really, frankly and respectfully what is in our mind. The responsibility is yours. If you like to follow our advice, our advice is this. Please revise your policy. It is no sign of weakness to revise your judgment if you are wrong. I again say, "Revise it and come down from your high pedestals, and discuss with us on equal terms what India wants and meet us reasonably." And I venture to say that this terrorism which I condemn in no too strong terms will be destroyed.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: Sir, I shall begin by briefly stating the circumstances which have culminated in the promulgation of Ordinance No. 1 of 1924. The Government of Lord Lytton had rendered itself unpopular, by its short-sighted policy of flouting public opinion since the Swarajists determined to capture the Councils, and to expose the hollowness of the reforms. From that time the attitude of the Bengal Government became one of hostility towards the people under its administration. The first step that was taken was to deport under Regulation III of 1818 some congress workers who might be useful in helping Swarajist candidates being returned to the Councils.

Then came the Tarakeswar *Satyagraha* campaign and instead of helping the people in their non-violent struggle to purify their religious institutions, Lord Lytton's Government saw the spectre of sedition and tried to crush the movement by imprisoning thousands of men, boys and women to whom religion was dearer than their lives. To crown all came His Excellency's Dacca speech, insulting the womanhood of India, which was resented by every one from the highest to the lowest. Added to these there was an attempt to thrust upon the people Ministers of his choice whose salary was twice refused by the accredited representatives of the people in the Council. The people of Bengal in their despair determined not to associate with his Government in any way and they refused to receive the Governor with the respect due to his exalted office whenever he was on tour in the mofussil. All these things instead of making him pause and change his ways enraged him to such an extent that he got the promulgation of Ordinance No. 1 of 1924 by misrepresenting a peaceful constitutional struggle as the outward manifestation of anarchical conspiracy which, if it really exists anywhere, exists among his officers and advisers. For, are they not anarchists who bring the head of an administration into contempt by fabricating stories of anarchical conspiracies amongst peaceful, law-abiding citizens? We have been told that the Government have ample proof of the existence of anarchical conspiracies in Bengal, but dare not publish the same, and the people are simply asked to believe in the *ipse*

[Mr. Amar Nath Dutt.]
 dirts of His Excellency and the members of his Government. The people are perfectly justified in refusing to believe them because their statements are based upon the reports of a notoriously venal and unscrupulous police who are masters in the art of fabrication as proved by the Narayangarh train wrecking case and the Midnapore bomb case. Instances of a stray murder here and there have been cited as instances of anarchical conspiracy, but the same has not been proved by facts. It is said that witnesses are intimidated, but we know as a matter of fact, that witnesses came forward to depose in such cases, to which a political complexion is attempted to be given, and the offenders were punished. Some reliance is also placed upon confessions made under circumstances of torture and agony, which may have its parallel in the legend of Prometheus but not in human history. The ordinary instruments of tyranny and oppression that are available under a so-called civilized Government having been made full use of, the Government of Bengal wants to pursue its career of repression and misrule by the adoption of Star Chamber methods so that the whole province may live in perpetual dread of its power and may not utter a word against its misdeeds. These weapons of coercion and repression are being deliberately used against the members of the Swaraj Party to stifle a perfectly constitutional movement for self-government and to suppress the surging tide of nationalism under cover of preserving law and order.

Outbursts of violence occur in every country in every age and such occasional outbursts do not justify the promulgation of an Ordinance which takes away from the ordinary citizen his most elementary rights.

It is only under very extraordinary circumstances that such elementary rights of citizenship can be taken away and I ask Government whether the refusal of the Ministers' salaries, the attempt to purify religious institutions, or protests against malicious utterances against the honour of our mothers and sisters, are such extraordinary circumstances?

That these measures are intended to destroy by stealth the legitimate constitutional activity of the Swaraj Party, will be apparent to every one from the fact that the chief executive officer of the Calcutta Corporation, which has been captured by the Swaraj Party, the Secretary of the Swaraj Party in Bengal and the Secretary of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee were deported. The Government of Bengal has never spared any means to prevent the Swarajists from capturing the municipal institutions and District and Local Boards of the Province, and men taking active part in the organisations for such capturing have been dealt with under the Ordinance and taken away from the sphere of their activities. I shall give you one instance of which I have personal knowledge. In my own district of Burdwan the District Board has lived more than double its statutory life through bureaucratic blessings. The Congress party decided to capture the Board and on the eve of the election Sriput Anil Baran Roy, the life and soul of the organisation, was taken away in the midst of his work and the over-zealous subordinates of the executive, who were carrying on an anti-swaraj propaganda, were thus able to threaten and coerce the unsophisticated villagers to vote for their henchmen. It was freely given out that whoever would stand as a nominee of the Swaraj Party or vote for them would be deported, and I know of more instances than one where candidates withdrew for fear of offending the officials. I have referred to this instance, because what is true of my district is true of other places in Bengal, and to prove before you by a concrete instance the reasons for the deportation of Sriput Anil Baran Roy.

Those who have the privilege of knowing Sriput Anil Baran cannot believe that he can belong to any terrorist movement or criminal conspiracy. His simple life and saintly character and his selfless devotion to the cause of our motherland has made him the idol of the people of Bankura, amongst whom he was working, and Burdwan is proud to own him as one of its sons. By taking away such men from the field of their work the Government are driving the people of Bengal, in their despair of constitutional methods, to other paths which we all abhor.

The Government of Bengal in its mad attempt to coerce the people into subjection has not only made free use of rusty weapons in their armoury like Regulation III of 1818, but has invoked the aid of Ordinance No. 1 of 1924 by misrepresenting facts to His Excellency the Governor General and has introduced a reign of terror in my unhappy province. It is almost useless to attempt to convince the Government by facts about the true situation in Bengal, as the Government are determined not to be convinced, but we shall be failing in our duty as representatives of the people if we do not give expression to our deep feeling of resentment against the actions of an irresponsible executive in the province of Bengal.

It has been said that the existence of revolutionary conspiracy is admitted even by the leader of the Swaraj Party. But am I to understand that the Government do not understand the true significance of his warning which was uttered with the best of intentions? The Government have accepted his diagnosis of the disease but not the remedy suggested by him. Does it not prove that the Government do not really accept his statement but merely want to make use of his statement further to strangle political life in Bengal?

Along with the Ordinance a Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council on the same lines, which although thrown out by the Bengal Council has been certified by the Governor of Bengal in flagrant defiance of public opinion and is awaiting signification of His Majesty's assent. This certified Bill, if it becomes law, will place the people of Bengal, their lives and liberties for five years in the hands of an arbitrary and autocratic executive. Sir, I emphatically deny the existence of any anarchical conspiracy or terrorist movement in Bengal necessitating the introduction of such measures as the Ordinance or the certified Bill. Even a cursory glance at Appendix C of the report of the Repressive Laws Committee will convince you that what was complained of was not any anarchical crime or terrorism, but merely picketting, social boycott and like things, which can easily be dealt with, if the same transgress lawful bounds, under the ordinary law of the country. To characterise these legitimate weapons of constitutional warfare as terrorism indicates the real motive of the autocrat to kill the political aspirations of the people for responsible government and hold them in subjection perpetually for the advantage of their foreign rulers.

Sir, this is a debate which must be very painful to me, painful not only on account of the extraordinary nature of the proceedings which we are considering, but painful also because I find many bright and brilliant young men, who I fondly hoped and believed would add to the honour, the dignity and prestige of my province by their selfless devotion in the service of their motherland, are arrested and deported or interned for causes which I cannot know, which nobody knows and which are never given out. Sir, a general crusade against a community is not justified by reason or logic or considerations of expediency under any circumstances.

[Mr. Amar Nath Dutt.]

I wish I had the power and the ability of placing before the Members of the Assembly the scenes of desolation and sadness that pervade every home in the province of Bengal, as also the agony and despair of sorrowful and bereft families, which would ensure a ready response in support of the Resolution.

I therefore earnestly appeal through this Assembly to His Excellency the Governor General to withdraw the Ordinance and take steps so that the certified Bill of the Governor of Bengal may not disgrace the pages of the Indian Statute-book. You may disregard our appeal, you have the power to do so, you have got the authority—our lives and liberties are at your disposal—but then your action will lay up such a great harvest of discontent amongst the people which it will not be easy to allay. I can do no better than conclude by quoting from the famous ballad of Rabindranath:

* "The more their eyes will be reddened
Our vision will be clearer
The more they tighten their grip
Our shackles will fall off."

With these words I beg to move the amendment that stands in my name, namely:

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added:

'And that steps be taken to have the certified Bill of the Governor of Bengal on the lines of the Ordinance withdrawn.'"

Mr. President: I propose now to adjourn the House, but before doing so I wish to say that I hope to be in a position on Friday morning to announce that a satisfactory arrangement has been made for the resumption of the debate now adjourned and that the arrangement will provide for that resumption at a reasonably early date.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS.

Mr. President: I have further to announce the result of the election of Members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways. The following have been elected:

Mr. S. C. Ghose,
Khan Bahadur Saivid Mohammad Ismail,
Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra,
Mr. H. G. Cocke,
Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai,
Mr. N. C. Kelkar,
Mr. E. G. Fleming, and
Sir Hari Singh Gour.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: With reference to the request that was made earlier in the day by Mr. Jinnah about the resumption of this debate, we had a full day to-day and *prima facie* I am not likely to be in a position to give official time, but I am not in the least inclined to raise any objection to the other procedure suggested. I suggest therefore that we raise the question of the day on which this debate should be taken up again, on Friday next, that is, the next meeting.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 30th January, 1925.

* Translation of the ballad.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 30th January, 1925.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

QUARTERS FOR MARRIED OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

440. ***Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan:** Is it a fact that Government have decided to build quarters for married officers of the Army?

If so, how much do Government propose to spend annually on the building of such houses?

Are Government aware that there are already houses available in many cantonments which could be acquired or taken upon a repairing lease as provided for in the House Accommodation Act?

Mr. E. Burdon: Construction of quarters is undertaken only in cases where it is impossible to make other arrangements for the accommodation of officers.

Government have no proposal for an annual building programme, or for a building programme designed specially for the benefit of married officers.

Government are aware of the fact stated by the Honourable Member, in the third part of his question. In cases where it is necessary and where the houses can be obtained for a reasonable rent, houses are being acquired under the House Accommodation Act.

NEW SITE FOR THE CALCUTTA MINT.

441. ***Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan:** Will Government be pleased to state if any decision has been reached regarding a new site for the Mint?

Are negotiations proceeding for the requisition of a piece of land lying to the east of Russa Road?

If so, will Government be pleased to give their reason for not utilising the factory buildings and staff quarters at Dum Dum which are to be vacated by the Army authorities?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: No decision has yet been reached; the Government are carefully considering various sites and among them the one suggested by the Honourable Member.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

442. ***Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan:** Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of contribution made on behalf of India to the funds of the League of Nations?

Is it a fact that since 1923 India has come to occupy the third place in the list of assessees? Did Government make any objection to India being called upon to make a higher contribution than such countries as Italy, Sweden and Belgium?

Mr. L. Graham: The Honourable Member is referred to part (a) of the reply to unstarred question No. 7 given to Mr. D. V. Belvi on the 22nd January, 1925.

It is a fact that India occupied the third place in the list of assessees for the year 1923 and 1924. Repeated endeavours were made to secure a reduction in her contribution and a reduction by 5 units has now been made with the result that she stands fifth in the list of assessees for 1925.

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE ON SHIPPING.

443. ***Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan:** Will Government be pleased to state what were the principal subjects of discussion at the Conference on Shipping which assembled at Delhi on or about November 18.

Has any decision been reached in regard to any of them? If so, what?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The principal question discussed at the Conference was whether the Central subjects of (a) shipping and navigation, (b) light-houses, (c) major ports and (d) quarantine should not be co-ordinated and brought more under the direct control of the Central Government than they are at present.

2. The Conference was a preliminary step to more-detailed examination of the questions and final conclusions have not yet been formulated.

444. (This question was answered on the 23rd January, 1925.)

AMALGAMATION OF OUDH AND ROHILKHAND AND EAST INDIAN RAILWAYS.

445. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Is it a fact that the head office of the amalgamated State Railways of the O. and R. Railway and the E. I. Railway is going to be Calcutta and not Lucknow?

(b) Are the Government aware that the transfer of the head office will entail a great hardship especially on the clerical staff drawing a poor pay?

(c) Is it contemplated to give notice to leave the Railway to a number of members of the O. and R. Railway staff?

(d) Are the Government aware that there is a widespread apprehension among the State-employees of the O. and R. Railway that their prospects will be adversely affected by the amalgamation?

(e) Has His Excellency the Viceroy received memorials from the employees of the O. and R. Railway?

If yes, will the Government be pleased to lay the memorials on the table?

(f) Have the Government sent replies to the said memorials?

(g) If yes, will the Government be pleased to lay the replies on the table?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The details of the proposed amalgamation have not yet been worked out and Government are unable to make a statement at present.

(d), (e), (f) and (g). Memorials have been received from the clerical staff and gazetted officers of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway representing that their interests would be adversely affected by the proposed amalgamation. These are under consideration and Government do not think that any useful purpose will be served by placing copies on the table. However in any changes which have to be made in the public interest Government will see that the fullest possible consideration is paid to the position and prospects of individual members of the present staff, on the Oudh and Rohilkhand and the East Indian Railways and all possible and practicable steps will be taken to minimise hardship in case reductions of establishment become necessary.

AJMER-MERWARA.

446. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the District of Ajmer-Merwara was detached from the old North Western Provinces in order to form it into a separate model administration for the surrounding Native States of Rajputana?

(b) If so, is the same object maintained by its administration up to the present time?

(c) If not, why not?

Mr. Denys Bray: Ajmer-Merwara was detached in 1871 on general grounds of administrative convenience.

(b) and (c) therefore do not arise.

ADMINISTRATION OF AJMER.

447. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Is it not a fact that:

(a) Ajmer is still governed by Regulations passed in the years 1877 and 1886?

(b) its chief Subordinate Judge of the first class, exercising powers in cases up to Rs. 10,000 and in some cases of unlimited value, is drawing a salary of Rs. 200?

(c) the process-fees charged in civil suits is nearly three to four times that obtaining in other provinces of British India?

(d) there is no provision for second appeals in the Courts Regulation?

(e) the posts of Collector, District Magistrate, Sessions Judge and District Judge are combined in one officer?

(f) many officers in the Commission exercise both magisterial and civil powers? and

(g) the Vakils and Pleaders have no status in the district as the Legal Practitioners Act has not been extended to it?

(b) If the answers are in the affirmative, will Government state what is being done to revise those laws and to improve the tone of administration of the District?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Chronological Tables at the commencement of the Ajmer Code, 1916 edition, which show the Acts and Regulations in force in the district.

As regards the rest of the question, the information is being obtained and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

ADMINISTRATION OF AJMER-MERWARA.

448. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Is it not a fact that the literacy standard and percentage of the District of Ajmer-Merwara compares favourably with the rest of British India?

(b) If so, are there any special reasons why the Province of Ajmer-Merwara should still continue to be a non-regulation scheduled district governed by the Foreign and Political Department and not by the Home Department?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) Yes.

(b) The Province is not governed by the Foreign and Political Department but by the Government of India. Although for reasons of general administrative convenience the Foreign and Political Department is the channel for correspondence regarding the Province, references to the Home Department or other Departments concerned are invariably made before decisions of any importance are carried out.

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADVANCEMENT OF AJMER-MERWARA.

449. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Was any Committee, presided over by Mr. Ashworth, appointed to investigate the political conditions obtaining in the District of Ajmer-Merwara and to suggest steps necessary to bring it into line with the rest of reformed British India in respect of political and administrative advancement?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay a copy of the Committee's report on the table and state what action has been taken on it?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the report will be forwarded to the Honourable Member and a copy placed in the Library. As regards the action taken on the report I refer the Honourable Member to the reply given on behalf of Government in the debate in the Council of State on a Resolution moved on the 21st February 1923 by the Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali. As was then anticipated the proposal to merge Ajmer-Merwara in the United Provinces was eventually found to be impracticable. The proposal to establish a local Legislative Council, which had been rejected by the Committee, was re-examined by Government, who, however, found themselves unable to proceed with it. They also explored the possibility of establishing an Advisory Board with certain suggested powers but were advised that such a Board could not be legally constituted. In these circumstances it was decided to grant the province the same measure of participation in the Reforms as had been granted to Delhi, namely, an elected seat in the Legislative Assembly.

As regards the judicial arrangements the Committee recommended that if the amalgamation of the province with the United Provinces was impossible, a Judicial Commissioner should be appointed. As the appointment of a whole time Judicial Commissioner would not have been justifiable the Province had to be combined for this purpose with another area

and the Judicial Commissioner in the States of Western India is now exercising the functions of a High Court for Ajmer-Merwara since the 7th November last.

JUDICIAL WORK OF AJMER-MERWARA.

450. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Is it a fact that the Judicial Commissioner in Kathiawar with headquarters at Rajkot has been recently appointed to exercise the judicial powers of the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara?

(b) Have Government considered the other alternative of putting the judicial work of the district under the Allahabad High Court which is still the Court of Reference of the district?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, but the alternative was not found feasible.

MUNICIPAL BOARD OF AJMER.

451. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Is it or is it not still the policy of Government to give full independence to local bodies like the Municipalities and to allow them to learn by their own mistakes?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government state whether the same principle applies to the Municipal Board of Ajmer?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) Yes, so far as this can be done without danger to the public welfare.

(b) Yes.

AJMER-MERWARA MUNICIPALITIES REGULATION.

452. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Are Government aware that the municipal elections of Ajmer city are due to take place by the end of 1925?

(b) Is it also not a fact that the new Municipalities Regulation is still on the legislative anvil?

(c) Do Government intend to see that the Regulation is passed in time for the election to be held under it?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) Government are not aware of the exact dates.

(b) and (c). It is hoped that the new Municipalities Regulation will become law in the very near future, and if the municipal elections are not to take place until the end of 1925, it may be taken as certain that the Regulation will be promulgated before the date of the elections.

DEFECTS IN THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION OF AJMER CITY.

453. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (1) Will Government be pleased to state what is the percentage of Europeans and Anglo-Indians to the population of Ajmer city?

(2) Is it not a fact that:

(a) 8 out of 24 members of the Municipal Board are European and Anglo-Indians,

(b) the Conveners of the two most important Sub-Committees Conservancy and Public Works, are, under the rules, nominated European officials,

- (c) the District Magistrate and Commissioner, Ajmer, still interferes and exercises control even in petty matters,
- (d) the Water Works, which form one of the main items of municipal expenditure, are still solely controlled and worked by the Public Works Department whose supervision charges vary from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 17,000 a year,
- (e) new suburbs are springing up and the Committee does not care to regulate the growth of buildings, and
- (f) the municipal franchise is still very limited?

(3) Do Government intend to set all these defects right in the new Regulation and in the rules to be framed thereunder?

Mr. Denys Bray: The information is being obtained and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

CONFIRMATION OF INDIAN TEMPORARY OFFICERS IN THE SUPERIOR REVENUE ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE RAILWAYS.

454. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of the Indian temporary officers waiting confirmation in the Superior Revenue Establishment of the State Railways?

(b) In view of the Indianization of the Services, will the Government be pleased to state if they intend confirming the above Indian officers?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of the temporary officers waiting confirmation in the E. I. Railway and G. I. P. Railway?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Messrs. B. C. Chatterji and A. R. Sarin are the only two Indian temporary officers in the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways including the East Indian Railway.

(b) There are at present no vacancies in which they can be confirmed but the question of cadres is under consideration and their claims will be duly considered.

(c) The information has been asked for from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

EXPORT DUTIES ON CERTAIN ARTICLES.

455. ***Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray:** Will the Government be pleased to state what, if any, duties are levied upon the following transactions, respectively:

- (a) export of money in whatever shape out of India;
- (b) export of jute raw or manufactured;
- (c) export of lac raw or manufactured;
- (d) export of mica raw or manufactured;
- (e) export of tea;
- (f) manufacture of articles made of jute within the country;
- (g) cultivation of tobacco and its manufacture?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) None.

(b) Export duties are levied on raw jute and cuttings at rates of Rs. 4-8-0 and Rs. 1-4-0 per bale respectively, and on jute manufactures at Rs. 20 and Rs. 32 per ton respectively.

(c) None for general revenues, but cesses of 4 annas per maund on exports of lac and 2 annas per maund on exports of refuse lac are levied under the Indian Lac Cess Act of 1921.

(d) None.

(e) Export duty of Rs. 1-8-0 and a cess of 6 annas per 100 lbs.

(f) None.

(g) None.

COST OF COLLECTION OF REVENUE.

456. ***Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray:** Will the Government be pleased to enumerate the different agencies through which various kinds of revenues and taxes are realised and the costs incurred for such realisation?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to the identical question standing in his name and bearing No. 190 (unstarred) on page 1314 of the Assembly Debates dated the 8th March 1924.

INCOME-TAX ASSESSMENTS.

457. ***Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray:** Will the Government be pleased to state how incomes of persons are ascertained for purposes of assessing the income-tax?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I would refer the Honourable Member to sections 22 and 23 of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922 (XI of 1922).

458. (This question was answered on the 22nd January 1925.)

THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

459. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the financial liability involved in the proposal to continue India's participation in the British Empire Exhibition for the second year, will Government give separate figures for the Central and Provincial Governments' share of the said liability?

(b) Are Government aware that public opinion in the country is entirely opposed to the said participation, and do Government intend to respect Indian feeling in this matter by definitely refusing to participate any longer in the said show?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Honourable Member is referred to the answers to questions Nos. 189 and 392.

Mr. Darcy Lindsay: Are the Government aware whether the Honourable Member has any authority for posing as the mouthpiece of public opinion in the country, other than his own constituents? According to my information, public opinion is by no means entirely opposed to further participation in the Exhibition.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Is this to be taken as the official answer? I represent more people than Mr. Lindsay does. I am a far greater authority than he is on the question.

Mr. Darcy Lindsay: Has the attention of Government been drawn to a special cable from London dated the 22nd January, in the *Pioneer* newspaper, stating that the view is expressed in some quarters that, if the Government of India remain adamant and will not change their decision not

to participate, the United Provinces should take the whole of the buildings on its own account and sub-let space if necessary. A rich harvest is foreshadowed if such action is taken. The question I desire to ask is, are the Government prepared to assist the United Provinces in reaping this rich harvest, and the evident desire to see that India, as a part of the British Empire, is again suitably represented?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I suggest, Sir, the question be put when the Honourable Member for Commerce is present.

INSERTION OF A FAIR WAGES CLAUSE IN CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF STORES.

460. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) under what conditions and at what time the Fair Wages Clause of the Indian Stores Department Conditions of Contract was established?
- (b) the object of the establishment of this clause?
- (c) whether a similar clause is insisted upon in India for purchases of Government; if not, do Government propose to do so for the future?
- (d) is there any similar clause insisted upon for purchases made from India for any departments of His Majesty's Government in London?
- (e) is it true, that the insertion of this clause tends to increase the prices paid for material purchased from firms agreeing to this clause and thus imposes a sacrifice on the tax-payer?
- (f) do Government propose to continue this clause?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) A Fair Wages Clause is inserted in all contracts for the supply of stores by British firms to Government Departments in the United Kingdom in pursuance of two Resolutions of the House of Commons, dated the 13th February 1891 and 10th March 1909.

- (b) The object of the clause is to ensure fair conditions for labour employed in the execution of Government contracts.
- (c), (d) and (e). The reply is in the negative.
- (f) The reply is in the affirmative.

STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

461. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the name, qualification and salary of every member of the staff of the Indian Stores Department in London, getting more than £200 a year;
- (b) the number of this staff belonging respectively to the senior and the junior branches of the "Home" Civil Service;
- (c) the technical qualifications, on which chemists, mechanical and electrical engineers are admitted into the service of the Indian Stores Department;

- (d) whether any Indian has ever applied to the Indian Stores Department for such service, and, if so, how many and with what results?
- (e) whether Government have made provision for the employment of Indians qualified in the United Kingdom for service in the Indian Stores Department;
- (f) whether there is any correspondence with the Secretary of State or the High Commissioner on this subject;
- (g) whether there is any objection on the part of the Government of India to the immediate stoppage of further recruiting of technical and other staff in the Indian Stores Department, London, and in every case to advertise for an Indian of suitable qualifications for this work?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). I shall be pleased to show the Honourable Member a list of establishment of the office of the High Commissioner for India giving such information as is available on these points, if he will kindly call at my office.

(c) and (d). Complete information is not available with the Government of India. The High Commissioner for India has been asked to supply the information.

(e), (f) and (g). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to question No. 346, asked by the Right Honourable Mr. Srinivasa Sastri in the Council of State on the 3rd September, 1924, and in particular to clause (c) of that reply. I would add that it is not possible to direct an immediate stoppage of further recruiting of technical and other staff in the India Store Department, London, but the Government of India have issued orders to the effect that permanent vacancies should not for the present be substantively filled.

EXCESS OF LOCOMOTIVES OVER AUTHORISED STOCK.

462. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reason why there was an excess of 141 locomotives of 5' 6" gauge and 73 locomotives of 3' 3½" gauge in the month of June 1924, over the averaged authorised stock?

- (b) Who fixes the authorised stock and on what basis?
- (c) How the Government account for some railways having more than the authorised stock and others having less?
- (d) Will Government be pleased to state why the G. I. P. Railway had 1341 averaged total number of locomotives on the line in April 1924, and 1355 in June 1924?
- (e) Will Government explain what happened to the six locomotives during those two months?
- (f) Will Government explain why the averaged number of locomotives under or awaiting repairs should be as large as 22.6 per cent.?

(g) Will Government explain why 384 locomotives of the N.-W. Railway, which were under or awaiting repairs, constituted 33.9 per cent. of the total number on the line in April 1924, whereas 364 locomotives, which were under or awaiting repairs in June 1924, constituted only 22.5 per cent., and whether there is a mistake in the statement officially made by the Railway Board?

(h) What is the reason of the increase in the number of locomotives of the B. & N.-W. Railway, which were under or awaiting repairs, of 3'38" from 83 to 102, i.e., an addition of 19 during two months?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) The excess was due to certain old obsolete locomotives being temporarily retained on the list for subsidiary services, though they had been replaced by new and stronger engines.

(b) The authorised stock is fixed by the Railway Board and is based on the requirements of each railway, as calculated from time to time.

(c) The reason why a railway may have excess locomotive stock over the authorised number on a particular date is as given in the answer to (a). The actual number on the line may at any time be less than the authorised stock because new additional stock which has been sanctioned has not yet been completed and placed on the line.

(d) and (e). This is due to some of the old engines which had been replaced but which were still kept in use having been broken up during May and June.

(f) The percentage of 22.6 referred to includes engines under or awaiting repairs in shops as well as in running sheds and also engines stopped for a period of more than 24 hours for boiler examination and boiler washing, and so there must be a number of engines not available for use on any one day, while efforts are being made to reduce this number by the provision of increased facilities in shops and running sheds, this percentage does not compare unfavourably with those found in other countries.

(g) Owing to a typographical error a figure of 33.9 was printed by mistake instead of 23.9.

(h) The number under or awaiting repair must vary from month to month as this depends to a certain extent on the amount of work that can be undertaken in the shops. The number under or awaiting repair in October has fallen from 102 to 76.

TRADE COMBINES.

463. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what powers they have got at present to interfere with firms and combines of trade which tend to raise prices against the consumer?

(b) Are Government aware that there is a ring which fixes the price of Kerosine?

(c) Are Government aware that there are agreements between various shipping companies controlling freights to and from India as well as between the various ports?

(d) Have Government powers to protect consumers against profiteering and if not, do Government propose to arm themselves with additional powers in this behalf?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (d). The Government have no power to interfere with trade combinations or to control prices, and as at present advised, they see no necessity for taking any such powers.

(b) and (c). The Government are aware that there are agreements between some oil companies regarding prices and between shipping companies regarding rates.

Mr. W. S. J. Willson: Would the Government like to explain to the Honourable Member the difference between tramps and liners and the necessity of having regular services?

Mr. G. G. Sim: No, Sir.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Is it because Government themselves are unacquainted with that fact?

Mr. G. G. Sim: No, Sir.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A RATES TRIBUNAL.

464. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what protection any industry or area has got at present against the imposition of unfair or heavy rates by the various railway managements?

(b) Will Government state what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken towards the establishment of a Rates Tribunal?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Maxima and minima rates, within which railways may levy charges, are prescribed by Government, and it is to the interest of the railways themselves to encourage and foster traffic by the quotation of suitable rates.

(b) The matter has been under correspondence with the Secretary of State, whose reply has only now been received.

FUNCTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

465. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Will Government be pleased to state the functions entrusted to the High Commissioner for India in London, and also the qualifications which the holder of that office is expected to possess?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to a similar question asked by Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao on 1st March last. Since then, the duties in connection with the payment of leave allowances of military officers in civil employ have also been transferred to the High Commissioner. The Government have prescribed no qualifications but select the one who seems most suitable at the time when required.

PURCHASE OF RAILWAY STORES.

466. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Will Government state whether they have decided to take over to the Indian Stores Department some of the staff at present employed by the "Home" Board of the East Indian Railway Company.

(b) If so, is it because the Indian Stores Department, London, is not considered sufficient for handling the additional work which might be placed with them?

(c) Is it true that the Indian Stores Department is making large purchases for the railways in future so that the total amount of purchases which may go to the Indian Stores Department in London, during the next year will not materially increase as the Indian Stores Department, India, will have taken over a considerable amount of the purchase hitherto made by the railways through London?

(d) If the reply to (c) is in the negative will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken in connection with the promise of Sir Charles Innes that the Indian Stores Department will make all purchases for railways in India?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the result of the circular which they sent round to the various railways for larger utilisation of the Indian Stores Department and of the conference which the Railway Board had with the Agents to push forward Government's policy in this direction?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) The Indian Stores Department has made purchases of a substantial aggregate volume on behalf of railways, and there is every probability that that Department will be utilized by the railways to a larger extent in future; but as a large proportion of the requirements of the railways consists of specialised types of technical stores which are not manufactured in India it is improbable, so long as the existing arrangements for the purchase of stores manufactured abroad continue, that the utilization of the services of the Indian Stores Department by railways will serve to counterbalance the increase of business that will devolve on the India Store Department, London, as a result of the resumption by Government of the control of the East Indian Railway.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given to the following questions:

Question No. 2135, by Mr. K. C. Neogy on the 17th September, 1924,

Question No. 2322, by Mr. W. S. J. Willson on the 22nd September, 1924.

(e) Since the issue of the circular referred to by the Honourable Member various railways have made greater use of the Indian Stores Department and have up to date placed with that Department indents amounting to over 32 lakhs of rupees.

RULE TENDERS.

467. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they passed orders in regard to the Rule for calling of tenders in India in Rupees?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state why there has been a delay of about a year in considering the Assembly's Resolution with regard to Rupee tenders and passing orders thereon?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Secretary of State or the Indian Stores Department has raised any objection to the proposal for establishing the rule of Rupee tender in India?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table all correspondence that has passed between them and the Secretary of State or the High Commissioner on this subject?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) and (b). The Government have not yet come to a final decision in regard to the Resolution adopted by the Assembly to which the Honourable Member refers. As explained by the Honourable Sir Atul Chandra Chatterjee in his reply to question No. 2081, asked by Mr. Willson on the 17th September, 1924, the

question is one which has to be examined in many complicated aspects. This House may, however, rest assured that the matter is receiving the most earnest attention of the Government.

(c) and (d). There has been no correspondence between the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India or the High Commissioner for India on this subject since the Resolution was passed by this House on the 14th February, 1924.

Mr. W. S. J. Willson: Can the Honourable Member give any idea as to when Government are likely to come to their final decision?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I regret it is not possible for me to give any definite idea on the subject, but as I have said Government are trying their best to come to a decision as quickly as possible.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Do not Government regard a period of one year as long enough to make up their mind?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Sir, in view of the various and complicated aspects of the case I can assure the Honourable Member that the time is not too long.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Will the Honourable Member say what are the complicated aspects of the case which embarrass Government and prevent them from coming to a decision within the one year that has elapsed?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Well, Sir, I cannot answer that question fully without taking up a good deal of the time of this House; but I can tell the Honourable Member broadly this, that the first question with which we are contented is what are the classes of stores to which the policy advocated by this House can be applied.

Mr. W. S. J. Willson and Mr. N. M. Joshi: All stores?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Well, I may observe that it may be impossible to apply the policy in the case of technical stores of a specialised class; but as I have already said the matter is engaging the earnest consideration of Government. I am not in a position to make a more definite pronouncement on the subject at the present moment.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Cannot Government apply this Resolution whenever and wherever they think they can do so with advantage and leave the rest to the future?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: That is precisely what we are attempting to do. We are trying to find out which are the class of articles to which we can apply the Resolution without adding to the expense involved in obtaining those stores and, thus raising their cost to the taxpayer.

INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE STANDING HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

468. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government please state if it is a fact, that the Health Committee, whose constitution was determined by a resolution of the Fourth Session of the Assembly of the League of Nations, contains no representative of India?

(b) If so, will they please state as to why it is so?

(c) Do they propose to see that in future the representative of India obtains a seat on the Health Committee referred to in (a)?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) India has no representative on the Health Committee of the League of Nations but has a representative on the Permanent Committee of the Office International D' Hygiene Publique, Paris, which acts also as the General Advisory Health Council to the League.

(b) Every effort was made to secure a place for an Indian representative on the Committee which is strictly limited in numbers, but in view of the fact that probably 39 countries were competing, they did not meet with success on the last occasion.

(c) The Honourable Member may rest assured that the Government of India will, as in the past, do their best to try and see that India finds a place on the Committee.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Sir, may I know the names of the Indian representatives on the other Committees of the League of Nations?

Mr. President: That does not arise out of the question.

INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COMMITTEE ON THE ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

469. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Will the Government please state if there have been any representatives of India on the Committee on the allocation of expenses since the establishment of the League of Nations up to the last session of it?

(b) If so, will Government please state his or their names?

(c) If not, why not?

Mr. L. Graham: The answer to part (a) is in the negative, part (b) therefore does not arise.

(c) The Committee as at present constituted consists of eight members and the Honourable Member will no doubt realise that it is not possible for every member of the League to be represented on it.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

470. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government please state the amount paid by India to the League of Nations by way of contribution, since the establishment of the League up to its last session?

Mr. L. Graham: The Honourable Member is referred to part (a) of the reply to unstarred question No. 7 asked by Mr. D. V. Belvi, on the 22nd January, 1925.

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS ON THE TRAFFIC IN OPIUM, ETC.

471. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to the resolution "The Assembly expresses its deep appreciation of the very valuable work done by the Advisory Committee on Traffic in opium and

other dangerous drugs, and adopts its report together with the resolution embodied therein" published in the Gazette of India, December 27th, 1924, Part I, page 1148, para. 1, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table copy of the report with the resolution embodied therein?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: A copy of the report of the Advisory Committee on the work of its sixth Session has been placed in the Library.

EXPORTS OF OPIUM.

472. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please state the quantity of opium exported from British India during the years 1920, 1921 and 1922, respectively?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The figures are given in the report on the traffic in opium and other dangerous drugs for the years 1921 and 1922, which has been submitted by the Government of India to the League of Nations. A copy of this report has already been placed in the hands of the Honourable Member.

CONVERSION OF THE TURNSTILE CROSSING AT THE CHATRA RAILWAY STATION INTO A LEVEL CROSSING.

473. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the issue of the *Forward* of the 31st December, 1924, page 12, under the heading "Chatra Railway Crossing"?

(b) If so, will Government please state, if the statements made therein are correct?

(c) If correct, do they propose to issue necessary instructions to the railway authorities concerned to redress the grievances complained of?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Government have seen the letter referred to.

(b) Inquiry made shows that one boy was knocked down killed on the 13th November 1924 by reason of his own carelessness.

(c) The question of converting this turnstile crossing into a pucca level crossing is receiving consideration.

INTIMIDATION OF WITNESSES AND JURORS IN BENGAL.

474. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that Earl Winterton the Under Secretary of State for India said last December, while replying to Sir John Scurr to the effect that the internees could not be put on public trial because the jurors and the witnesses had been intimidated on former occasions and are in danger of being intimidated again on a public trial of internees being undertaken?

(b) How many cases of such intimidation have been reported and published in the past?

(c) Are the Government in possession of any facts to show that any juror in any political case was intimidated or even approached by the accused parties?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Government of India are satisfied that frequent attempts have been made to intimidate courts, jurors, witnesses and prosecuting officers in Bengal. I gave the House such details as it is possible to give in my speech the day before yesterday.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS MANAGING GOVERNORS OF THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

475. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will Government be pleased to describe the procedure, by which a vacancy in the post of the Managing Governor of the Imperial Bank of India is filled up?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many such vacancies have occurred since the constitution of the Imperial Bank?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state why there has not been any attempt to appoint an Indian to this position?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state their intentions, if any, in the direction of appointing an Indian in this position for the future?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to section 28 (1) (v) of the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920.

(b) There have been four such vacancies, since the original appointments were made.

(c) and (d). The intention of the Government is to appoint the persons best qualified irrespective of race after considering the recommendations of the Central Board, which, I may mention, contains several Indians. The question of a duly qualified Indian has not hitherto arisen.

LOSSES ON REVERSE BILLS, ETC.

476. *Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Will Government be pleased to place a statement on the table showing the amount of losses incurred from—

- (a) Reverse Bills;
- (b) post office money orders;
- (c) sales of Gold;

between 1st January 1920 and 31st December 1921, and showing how much of these losses was met from current revenues and how much from long and short term borrowings respectively and the actual form of such borrowings?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: As regards the amounts of losses, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the Memorandum on Exchange gains and losses which appears at pages 549 to 560 of the Council of State Debates of the 24th January 1923. As regards the manner in which the losses were met, he is no doubt aware that the years 1919-20 and 1920-21 were years of deficit and the losses had accordingly to be met from borrowings. The borrowings were not earmarked for particular objects. Details of them will be found in Accounts Nos. 82 and 82A, of the Finance and Revenue Accounts for those years.

TEMPORARY LOANS RAISED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA BY THE ISSUE OF INDIA BILLS.

477. *Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: (a) Is it the practice of the Secretary of State to raise money on 3, 6 or 12 months bills on London market?

(b) Will Government be pleased to furnish a statement of the amounts so raised in the 5 years ending with the 31st March, 1924, the date of sale of such bills and the discount per annum at which they were sold as also the market rate of discount on the same day for 3 months bills?

(c) Will Government be pleased to furnish a similar statement for the 5 years ending with 31st March 1914?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The last year in which money was raised by the Secretary of State on bills was 1915-16. Part (b) does not arise. As regards part (c), I place on the table a statement giving the information so far as available.

Statement showing temporary loans raised by the Secretary of State by the issue of India Bills during the five years ending 31st March, 1914.

Year.	Amount raised.	Time of issue.	Period for which current.	Discount.	Market rate of discount for 3 months' Bills at the time of issue.	REMARKS.
	£			£ s. d.		
1909-10, 1st issue	1,000,000	April 1909	12 months	2 3 11.68		
„ 2nd „	2,500,000	June 1909	„	3 1 11.43		
„ 3rd „	2,500,000	December 1909	„	3 3 10.29		
Total	6,000,000					
1910-11, 1st issue	1,000,000	April 1910	„	3 10 9.29		
„ 2nd „	2,500,000	June 1910	„	3 1 5.75		
„ 3rd „	1,500,000	December 1910	„	3 5 4.70		
Total	5,000,000					
1911-12, 1st issue	1,000,000	April 1911	„	2 13 6.27		
„ 2nd „	2,000,000	June 1911	„	3 1 6.76		
„ 3rd „	1,500,000	December 1911	„	3 0 7.256		
Total	4,500,000					
1912-13	...	...	Nil.	...		
1913-14	...	...	Nil.	...		

Information not available.

Previous years' Bills renewed.

HOME DISBURSEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON REVENUE AND CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

478. *Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Will Government be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing the actual disbursements by the Secretary of State for India month by month during each of the years 1921-22, 1922-23 and 1923-24, with some indications, where the payments have been abnormally heavy in any particular month, of the reason for the excess?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: A statement showing the Home disbursements of the Government of India for their London balances on revenue and capital account, is laid on the table.

Statement showing the Home disbursements of the Government of India on revenue and capital account (In millions of £).

Month.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	REMARKS.
April	4.1	4.3	3.5	Payments on account of interest and Railway annuities.
May	3.0	1.6	2.9	
June	2.3	2.9	2.2	
July	4.9	4.7	5.1	Ditto.
August	3.2	2.5	2.5	
September	1.7	1.3	1.6	
October	4.9	5.7	4.8	Ditto.
November	2.4	1.9	4.5	
December	2.6	1.8	2.4	
January	7.1	5.5	5.6	Payments on account of interest and Railway annuities and in 1921-22 payments to War Office debtable to Military.
February	1.8	3.2	2.7	
March	6.2	5.5	5.6	Payments on account of Stores.
Total	44.2	40.9	43.4	

LICENSE FEES OF STALL KEEPERS AND PLATFORM VENDORS ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

479. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the stall keepers and the platform vendors on the South Indian Railway used to pay Rs. 6 per month as rent for the site of their stalls and about a rupee as a license fee for selling coffee and other articles and that these fees have recently been revised to about Rs. 150 and Rs. 6 respectively. If so, why have the fees been increased?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Inquiry is being made and the Honourable Member will be informed of the result in due course.

REDUCTION OF FARES ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

480. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that when the Great Indian Peninsula, Bombay, Baroda and Central India, Madras and Southern Mahratta and other Railways increased their first and second class fares by about 12½ per cent., the

South Indian Railway increased its fares by 25 per cent. and that with the recent reduction in fares of the former Railways, the latter railway has not reduced its fares? If so, why?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The percentage of increase in 1922 on the South Indian Railway was the same as that introduced on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India, Great Indian Peninsula and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways, with the exception that over the latter railways the increase applied only to the first 300 miles of the journey. Government understand that the possibility of reducing fares on the South Indian Railway is now under the consideration of the Company.

GRIEVANCES OF THE SUBORDINATE STAFF OF THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

481. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the great discontent existing among the subordinate staff of the South Indian Railway working on the line on account of the fact that they do not get in time leave even for urgent purposes owing to the stiffness of leave rules and for that reason also, they could not be relieved of their duty when they fall sick? If so, what steps do they propose to take to remove these grievances? If not, will they be pleased to inquire into the matter and report their findings to the Assembly?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government have received copies of memorials addressed to the Agent by the subordinate staff of the South Indian Railway. The grant of leave to Company's servants is a matter which must naturally be left to the discretion of the Company's Agent but Government will send the Honourable Member's question to him for such action as he may consider necessary.

COLLECTION OF EXCESS FARES FROM PASSENGERS ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

482. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the authorities of the South Indian Railway have recently framed rules or issued a circular compelling the ticket collectors and the travelling ticket examiners to show every month a certain percentage of collections from passengers in the shape of excess fares?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to question No. 257.

ADMISSION OF PASSENGERS TO THE PLATFORMS AT TRICHINOPOLY AND ERRODE JUNCTIONS.

483. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the complaint made in the September-October issue of the *Railway Guardian* (pages 79-80), to the effect that at Trichinopoly and Erode Junctions, passengers are not admitted to the platforms before the actual arrival of trains? If so, do they propose to take steps to remove this complaint and allow the passengers on the platforms sufficiently early before the arrival of the trains? If not, why not?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government have not seen the complaint referred to, but this is a matter which might suitably be brought to the notice of the Agent through his Local Advisory Committee. The Government will send a copy of the question and answer to the Agent.

REDUCTION OF STAFF ON AMALGAMATION OF THE EAST INDIAN AND OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAYS.

484. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to give the following information:

- (a) After the East Indian Railway comes under the State management and is amalgamated with the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, is there any likelihood of both the superior and inferior staff of both the railways being reduced?
- (b) If so, what will be the percentage of reduction in the superior and inferior services of each railway company?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). Eventually we hope that the amalgamation will result in economy but it is quite impossible at present to say how this economy will affect different classes of railway servants.

ALLEGATIONS IN THE WEEKLY MAZDOOR OF LUCKNOW AGAINST RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION.

485. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the reply given to my question No. 2280 put on the 19th September, 1924, will Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken by the Agent of the O. and R. Railway Company in respect of the allegations made in the *Weekly Mazdoor* of Lucknow?

Mr. G. G. Sim: As already stated in reply to a similar question by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan the matter is still under consideration.

INDIAN FOREMEN ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

486. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to my question No. 2190 asked on the 18th September, 1924, will Government be pleased to state, whether, in view of the fact that there are only three Indian foremen and only one Indian under training on the whole Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway line, they have taken or propose to take any steps to secure more Indians to these posts? If so, what steps they have taken or propose to take? If not, why not?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The selection of men to fill appointments in the service of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company is a matter for the Company's Board and their Agent to decide. Government have, however, inquired from the Agent who states that a scheme for training Indians for the posts referred to is under his consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DECK PASSENGER COMMITTEE.

487. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the reply given to my question No. 2187, on the 18th September, 1924, will Government be pleased to state whether they have now considered the views of the Local Governments and Chambers of Commerce on the recommendations of the Deck Passenger Committee and whether they have come to any conclusion? If so, will they be further pleased to state what their conclusion is?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The matter is still under consideration.

PAY AND LEAVE OF RUNNERS IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

488. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the reply given to my question No. 2271 put on the 19th September, 1924, will Government be pleased to state what relief in respect of pay and leave has been given to the "Runners" in the Postal Department as a result of the consideration of this question by the Postal Inquiry Committee of 1920?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: With respect to the pay of runners, the Honourable Member is referred to the Resolution of the Government of India, Department of Commerce, No. 4737, dated the 30th July 1920, which was published in the Gazette of India, dated the 31st July 1920.

The Postal Inquiry Committee of 1920 made no recommendation in regard to leave for runners.

MEMBERSHIP OF WELFARE COMMITTEES ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

489. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) With reference to part (b) of the reply given to part (b) of my question No. 2278 put on the 19th September, 1924, will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that compulsion is brought upon the men in the railway workshops of the Bengal and North Western Railway in the matter of making them members of the Welfare Committees?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take immediate steps to stop this practice?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

EUROPEAN, ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOLS ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

490. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) With reference to the reply given to my question No. 2283 put on the 19th September, 1924, will Government be pleased to state (a) the number of schools that the M. S. M. Railway has provided for the children of its Anglo-Indian servants with the number of children taking advantage of these schools and (b) the number of schools started for the children of its Indian servants with the number of children attending them?

Mr. G. G. Sim: A statement giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member is placed on the table.

Statement showing the number of European and Anglo-Indian and Indian Railway Schools on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway on the 31st March 1924 and the number of pupils attending them.

Class.	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.
European and Anglo-Indian	18	817
Indian	5	808

EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

491. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to part (d) of the reply given to my question No. 2283, will Government be pleased to state whether they have arrived at any conclusion in respect of the question of assistance given by railways towards the education of their employees' children, which they are considering? If so, will they be pleased to announce it? If not, will they state when they are likely to come to some decision in this matter?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The question is one of considerable difficulty and Government have not yet arrived at any conclusion in respect to it. It is not possible to say at present when an announcement can be made.

REVISION OF THE LEAVE RULES OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

492. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the reply given to my question No. 2189 of the 18th September, 1924, will Government be pleased to state the result of their inquiry in respect of revising the leave rules for all railway employees with a view to bringing them more into accord with conditions of employment in other industrial concerns? If they have not yet come to any decision, when are they likely to finish their deliberations and arrive at some conclusion?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The revised rules have been drawn up, but it is not possible to say at present when they will be issued.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, Sir, for how long this question has been considered by the Government of India?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The question has been under consideration for the last six months.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I request the Government to inquire from the office how long this question has been considered?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I have already stated, for the last six months.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I want Government to make further inquiries.

RAILWAY COLONY AT JONESGANJ, AJMER.

493. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** 1. With reference to the information supplied to me by the Railway Board in reply to my question No. 899 of 20th March, 1924, will Government be pleased to furnish further information on the following questions arising from the answer given:

(a) Were the leases granted to the house-owners of Jonesganj, signed on behalf of the Railway by the Agent of the Railway Company, who under clauses 63 and 75 of the Company's Contracts, dated 24th September 1884 and 8th April 1917 respectively, is the only authorised Agent in India to sign such documents on behalf of the Company?

(b) Had the Carriage and Wagon Superintendent legal authority to sign agreements or leases for land on behalf of the Railway Company under the terms of the Company's charter or under clauses 63 and 75 of the Company's Contracts of 1884 and 1907 respectively, with the Secretary of State for India?

(c) Was the ground rent recovered from the house-owners reserved to the Railway Company, or to form a permanent village fund for "all purposes of the village" as laid down in Resolution No. 207 of Official Meetings of the Rajputana-Malwa Railway for 1891?

2. If the answer to (c) of the above question be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the ground rent recovered from the house-owners of Jonesganj was reserved to the Railway, was it ever credited to the Railway Revenue Account Abstract K, as laid down in paragraph 534 of the State Railway Open Line Code, Volume I, and paid into the Government Treasury as required by clauses 21 and 32 of the Company's Contracts of 1884 and 1907 respectively, with the Secretary of State for India; or was the ground rent credited to the Village Funds which are quite separate and independent of the Railway Accounts?

RAILWAY COLONY AT JONESGANJ, AJMER.

494. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to the information supplied to me in reply to part (2) of my question No. 900 of 20th March, 1924, will Government be pleased to state whether the Resolution 207 of the Official Meetings of 1891 laid down any restrictions as to ownership of the houses and whether it did not provide for "leases in due form" to "effect" the ownership of the colonists in the houses?

RAILWAY COLONY AT JONESGANJ, AJMER.

495. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to part (3) of my question No. 900 of 20th March, 1924 and the reply thereto, will Government be pleased to state whether the Resolution 207 of the Official Meetings of 1891 mentioned *internal* administration of the community affairs, or whether it stipulated a Working Committee for the transaction of all affairs of the village, such as recovery of advances made from the Fine Fund to the Village Community; Watch and Ward and Conservancy of the village, regulation of buildings, purchase of houses of men leaving the village, re-sale of such houses, control over tradesmen, disposal of produce of village land, etc.? What, if any, were the external affairs of the village?

RAILWAY COLONY AT JONESGANJ, AJMER.

496. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to part (4) of my question No. 900 of 20th March, 1924 and the reply thereto, will Government be pleased to state whether the Railway Company ever paid for any of the houses taken over from men who left the village; if so, from which head or sub-head of Railway Account were the payments made and how many houses were paid for by the Railway Company in this way?

RAILWAY COLONY AT JONESGANJ, AJMER.

497. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to question No. 902 of 20th March 1924, will Government be pleased to furnish (a) a copy of letter No. 3126-A., dated 30th May, 1898, from the Carriage and Wagon Superintendent, Ajmer; and (b) a copy of letter No. 1431-R. S., dated 30th January 1917, from the Carriage and Wagon Superintendent, Ajmer, as also a copy of the other suggestions made side by side by that officer?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I propose to reply to Questions 493 to 497 together.

The information asked for in these questions is being obtained from the railway administration concerned and will be communicated to the Honourable Member on receipt.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I take it, Sir, that all these questions have been answered up to 497?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Yes.

ADMISSION OF POSTAL RUNNERS AND VILLAGE POSTMEN TO THE BENEFITS OF THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

498. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to bring the postal runners and village postmen within the scope of the Workmen's Compensation Act? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: No. The occupations of these men are not particularly hazardous and provision is already made for these workers in the Civil Service Regulations.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government have made inquiries as to how many runners and village postmen are either killed or injured each year by going through forests and floods?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Sir, the decision of Government has been arrived at after a full consideration of the statistics referred to by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I request the Government to give the House the statistics which they have found out?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I shall require notice of that question, Sir.

REVISION OF THE CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF MENIALS IN ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

499. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state whether their inquiries regarding the question of revising the conditions of service of menials in all Government Departments are now completed? If not, why not? If the inquiries are completed, when will they publish their decisions?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I regret that it has not yet been possible to issue orders in this matter. But it has been fully considered and we hope to issue orders shortly.

CARRIAGE OF THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS IN GOODS WAGONS.

500. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of third class passengers carried in goods wagons?

(b) Have the Government of India consulted their legal advisers as to whether railways carrying passengers in goods wagons and charging them third class fares, are not guilty of a breach of the law?

(c) Will the Government of India be pleased to state when they will be in a position to discontinue the practice of carrying passengers in goods wagons?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) The information asked for is not available.

(b) So far as Government are aware, the carriage of passengers in goods vehicles on occasions when coaching vehicles are not available is not a breach of any law.

(c) Government cannot give a definite date, but instructions have already been issued to railway administrations that steps should be taken as far as practicable to put a stop to this practice.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I did not ask what is the opinion of the Government. What I really want to know is whether Government have consulted their legal adviser. I want Government to consult their legal advisers whether the carrying of passengers who pay third class fares by goods wagons is not illegal?

Mr. G. G. Sim: If the Honourable Member would suggest any particular law, that is contravened, the legal advisers would have something to advise about.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: This is the law of common sense that you must carry those who pay third class fares in the third class.

Mr. G. G. Sim: One does not ask for legal advice in matters of common sense.

Mr. Darcy Lindsay: Is it not a fact, Sir, that goods wagons are only used in cases of extreme emergency and in particular to meet the occasional rush of pilgrim traffic and that in such cases the wagons are made as comfortable as possible?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Yes.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: How are goods wagons made as comfortable as possible?

Mr. G. G. Sim: In many cases they are provided with electric lights.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Are Government aware that this practice does not obtain on the Bengal and North-Western Railway? I can speak authoritatively.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government will be prepared to reduce the fares to those passengers who are carried in goods wagons?

Mr. G. G. Sim: No, Sir.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask the reason why?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Public interest.

PROHIBITION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN UNDERGROUND IN MINES.

501. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to publish the reports they may have received from Local Governments regarding the prohibition of the employment of women underground in mines?

(b) Have they considered the reports? If so, what is their decision?

INTRODUCTION OF SHIFTS IN COAL MINES.

502. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to publish the reports they may have received from the Local Governments regarding the introduction of shifts in coal mines?

(b) Have they considered the reports and, if so, what is their decision?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I propose to answer questions 501 and 502 together. The Government of India have received the replies of Local Governments to their circular letter on these questions, but they have not yet formulated their decisions. The question of publishing the replies will be considered.

MATERNITY BENEFIT SCHEMES IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

503. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to publish the reports they may have received from Local Governments regarding the introduction of Maternity Benefit Schemes on a voluntary basis in industrial undertakings?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government intend to publish the information after all the replies have been received.

TRUCK ACTS.

504. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to two articles recently published in the *Servant of India* on the necessity of Truck Acts?

(b) Will they be pleased to ask the Local Governments to inquire into the question and publish the reports?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India do not consider it necessary at present to take the action suggested.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, Sir, the reason why Government are unwilling to make that inquiry?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The reason is, Sir, that the Government consider the inquiry to be unnecessary under present conditions in India.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, Sir, if Government have not made any inquiry as to the existence of the evil, how can they know that the evil does not exist and that there is no necessity for an inquiry?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The decision was arrived at by Government with reference to the knowledge they possess about present conditions in India.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask that Government should possess better information about these labour conditions than they possess to-day?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I leave it to the Honourable Member to form his own conclusions in that matter. I have already explained the Government view, Sir.

REDUCTION OF THIRD CLASS FARES ON RAILWAYS.

505. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to reduce the third class fares on Indian railways? If not, why not?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 259.

Sir Campbell Rhodes: Do Government anticipate that they will be able to reduce third class fares after the proposed committee on grievances of railway employees has done its beneficent work?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The answer, Sir, is in the negative.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVIDENT FUND IN PLACE OF PENSIONS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

506. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they have considered the proposal of establishing Provident Fund for the benefit of the Government employees as an alternative to pensions? If so, will they state their decision and will they state what steps they had taken to give effect to the proposal?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to Mr. Harehandrai Vishindas (question No. 69) during the current Session.

AMENDMENT OF THE ASSAM LABOUR AND EMIGRATION ACT.

507. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken for the revision of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, for the removal of penalties for absence from work and other labour offences?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The penal provisions to which the Honourable Member refers have been withdrawn by notifications.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What I wanted to know was whether Government are going to revise the Assam Labour and Emigration Act?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Sir, I have already replied to the specified inquiry which the Honourable Mr. Joshi has made. If he has something else in his mind, I shall be glad if he will give notice.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I have nothing in my mind. The answer given by the Honourable Member is not a reply to my question at all. I never asked whether certain provisions have been withdrawn by notification or not. There is no mention of that at all in my question.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The Honourable Member asked whether certain action has been taken for the removal of certain penalties. I have replied to him that the penal provisions have already been withdrawn by notifications.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am asking about the Assam Labour and Emigration Act. My question has not been answered.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The question of the revision of the law does not arise because the penal provisions have been withdrawn by notifications.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Government have already published that information that these penal provisions have been withdrawn by notifications. The question is whether they want to remove the penal clauses from the Act. This information is being given to me for several years. What I want to know is whether Government are going to remove the penal provisions from the Act.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government have no immediate intention of doing so.

Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao: May I ask the Honourable Member to state whether the notifications referred to by him were issued under any provisions of the Act and to state what that provision is?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The notifications were issued undoubtedly under the provisions of the Act.

Dewan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: May I know under what provision of the Act?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I have not got a copy of the Act here, and I shall be obliged if the Honourable Member would give me notice of that question.

PUBLICATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AGENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN CEYLON AND MALAYA.

508. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to publish an annual report of the work done by their Agents in Ceylon and Malaya? If not, why not?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The suggestion will be considered.

APPOINTMENT OF AN AGENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN MAURITIUS.

509. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to appoint an Agent in Mauritius? If not, why not?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Government of India are not at present considering the question of appointing an Agent in Mauritius. They are awaiting the report of the special officer who has lately been deputed to that colony to investigate certain matters.

RECEIPTS FROM FEES FOR EXTERNAL LABOUR EMIGRATION.

510. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount they have so far received from the fees for external labour emigration?

(b) Will they be pleased to state how they propose to spend the amount?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) A statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

(b) It is the policy of Government to spend the income from these fees on all legitimate objects relating to External Emigration.

STATEMENT.

Quarter ending.	Receipts.		
	Rs.	A.	P.
June 1923	5,805	0	0
September 1923	83,458	0	0
December 1923	49,613	0	0
March 1924	44,843	6	7†
June 1924	61,375	0	0
September 1924	1,43,117	0	0
Total up to the end of September 1924	3,88,211	6	7

PUBLICATION OF REPORTS OF INDIAN DELEGATES TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

511. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact, that the Government publishes a report made by their representatives for the Assembly of the League of Nations?

(b) Do they receive reports from their representatives for the Annual International Labour Conferences? If they do, are these reports published? If not, why not?

(c) Will they consider the advisability of publishing these reports?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes.

(b) Reports are received. They are not at present published as the delegates have prepared them on the understanding that they will be kept confidential.

(c) Government will consider the possibility of publishing reports in future.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Are Government aware that when their representatives at the International Labour Conference make confidential Reports, such reports sometimes leave the impression on the minds of the labour and other delegates that the Government delegates have made certain criticisms about the conduct of the labour representatives behind their back?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I shall require notice of that question.

UTILISATION OF THE GOLD STANDARD RESERVE FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN SUPPORT TO THE CURRENCY SYSTEM.

512. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government be pleased to state when, for what purpose and how much was spent on each occasion from 1893 to end of 1924, from the Gold Standard Reserve and the interest therefrom on purposes other than support to the Currency system?

† Includes Rs. 934-6-7 credited to Government on account of estates of deceased emigrants.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: In the years 1907-1908 and 1908-1909 a sum of £1,123,655 was appropriated from the Gold Standard Reserve for Railway Capital Expenditure. This is the only occasion on which the Gold Standard Reserve was utilised for purposes other than support to the Currency system. Beginning with the year 1923-24 interest, etc., earned the investments held by the Reserve have been appropriated to general revenues so long as the capital is not less than £40,000,000 and have not been added to the Capital of the Reserve. The amount so appropriated in 1923-24 was £1,199,127. Figures for 1924-25 are not yet ascertainable.

DISMISSAL OF MR. G. D. KANADE, STATION MASTER, ADARKI, ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

513. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. G. D. Kanade, Station Master, Adarki, had been peremptorily dismissed from the services of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway on 10th April, 1923?

(b) Is it a fact that this person had applied for a judicial hearing of his departmental case in which it was alleged that he allowed 4 passengers to get into the goods train, while he was allowed no opportunity of a hearing when the case was decided departmentally?

(c) Is it a fact that the General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants had applied to the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway for allowing this case a hearing before an impartial tribunal, as published in the *Railway Times* of 6th October, 1923?

(d) Is it a fact that this servant had a clean previous record of 17 years' service?

(e) Is it a fact that the dismissal meant in addition to losing service, losing gratuity too?

(f) Do Government propose to look into the case?

CASE OF MR. K. R. DESHPANDE, LATE A BOOKING CLERK ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

514. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. K. R. Deshpande, Coaching Clerk, Poona City Booking Office, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, was asked to resign in May, 1923, by the District Traffic Superintendent orally—as an alternative to his transfer to Marma Goa because the Poona City Booking Office was then abolished?

(b) Is it a fact that this person had offered to accept a lower salary post even, if he was transferred to the Belgaum District instead of to Marma Goa, to be able to look to the education of his children placed in Poona?

(c) Is it a fact that this employee has put in 18 years of service with a clean record?

(d) Is it a fact that gratuity has been refused in his case simply because he resigned, and that too on the understanding given by the District Traffic Superintendent that he would not stand to lose anything else?

(e) Do Government propose to inquire into the case?

CASE OF MR. R. K. KARMARKAR, LATE A GOODS CLERK ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

515. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. R. K. Karmarkar, Goods Clerk, Poona, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, was orally asked to resign service in April, 1923, by the District Traffic Superintendent, Belgaum, without allowing him a hearing in a case alleged against him?

(b) Is it a fact, that on the next day of his resignation, he put in an application to withdraw his resignation and that the withdrawal of resignation was not allowed?

(c) Is it a fact that the person has a clean record of 22 years' service?

(d) Is it a fact that in this case gratuity was disallowed?

(e) Do Government propose to inquire into the case?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I propose to reply to this question and the two following together. The Government have no knowledge of the incidents referred to, and since no right of appeal lies to them, they do not propose to inquire.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare: Are Government aware of the fact that these persons had appealed to the Agents in question and they received a negative answer?

Mr. G. G. Sim: No, Sir, the Government have no information whatsoever.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare. Will they please inquire?

Mr. G. G. Sim: No, Sir, the Government do not propose to inquire, since no right of appeal lies in the matter.

516. (This question was answered on the 26th January, 1925.)

PRICE OF IRON AND STEEL PURCHASED FROM ENGLAND AND THE CONTINENT.

517. ***Mr. T. C. Goswami:** Will the Government state:

(a) the price of iron and steel ordered by them from England and the Continent since the beginning of 1924, up to date, with the quantities ordered?

(b) which of the steel and iron goods ordered from abroad were not or could not be produced in India?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I should be glad to show the Honourable Member, if he would call at my office, a statement giving such information as is available on the points raised in the question. The statement is of some length, and Government do not think it would serve any useful purpose to lay it on the table.

SAVINGS ON THE PURCHASES OF STERLING.

518. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement in the *Statesman* from its Delhi correspondent, dated the 13th November 1924 to the effect that in the course of the current financial year a saving of a crore and a half of rupees is expected to accrue from the purchases of sterling under the present rate of exchange?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if that figure is approximately correct; if not, will Government state what is the amount of probable saving expected from that source?

(c) Are Government aware that the total exports from India now run into the neighbourhood of 350 crores?

(d) Do Government realise that most of these exports consist of agricultural produce either in a raw or semi-manufactured condition?

(e) Are Government aware that every penny of higher exchange means a loss of 20 crores of rupees to the producer of these agricultural products?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) and (b). The Government have seen the statement referred to, but I am sure the Honourable Member does not expect me to anticipate my Budget statement or express an opinion on the accuracy of the figure quoted. I would ask him to wait till February 28th.

(c) and (d). The statements are I think approximately correct.

(e) The statement is clearly incorrect. It ignores most of the relevant factors by which the position of producers is affected. It also ignores entirely their interests as consumers.

INCOME FROM STAMPS ON BANK CHEQUES.

519. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Will Government be pleased to state the income from stamps collected on bank cheques in each of the three financial years 1921-22, 1922-23 and 1923-24?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The income from stamps on bank cheques is not separately recorded in the books of Government. The total receipts in India from one-anna impressed stamps on cheque forms as well as receipt forms amounted to Rs. 8,25,600, 8,32,860 and 8,32,880 during the years 1921-22, 1922-23 and 1923-24 respectively. Cheques can under the law be stamped with ordinary postage and revenue adhesive stamps, as can receipts. I would remind the Honourable Member that the receipts from this duty are provincial.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Do Government desire to encourage banking habits in this country?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: In that case will they consider the question of abolishing one anna stamps on cheques?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: No, Sir.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: If they think that it is desirable to encourage banking, then is not the second answer quite inconsistent with the first?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I have nothing to add.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Yes: you cannot usefully add anything.

VALUE OF IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE MILITARY, RAILWAY, PUBLIC WORKS AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

520. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing approximately or even roughly the value of immoveable property held by (i) the Military, (ii) the Railway, (iii) the Public Works and other Departments of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Information sufficient to give even a rough estimate is not available and the collection of it would involve an amount of labour which in the opinion of Government is incommensurate with the value of the information when collected.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Do Government realise that the information is absolutely essential if the House is to consider the question of the reduction and the avoidance of public debt?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: No, Sir.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: No cost can be regarded as too great when a question of such vast magnitude is concerned?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I did not catch the Honourable Member's question. Will he please repeat it?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: No expenditure can be regarded as excessive when a question of such great importance is to be considered. Government ought to spend time, labour and money, in fact they must spend themselves, in order to supply materials for considering the question of the avoidance of public debt?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I have said, Sir, what the Government's view in the matter is. If the Honourable Member holds a different view I can only leave it at that.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: Do not Government consider it desirable to know the book value of all the immoveable properties held by the Public Works Department, the military authorities and the Railways?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: As I have said, Sir, we have not got the information readily available; that is to say, our accounts do not contain a separate record of these items. They have to be collected by means of a special compilation; and as already stated, the view of Government is that the special compilation would involve an amount of labour which would not be commensurate with the value of the information when collected.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: Is it not desirable that the Government should know the amount of investment in respect of the immoveable properties referred to in the question? In certain cases the Government are already taking that into account. If Government were to introduce a system of commercialised accounts, the book value will come out?

Mr. E. Burdon: Might I suggest to the Honourable Member that it would be a difficult thing, in fact an impossible thing, to arrive at an approximate estimate of the value of Fort St. George or Fort William.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: May I know whether it is not important that we should know the amount of non-recurring expenditure that has been incurred by Government up to date in regard to the various classes of buildings mentioned in the question, that is the exact amount invested in the various classes of buildings now in the occupation of the military authorities?

Mr. E. Burdon: It would be quite impossible to say that. Even if the information asked for is collected, it will not reveal that. Many buildings in the possession of the military authorities were acquired by conquest.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: Many barracks and other buildings have been constructed.

Mr. President: That is a matter of argument rather than a question requiring an answer. The Honourable Member might perhaps put it in the form of a Resolution.

NUMBER OF INDIAN OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE WITH SECRETARIAT EXPERIENCE, ETC.

521. ***Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Will Government be pleased to give information as follows:

- (a) A statement with the names, in order of seniority on the general list of Indian officers of the I. C. S. of more than 18 years' standing who have had secretariat experience giving the nature and length of such experience, as also the posting of each such officer on 1st December 1924?
- (b) A statement with the names of the Indian officers posted on 1st December, 1924, in each of the Departments of the Government of India as Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries or Under Secretaries?
- (c) A statement giving the Departments of the Government of India where no Indian is at present employed in any such capacity?
- (d) Have Government received requests from responsible Indian quarters to the effect that in every Department of the Government of India in the charge of a British Member, there should be at least one Indian Secretary or Joint Secretary?
- (e) Have Government themselves accepted and acted upon the principle that whenever the High Commissioner of India in England, is an Indian, his Secretary should be a British officer?
- (f) What is the explanation for the entire absence of Indian officers of the standing mentioned under (b) from the Departments referred to under (c)?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (a) The information is available from the History of Services of Gazetted Officers and the Civil Lists published by the Provincial Governments.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table.

(d) There is no record of any specific request in the precise terms suggested by the Honourable Member but representations have been made to the Government of India recommending generally an increase in the number of Indians in the Departments of the Government of India.

(e) and (f). The policy of the Government of India is to appoint Indians in increasing numbers to Secretariat posts but they are not prepared to agree to any fixed ratio of Indians in such posts which are essentially

selection appointments nor are they prepared to make a rule that either the Secretary or the Joint Secretary in a department must be of a different race from the member or that the High Commissioner and his Secretary must invariably be one an Indian and the other a British officer.

STATEMENT.

Departments in which Indians are employed in the offices of Secretary, Joint Secretary, etc.

Home Department	Mr. T. C. S. Jayaratnam, I.C.S., Under Secretary.
Finance Department	Mr. S. C. Gupta, Under Secretary (on deputation to England). Mr. V. S. Sundaram, Under Secretary.
Legislative Department	Mr. S. C. Gupta, Bar.-at-Law, Deputy Secretary.
Department of Education, Health and Lands	Mr. J. W. Bhore, I.C.S., Secretary. Mr. G. S. Bajpai, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary. Mr. M. S. A. Hydari, I.C.S., Under Secretary.
Department of Industries and Labour	R. B. J. P. Ganguli, Under Secretary (Officiating).

Departments in which no Indians are employed as Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, etc.

Army Department.
Foreign and Political Department.
Commerce Department.

ELECTED PRESIDENTS FOR THE DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

522. ***Lala Piyare Lal:** Are the Government aware that while all municipalities in the principal cities of India have their elected Presidents the Delhi Municipality is deprived of this privilege? Are the Government prepared to extend this privilege to this municipality as well?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, is still President of the Delhi Municipal Committee. It is not the intention of Government that this arrangement should be adhered to permanently but the immediate present is not a suitable time for making any change.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

523. ***Lala Piyare Lal:** Are Government aware that while large contributions are regularly made by the Government to the Notified Area Committee of Delhi, every year, none are made to the Delhi Municipality for its general expenses which have increased to a large extent by the location of the Government of India at the place? Are Government prepared to take this matter into consideration at the time of the next budget?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: Although the grants to Delhi Municipality have usually been made for specific purposes the Municipality has been treated with great liberality in the past: and it at present derives from Government properties a considerable income which is devoted to general expenses. The Chief Commissioner has recently submitted certain proposals which recognise the fact that the location of the Government of India at Delhi has indirectly increased the general expenses of the Municipal Committee, and suggests an increased annual grant to the Committee. These proposals are now under the consideration of the Government of India. I may add for the information of the Honourable Member that the circumstances of the Civil Lines, Notified Area, are entirely different as this area besides containing the temporary winter capital of the Government of India includes a large number of recreation grounds which involve considerable expense and are maintained very largely in the interests of the inhabitants of Delhi City.

INDIAN CLERKS' QUARTERS AT RAISINA.

524. ***Lala Piyare Lal:** Will the Government be pleased to state if the Indian clerks of the Imperial Secretariat were consulted as to their requirements before quarters for their occupation were built at Raisina in New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given by Sir Atul Chandra Chatterjee on the 3rd March, 1924, to starred question No. 577, asked by Mr. Rhabendra Chandra Roy.

RENTS OF INDIAN CLERKS' QUARTERS AT RAISINA, ETC.

525. ***Lala Piyare Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that the rents of the Indian clerks' quarters at Raisina have been increased since they have gone to occupy these quarters to a large extent? If it is so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for this increase?

(b) Is it a fact that Indian clerks of the Imperial Secretariat have complained about the unsafety of these quarters and a large number of thefts have occurred there?

(c) If the answer to part (b) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to remove these complaints?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The assessed rents of the clerks' quarters in Raisina were formerly calculated on the basis of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of interest on capital outlay. In accordance with the Fundamental Rules interest on outlay incurred on quarters occupied for the first time after 1st July 1922 has to be calculated at 6 per cent. of the capital outlay. The interest charges were accordingly pooled and the pooled rate is 4.64 per cent. for buildings, 4.33 per cent. for special services and 4.57 per cent. electrical installation as compared with the previous rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This mainly accounts for the increase in the assessed rents. Recoveries have, however, been made hitherto at concession rates which have been gradually withdrawn as facilities have increased in the New Capital Area.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) As the result of a representation received in 1921, the compound walls of all the quarters were raised by 2 ft. and bars were provided to certain windows. Two other representations have been received, one from certain occupants of B, C and D class quarters asking for iron bars to kitchen windows and one from the Imperial Secretariat Association asking for certain other protective measures against theft. These representations are under consideration and orders will shortly be passed by Government.

RETRENCHMENTS OF APPOINTMENTS ON BIG SALARIES.

526. ***Lala Piyare Lal:** Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that certain high posts carrying big salaries recommended by the Incheape Committee to be abolished have been retained, restored or transformed into new appointments? Is it the policy of the Government to apply the Incheape Committee's axe to smaller appointments and to grants for educational and other useful institutions leaving the higher appointments intact?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: If the Honourable Member will specify the posts which he has in mind I shall endeavour to answer the first part of his question. As he himself is well aware, the answer to the second part is in the negative.

WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM MUZAFFARPUR.

527. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Are Government aware that the public of Muzaffarpur assembled in a mass meeting in May last, under the presidency of Maulvi Mohamad Shaffi, M.L.A., protested against the construction of barracks for the permanent location of troops in that town?

(b) Are Government aware that the District Board of Muzaffarpur passed the following resolution at a meeting held on the 22nd November, 1924:

"That this District Board recommends to the Government of Bihar and Orissa to move the Government of India that they may be pleased to remove the troops located at Muzaffarpur, and not to build quarters for them, as their presence has already led to friction between them and the peaceful citizens of this town and suburbs, and as their permanent location is likely to lead to breaches of peace and bitterness"?

(c) Are Government aware that the Municipal Board of Muzaffarpur passed the following resolution, at a meeting held on the 25th November 1924:

"That this Board requests the Government of Bihar and Orissa to move the Government of India to withdraw the troops from Muzaffarpur, and not to build barracks, as their continued presence is likely to lead to breach of peace and bitterness between them and the citizens of the town and suburbs, many instances of which have already occurred in the past"?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a), (b) and (c). The Government of India have no information of the meetings and resolutions to which the Honourable Member refers.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I take it, Sir, that the Government of Bihar and Orissa do not keep the Government of India informed of all the facts of this case?

Mr. E. Burdon: In the recent continuous correspondence which I have had with the Government of Bihar and Orissa they have not mentioned any of the meetings or resolutions to which the Honourable Member has referred.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: Sir, have the Government of Bihar and Orissa in the recent correspondence to which the Honourable Member refers drawn attention to the fact that there is considerable feeling in Muzaffarpur on account of the troops being kept there?

Mr. E. Burdon: The fact to which my Honourable friend refers was certainly mentioned—it certainly came into the correspondence—it is impossible that it should not have in view of the questions and answers that have taken place both in this House and in the Bihar and Orissa Council.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: Sir, do the Government of India propose of their own accord to consult public opinion on this question of the troops being at Muzaffarpur or do they propose to give effect to the resolutions which have now come to their notice in questions and answers, Sir?

Mr. E. Burdon: I have in answer to previous questions explained that the Government of India do not propose themselves directly to consult local opinion in Bihar and Orissa on this subject.

Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha: Sir, do the Government of India at all propose to change their determination in regard to the troops being kept at Muzaffarpur?

Mr. E. Burdon: No, Sir.

DISALLOWED RESOLUTIONS.

528. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement, giving the Resolutions which have been disallowed under Rule 22 (1) of the Indian Legislative Rules, separately, since January 1924 up to date, together with the dates of such disallowance?

Mr. L. Graham: It is not the practice to publish Resolutions which have been disallowed by the Governor General. The Government of India therefore regret that they are unable to accede to the request of the Honourable Member.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: When was this practice formed, Sir, may I know during the last five years?

Mr. L. Graham: I think, Sir, it was in the first session of the last Assembly. It was certainly in the time of the Membership of the Honourable Dr. Sapru.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know, Sir, why the practice should not be varied?

Mr. L. Graham: The question of Resolutions is a matter between individual Members and the Governor General who exercises his statutory discretion. It is not desirable that it should be put before the House in any form.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: Is it not a fact that this disallowance ought to be made on the ground of the public interest and that therefore it is in the public interest that this disallowance should be made public?

Mr. L. Graham: Sir, may I refer the Honourable Member to rule 22(1). It is possible that Resolutions may be disallowed on the ground that they cannot be moved without detriment to the public interest, but very few Resolutions are disallowed by the Governor General under this rule and they are practically all I may say—not absolutely all—disallowed under the second part of the rule on the ground that they relate to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Governor General in Council.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Sir, is this practice formed under any rule made by the Government of India or His Majesty's Secretary of State?

Mr. L. Graham: The general rule of desirability.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE HARDWAR-KARNPRAYAG RAILWAY.

529. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** With reference to my starred question No. 28 of the 1st February 1924, will the Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to invite private companies to take up the construction of Hardwar-Karnprayag Railway line, in the District of Garhwal, as a business proposition?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government have recently sanctioned the construction of the Rikhikesh Road—Rikhikesh section of the Hardwar-Karnprayag Railway project, but have had to defer consideration of the remaining portion in view of the fact that it is not likely to be remunerative. Government do not consider that the construction of the remainder could be undertaken as a business proposition and in the circumstances are not prepared to invite any private company to take it up.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Sir, are Government not prepared to invite private companies to take up this project?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I said the project is not a remunerative one and no private company would take it up.

RAIDS IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

530. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if it is a fact that in the North-West Frontier Province half the population belongs to settled districts and half to unsettled districts?
- (b) whether the number of raids in the province has been steadily increasing or decreasing from the time of the separation of the Frontier Province from the Punjab up to the year 1923?
- (c) whether the judgments of the Judicial Commissioner of the province are appealable to the Chief Commissioner or are they final?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) Approximately. The detailed figures are given in the Census Report.

(b) There appears to have been no steady decrease or increase. The figures for the last 16 years are given on page 15 of the North-West Frontier Inquiry Report.

(c) The judgments are final.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Government be pleased to state how the state of crime in the North-West Frontier Province compares with the state of crime in Bengal during the same period?

Mr. Denys Bray: I should require prolonged notice of that question.

POST OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT.

531. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is the number of officials of different cadres in the Post Office Department, as noted below, correct?

1. Postmasters (including Sub and Branch, Inspectors, Clerks and Sorters)	27,006
2. Postmen and Mail Guards	29,800
3. Official of inferior service (including Road and River staff)	32,000
4. Extra-Departmental Agents	12,670

(b) If not, will the Government please give correct figures?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: The numbers on the 31st March, 1924, were:

1. 26,835
2. 29,637
3. 29,713
4. 12,623

These figures are exclusive of season, temporary and experimental establishments and, in the case of items 1 and 3, of staff employed in administrative offices, who are not engaged on purely postal work.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

Mr. President: I would like to ask the Honourable the Leader of the House whether he is in a position to make a statement regarding the business for next week.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member): Sir, as far as I can see at present, the following will be the course of business during the next week. On Monday, the 2nd February, elections will be held for the Standing Finance Committee and the Public Accounts Committee, as already announced in the House. Motions will be made for the reference to Select Committee of the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Bill and the Trade Unions Bill. Motions will also be made for taking into consideration and passing the Workmen's Breach of Contract (Repealing) Bill and consideration of the Indian Paper Currency (Amendment) Bill will be resumed. It is also proposed to ask for leave to introduce the President's Salary Bill and the Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill. Motions will be made either on the 2nd or on the 4th for the acceptance of the recommendations of the Council of State to reference to Joint Committees of the

Indian Succession (Consolidation) Bill and the Indian Succession (Amendment) Bill and for the appointment of Members to these Committees. I may say in connection with this business that I have just mentioned would be put down for Monday that it is a long list and that I do not think we would be able to get through it on that day. Probably a good deal would have to be carried over to Wednesday. I may mention for the information of Members that the last item on the list would be the Trade Unions Bill and I may warn Members that very probably it will have to go on to Wednesday. On Wednesday the 4th, in addition to any legislative business which may be left over from Monday, a motion will be made to take into consideration the further amendments made by the Council of State in the Provident Funds Bill, and it is also proposed to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the law relating to the carriage of goods by sea and to move for its circulation. It is possible that on the same day leave may be asked to introduce a Bill relating to contempt of court and that we may proceed with the consideration of the Indian Merchant Shipping Bill which deals with the Haj. Tuesday, the 3rd, is a day allotted for non-official Bills and Thursday, the 5th, is a day allotted for non-official Resolutions. There will be no meetings of the Assembly either on Friday, the 6th, or on Saturday, the 7th.

With reference to my remarks regarding Government time for non-official business I regret I am unable to give Government time for further consideration of the debate on the Bengal Ordinance which was adjourned the other day. But I am perfectly prepared, with your permission, Sir, and if it is the wish of the House, to resume the debate on either of the non-official days next week. I do not know whether Thursday would be a day which would meet the wishes of the House, if you agree.

Mr. President: Failing information to the effect that Honourable Members who have been successful in the ballot for the first non-official day, namely, Thursday, the 5th, are prepared to dispense with their rights in order to give priority to the resumption of the debate on the Bengal Ordinance, we shall have to wait till a further opportunity arises. Meanwhile, the list of business for Thursday will contain the Resolutions which were successful in the ballot and, at the end, the proposal that the adjourned debate on the Bengal Ordinance be resumed. If by that time the Members who have obtained a place in the ballot have been persuaded by their leaders or friends to give up their rights, we shall come to the debate on the Bengal Ordinance as the first item.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muham-madan Rural): May I ask, Sir, what becomes of the debate on the Railway Resolution which was adjourned the other day?

Mr. President: I shall have to consider that point. My Honourable friend says that the first item on the list of business for the next non-official day is the adjourned debate on the Resolution relating to the grievances of subordinate railway employes. I shall have to consider that matter. I think, however, that both these Resolutions were moved by the same Honourable Member.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: No, the Railway Resolution was moved by Mr. M. K. Acharya.

Mr. President: Yes. As these two gentlemen sit together, perhaps they may have a conversation on that point.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know, Sir, if it is not possible under the rules now in force for you to take the adjourned debate on this non-official Resolution of Mr. Duraiswami Aiyangar exactly on the same terms as those of the non-official Resolution of Mr. Acharya, especially as the Chair is prepared to treat the one as if he were the other?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member perhaps does not quite appreciate that the Resolution on the railway grievances not having been finished on the original non-official day, it automatically passes on to the next non-official day and must appear as first in the list. Under the ballot rules it must then be followed by the Resolutions which have been successful in the ballot for that day. I was proposing to put the Bengal Ordinance Resolution as last on the list on the assumption that the Members in charge of the Resolutions standing higher up on the list would give up their rights in its favour.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, is it not possible, with the consent of the House, which I think can be obtained, that the Railway Resolution should stand first on Thursday, next in order should stand the debate on the Ordinance and thereafter those Resolutions which have been drawn in the ballot by other Honourable Members, so that it may be possible to finish the Railway Resolution, to finish the debate on the Ordinance and possibly give a chance at least to one, if not more, of the Resolutions which have been drawn in the ballot for that day?

Mr. President: I must have time to consider that proposal. But my Honourable friend will realise that the Bengal Ordinance Resolution stands in a class by itself for various reasons. The only reason I am concerned with now, however, is that it is not a Resolution which has found a place in the ballot and therefore it would be a dangerous precedent to establish that the Chair should, even following the unanimous desire of the House, upset the order of the ballot except by the consent of those who have been successful in the ballot. I may point out that I am using wrong language even there. I am not proposing to upset the ballot with anybody's consent. I am inviting Honourable Members to consult among themselves and to persuade Honourable Members who have been successful to dispense with their rights in what may be called the public interest.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): May I ask the Honourable the Leader of the House, with your permission, Sir, to make a statement of all official business for the whole month of February? It will be a great convenience to all those gentlemen who have got other engagements if the official business for the whole of the month is put down.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: It would be a great pleasure to me if I could make such a statement. It would not only be a great convenience to Honourable Members of the House but it would be a great convenience to me also. But I regret that the course of public business cannot be foreseen so far about as to enable me to make a prophecy. It depends very largely on the progress of business in the House.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I suggest to the Honourable the Leader of the House that all this difficulty would be got rid of if we have one of the off days for the discussion of this Resolution? It can be easily adjusted. Otherwise, this difficulty will continue to face us.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I am always ready, Sir, to meet the wishes of the House, as far as I can, and I think the House recognises that I have met them as far as I can in this matter. But it is really impossible for us to sit longer than we do. It may sound perhaps strange from the point of view of non-official Members, but we have our work to do and I regret I am not able to accept that proposal.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: May I know whether the Government, having kindly consented to give an official day for the moving of this Resolution, are not now estopped from not giving another official day for it?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I think it is a little unfair to press them. When I acceded to my Honourable friend's request I made it perfectly clear that it would be extremely difficult to give official time.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao: May I suggest to the Leader of the House that his religious objection was to sitting on Saturdays and that Friday is a day on which we are not sitting? May I ask whether he will find it convenient to take this Ordinance debate on Friday next?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Friday is a day fixed for the meeting of the Executive Council. Last Friday we proceeded direct after the debate in this House to the Executive Council at a quarter past five and there we sat for such a period that we were unable to do very much work till next morning.

Pandit Motilal Nehru (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I suggest that on the next non-official Resolution day, which I understand is the 5th February, the adjourned debate on the Ordinance Resolution may be put immediately after the other adjourned debate on the Resolution regarding the grievances of railway subordinate employees, with the consent, which I am glad to inform the House I have obtained, of all the gentlemen who have got Resolutions ballotted for that day with the exception of Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh who is not present? I have wired to him and I have very little doubt that he will consent. I would further beg you to consider whether you could dispense with the question hour on that day and begin with the Resolutions from the very beginning at 11 o'clock. I suppose one hour would be enough for the adjourned debate on the Railway Resolution and then we will have the rest of the day for the Ordinance Resolution.

Mr. President: I pointed out a moment ago that it would be improper on my part in response to any request from the House to upset the established order of the ballot. When the ballot has been held the control of business for that day passes out of the hands of the Chair and the order on the list of business for that day must be set down as it emerges from the ballot. I am perfectly prepared to meet the Honourable Member, as he knows, in every possible way to enable this debate to be carried on for the maximum amount of time made available for it. He has only to ask the Honourable Member from Madras who is in charge of the Railway Resolution to curtail his remarks in reply and the Honourable Commerce Member to curtail his, to provide practically a full day for the further discussion on the Ordinance Resolution. I may here and now say that I am perfectly prepared to dispense with the question hour for that purpose.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: May I ask for your ruling on one point? I can quite appreciate your difficulty to disturb the ballot which has placed the Resolutions for Thursday. Supposing those Members who have drawn the ballot and are in charge of those Resolutions give their consent individually to give precedence to the Ordinance debate after the Railway Resolution, is that possible, with their consent, not with the consent of the House?

Mr. President: Their consent can only be given, so far as I am concerned, either by their absence from the Chamber when their names are called, or by their rising in their places then and saying, "I beg to withdraw the Resolution". Withdrawal of a Resolution in that way leaves the Honourable Member who has drawn the ballot for that Resolution perfectly free to put it in for another ballot. It is only where a Resolution has been withdrawn by the leave of the Assembly that it cannot be discussed again. Where it has been withdrawn from discussion it can find a place in a subsequent ballot.

THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL. (AGE OF CONSENT.)

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, as reported by the Select Committee, be re-committed to the Select Committee. Sir, I would only add that instead of the name of Sir Malcolm Hailey the name of Sir Alexander Muddiman for obvious reasons be substituted in the list of members of the Select Committee which was constituted to consider this Bill.

Honourable Members will find that the report of the Select Committee on this Bill, popularly known as the Age of Consent Bill, was presented to this House on the 15th March 1924, after which it was recirculated for public opinions. These opinions have now been collected and Honourable Members will find that they are of the usual type. There is a body of men which is opposed to all change and those who were opposed to the change on the last occasion are equally opposed to the change now. They are the irreconcilables so far as this piece of legislation is concerned. There remain those who, while favouring a change in the case of persons other than those married, would deprecate a change in the case falling within marital relations. Lastly, there is a body of opinion in favour of the raising of the age from 12 to 13, and some opinion in favour of raising it to 14. Well, Sir, it will be the duty of the Select Committee to re-examine the collected opinions and to draw up a fresh report for the information of this House. I need not therefore detain the House any longer and I move that the Bill be re-committed to the Select Committee.

Dr. S. K. Datta (Nominated: Indian Christians): Sir, I rise to support the motion made by Sir Hari Singh Gour, but I have certain difficulties which I desire to place before the House. In the first place, the Select Committee did not contain any member of the Indian Christian community with the result that it completely overlooked that the actual

Statute law of marriage among Indian Christians—the Christian Marriage Act—is affected, indirectly if not directly, by this measure. If you will turn to Part VI of the Christian Marriage Act, XV of 1872, under the head of Marriage of Native Christians, section 60 says:

"Every marriage between Native Christians applying for a certificate shall, without the preliminary notice required under Part III, be certified under this Part, if the following conditions be fulfilled, and not otherwise:

- (1) the age of the man intending to be married shall exceed sixteen years, and the age of the woman intending to be married shall exceed thirteen years."

In other words, if the age of consent is raised to 14 we shall have to change the age of marriage in this Act also. I may say that there are two great sections of the Christian community in India. The majority are Catholics and a minority are Protestants. In the past few years there has been a tremendous advance of opinion among the Protestant section of Indian Christians and they would desire that the age of consent as well as the age of marriage should be raised. On the other hand the Catholics, as far as I am aware, have at present been unable to accept (though in informal conversations and not in any public manner) proposals to enhance the minimum age of marriage beyond what is prescribed in the Act. Indeed quite recently the Right Reverend the Bishop of Bombay and myself have been appointed to negotiate with the authorities of the Catholic Church in India regarding the raising of the marriage age. In the second place we have not had an opportunity of placing our views and opinions before the Select Committee. The National Christian Council of India on my initiative has collected a great deal of evidence on the facts relating to the age of consent and the minimum age of marriage; we have obtained opinions, medical and social, which we would desire to place before the Select Committee. In short I ask that this measure should be sent back to the Select Committee for reconsideration and might I also urge that the defect from my point of view from which that Select Committee suffers should be cured at this time. I venture to ask that the one Member representing the Indian Christian community in this House should no longer be excluded from the Select Committee.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: I have great pleasure in suggesting to the House that I might be permitted to add the name of Dr. S. K. Datta to the list of Members of the Select Committee.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, as reported by the Select Committee, be re-committed to the Select Committee."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: As far as the substitution of the name of the present Home Member for that of the late Home Member is concerned that is automatic under the operation of the Standing Orders. The Members of Government to whose department the Bill relates must under the Standing Orders be a member of the Select Committee.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I suggest that the name of Dr. Datta be added?

Mr. President: The question is that Dr. S. K. Datta's name be added to the Select Committee.

Mr. S. C. Ghosh: I move that Mr. Amar Nath Dutt be added as a member of the Select Committee.

Mr. President: The question is that Dr. Datta be added as a member of the Select Committee.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is that Mr. Amar Nath Dutt be added to that Select Committee.

The motion was adopted.

THE HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE TRUSTS BILL.

Mr. President: The Assembly will now proceed to the further consideration of the motion moved by Sir Hari Singh Gour on the 16th September 1924 in the following form:

"That the Bill to make provision for the better management of Hindu religious and charitable trust property and for ensuring the keeping and publication of proper accounts in respect of such properties, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. N. C. Kelkar, Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer, Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, Mr. Ambika Prasad Singh, Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi, Lala Hans Raj, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Pandit Motilal Nehru, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Maulvi Abul Kasem, Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar, Mr. M. A. Jinnah, Mr. T. C. Goswami, Mr. Chaman Lall, Mr. S. C. Ghose, Rai Sahib M. Harbilas Sarda, Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra, Pandit Nilakantha Das, Mr. M. C. Naidu, and Sir Hari Singh Gour; and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be seven."

Honourable Members will remember that that motion was originally moved by Dr. Gour in the September Session last year and that on the motion of the Honourable the Home Member the debate was then adjourned in order to provide further opportunity for the consideration of the matter.

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma (Law Member): The Honourable the President has already informed the Assembly that it was at the request of the Government that the Assembly was pleased to adjourn the further debate on this question to a date in the Delhi Session in order to enable the Government to examine carefully the opinions forwarded by the various Local Governments and public bodies and to state their attitude towards the Bill to the Members of this House. I fully appreciate the difficulties under which this House as well as the Government are placed by reason of a Bill of a somewhat similar nature having been passed into law in respect of Muhammadan *wakfs*. I also fully realise that there is a general desire amongst all classes that everything that can be done by this Legislature and by the Government for placing Hindu religious and charitable endowments on a correct basis should be done as far as may be possible. To that extent the Government are in full sympathy with the objects of Dr. Gour's Bill, and that view is reflected in the opinions which have been forwarded by the various Local Governments. But I hope I shall have the attention of the House when I place before them the various difficulties which I foresee in enacting this Bill into law in respect of Hindu religious endowments. The Honourable Sir Hari Singh Gour has very correctly, in referring this Bill for opinions, stated that all that he was doing at that time was to elicit the opinions of the Hindu community

and the various Local Governments and that there was time for this House to take into consideration the views so expressed before they came to any particular decision, and I therefore hope that the Government are not wrong in interpreting the wishes of the Local Governments and the public bodies when they ask this House to pause a little and give further consideration to the matter in the light of the observations which I hope to make on this subject. It has already been stated, and I do not wish to lay any very great emphasis or stress on the point, that the position with regard to Hindu religious and charitable endowments has completely changed with the reforms, the subject being now a provincial transferred subject. The answer to that objection, as far as I could read from the records of the debate, is that it could be equally urged against the Muhammadan Wakfs Bill, and, secondly, that all that this Bill does is to enable the Local Governments to utilise the provisions of this Bill if they choose to do so, and that therefore it is a harmless measure which places a statutory duty upon trustees to place accounts before the Courts if the Local Governments in the various provinces choose to apply the provisions of this Bill.

Now, Sir, the main object which Sir Hari Singh Gour placed before this House in asking for all-India legislation, apart from the question of equality of treatment, is that it was his ambition and it ought to be the ambition of every one to have a national register from which one could see exactly what the trusts were, what the income of those trusts is, and how those trust monies are being appropriated. Well, I fear that here his ambitious designs are likely to be frustrated and rendered hopeless from the attitude which the principal Local Governments have adopted with reference to this measure. Honourable Members will see, and especially the Hindu Members will know that the principal provinces in which shrines and *mutts* of very great and all-India importance to which Hindus generally resort are situated mainly in the United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Madras, and then you may place Bengal and Bombay. One of the reasons why it was said that there should be an all-India measure is that most of these shrines are shrines at which not merely the local population, but the whole Hindu population worships, and therefore it is but legitimate and right that this Assembly should be seized of the matter and place its foundations on a proper footing. But then the shrines, according to the proposed Bill itself, are going to be regulated only by the Local Governments, and if the Local Governments say that they would not touch this Bill, that they are in favour of their own provincial legislation, that they see dangers in this Bill, I think it is but reasonable that we should fall in with the spirit of the reforms and that we should respect the wishes of the Ministers and the Local Governments and allow them to follow their own wishes. And there is the more reason for that when we have not got the power as this Bill does not propose to do anything which is compulsory in its character. I can understand a Bill which says that in India there shall be a register on which every trust shall find a place, and which provides machinery for doing that, something like a record of rights which is to be common to the whole of India. But that would be possible only with compulsory legislation and this Bill does not propose to do that. I can understand an all-India legislation without which Local Governments might be powerless to deal with the shrines. That was the case as a matter of fact previous to the reforms. Whenever a Local Government or whenever public opinion

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favoured reforms, they were met with the statement that the Government of India were really the master in the matter and that without their lead nothing could be done. That was the reason why the Government of India had to move and move cautiously in placing the Act of 1920 on the Statute-book. But now what are you proposing? You are empowering the Local Governments to do what they can and do without any all-India legislation. To that extent it is a work of supererogation. You are empowering the Local Government to do what they can do and what they desire to do without your help, without any all-India legislation. Therefore the main object, namely, of having an all-India register is not likely to be attained by reason of the attitude of the Local Governments. Secondly, it is a work of supererogation because Local Governments do possess the power already of doing whatever may be necessary for the purpose of placing religious and charitable endowments on a sound basis, for demanding accounts, for punishing people who do not in various ways comply with the statutory provisions. I think I should at this stage read a few of the opinions of the Local Governments in order to show that I am justified in these remarks. I said I thought the United Provinces Government the most important in this respect, because most of the shrines are situated in what the Hindus call Aryavarta. I do not want to read the whole of it. They say:

"For the reasons given above the Governor in Council is not in favour of the Bill. He would leave it to Members of the local Legislature interested in the questions involved to initiate legislation in the Provincial Legislatures."

He gives various reasons and shows how this legislation would be infructuous, ineffective and dangerous in some particulars. I shall not deal with the details of the criticism at this stage which show that the United Provinces Government are against it. Then the next Government is that of Bihar and Orissa where the famous shrines of Puri, Gaya and others are situated. Their view is:

"For this reason and for the reasons mentioned in paragraph 3 above the Local Government consider that the legislation should be left to the Provincial Councils."

And then they say:

"The Local Government consider the Bill as drafted is quite unsuitable."

The Bihar and Orissa Government think that orthodox opinion is decidedly opposed to this measure. Then we come to Madras. Madras has had a measure of this kind already on the Statute-book and Honourable Members will remember what great opposition it has aroused in various quarters. Then we come to Bengal. Bengal are emphatically against this measure. They say:

"On the above grounds Dr. Gour's Bill is unacceptable to the Government of Bengal. They are further of opinion that legislation on the subject cannot suitably be undertaken by the Central Legislature not only because conditions must vary in the different provinces, but because religious and charitable endowments are a transferred provincial subject and it should be left to the Minister in charge to formulate his own policy."

In connection with that statement I may also point out that the Calcutta High Court deprecate any legislation on this subject and the British Indian

Association emphatically protest against the attitude of the Central Legislature generally in respect of legislation of this description. This is what the Calcutta High Court says:

"It appears to the Honourable the Chief Justice and Judges that the Bill is intended to affect not only public religious and charitable endowments but also private *debutter* properties in which no one outside the family of the grantor has any concern. There are numerous such *debutter* properties in Bengal, and there are also properties which are not absolute *debutter* but charged with the performance of the *sheba* of an idol. . . . As regards public trusts there is the recent Act XIV of 1920, under which the public interested in the administration thereof has been given some control. The Honourable the Chief Justice and Judges do not know as yet whether any advantage has been taken of its provisions. Their Lordships do not see any necessity for the contemplated legislation at present."

So Bengal may be said to be against it. As regards Bombay, the Government of Bombay are of opinion that they should undertake local legislation on the subject. They are therefore opposed to Dr. Gour's Bill and recommend that the sanction of the Government of India to it may be withheld. . . .

Diwan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao: I do not wish to interrupt the Honourable Member, but may I ask whether any of these opinions were obtained subsequent to the last debate, or were they already there before the last debate took place?

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma: I believe most of these opinions had been received but not been considered by the Government at the time and that is the reason; time was taken by the Honourable the Home Member in order that the Government may arrive at some decision for themselves. I am not sure as to whether one or two might not have been received later. Therefore, Sir, the major administrations including the Ministers are against this Bill, or at any rate favour only local legislation. The Hindu community cannot, therefore, be said to be enthusiastic in respect of this new legislation. I am not speaking of the educated classes; they naturally guide society in certain respects, but I am afraid do not carry sufficient influence in respect of social matters. Generally speaking, therefore, the Hindu community cannot be said to be enthusiastic; in fact a section of it is absolutely opposed to it, as my friend the Honourable Dr. Gour put it on a previous occasion; and I shall quote only one statement to show the depth of feeling amongst some of the most orthodox people, and Honourable Members will realise the danger to which Government would be exposing themselves if they were not to respect the wishes of the orthodox community who after all are the bulk of the population with which the actual administration has to deal. I am quoting from a letter from the Punjab:

"That your petitioners (the Mahants of local Hindu temples and the Baragi Sadhus of the Ludhiana District) have heard with horror and dismay that the Government intends to pass a Bill demanding the submission of quarterly accounts of the Hindu temples"

and so on.

I have read these words "horror and dismay" to show the impression any legislation on this subject is likely *prima facie* to create, and that we as a Legislature ought to be very chary when we undertake legislation in advance of the times or which public opinion does not endorse, unless it is of a character which must be undertaken in the general interests of the country.

Then, Sir, it is asked, will not Government help in demanding accounts from persons in charge of rich *muttas* whose assets are generally wasted? The answer to that is that there is already a statutory provision compelling

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these various trusts to maintain accounts and there is already statutory provision under which any person interested in these trusts can compel the trustees to give all the information that is required under this Act, and there is also a procedure provided for effectuating that object. Under Act XX of 1863—I do not say it covers all, but it covers most of the institutions which are worth mentioning—it shall be the duty of every trustee, manager and superintendent of a mosque, temple or religious establishment to which the provisions of this Act shall apply to keep regular accounts of his receipts and disbursements in respect of the endowments and expenses of such mosque, temple or other religious establishment; and then there is machinery provided for compelling them to do so and suits also have been provided for. Under Act XIV of 1920 there is further machinery provided under which any person interested can move a Court to compel any of these trustees of public and charitable endowments to state all the particulars roughly that are required by some of the principal clauses of the Bill under consideration. Therefore the Government of India have not been remiss, have not been negligent in their duties in the past. They have rendered it compulsory to keep these accounts and they have enabled the public who are interested in the matter to get the accounts. The only difficulty has been really that, except where there are factions in a village or there is gross mismanagement, there was nobody really interested to enforce these provisions. I have had something to do with these institutions, both as beneficiary as my Honourable friend, Pandit Motilal Nehru, put it, because I derived a portion of my income from defending and prosecuting claims against Mahants, and I was also a member of a body which poked its nose into these matters and irritated everybody in Madras whose interests were affected by trying to establish these religious foundations on a correct basis. So I know something of what I am speaking. The real trouble is there must be some machinery which will take charge of this and compel the trustees to do it. An attempt has been made in Madras to create such a machinery. This Bill therefore is perfectly innocuous, ineffective and useless because there is no machinery provided, and no machinery can be provided except by the Local Governments. It provides for a registry, a record of rights as it were, to achieve which there is no machinery. Sir, I do not wish to try the patience of this House very much longer. I would ask the Honourable Members to remember this that it is undesirable to legislate in advance of the times. It is undesirable to expose the educated public, the reformers, to the charge that the masses cannot be safe in their hands. Speaking for a moment as an individual and not as a Member of the Government, I do consider it desirable to state that all those who are keen about the rapid advance of self-government should pause a little and realise the dangers to which they would be exposing themselves if an impression should be created on the general Indian public that their religious interests would not be safe in the hands of a Legislature composed of their representatives. I am not saying that we should shirk our duty in placing institutions on a correct foundation if we can do so effectually and if there is a great reason for it. But the Legislature has wisely provided a division of functions and has left to Local Governments an absolute discretion in dealing with this matter unhampered by the Central Legislature or the Central Government not even the bureaucratic Government. In a matter of that description where it is a provincial transferred subject, where the public can enforce their desires by forcing the hands of Ministers is it desirable that we should step in and create the impression that the

central body is, like all bureaucratic bodies, desirous of encroaching upon the privileges of other bodies, that it grasps at power, that it is not satisfied with leaving to Provincial Legislatures on the reform basis the discharge of the duties entrusted to them, and that the religious public, the orthodox public, should be under the impression that there is no longer safety for them in a Legislature composed as it is at present. I have given my best consideration to this matter and I ask, not merely with reference to this measure, but generally with reference to such measures, that we should consider once, twice and thrice before we undertake a compulsory legislation in advance of the times and also unnecessarily. Sir, I have said enough which precludes the Government, much as they sympathise with the object which the Honourable Sir Hari Singh Gour has in view, from doing anything but oppose the further progress of this Bill. They do so, Sir, in the interests of the Local Government under the reforms so that we may not encroach upon their privileges and also because this legislation, as it stands, is unnecessary, ineffective and useless and has not been accepted by Local Governments for whose benefit alone it is supposed to make provision. I would like to add only one word more. I have read the debates on the previous occasion and I know that several Honourable Members have taken the *prima facie* view that there can be no harm in putting these trusts on a proper basis and that they would be discharging their duties properly if they were to vote for the further progress of this Bill. I ask them, Sir, respectfully to reconsider their attitude if it is possible to do so and support the Government in upholding, as I have said, the cause of provincial self-government.

Lala Piyare Lal (Delhi: General): I submit, Sir, that, so far as my community is concerned, it will not be affected by this measure because I find that the definition of the word "Trust" is so worded that it has not covered my community. The words are:

" 'Trust' means the permanent dedication by a person professing the Hindu faith . . . "

We are Hindus as we profess a religion which has its origin in India, but of course we do not profess the Hindu faith. I therefore submit, Sir, that my community will not be affected by this measure at all. But so far as my community is concerned, I think they do not favour the idea of this measure at all. They think this measure will be of very doubtful value. In the first place honest trustees will be saddled with the additional duties of keeping accounts and filing them in the Courts, while the lawless ones will get very good opportunities of cooking their accounts and filing them in the Courts. My community has already protested against the Madras Religious Endowments Act. A deputation waited upon His Excellency to veto it. I submit, Sir, that this measure, so far as the orthodox community even of Hindus is concerned, does not look with favour on it, because in the first place people are not very willing to expose the whole of the assets of their shrines and trust properties, but so far as I am concerned, I think the motion of the Honourable Member should not be given effect to, and that the Local Governments should be left the discretion of introducing legislation.

Mr. K. Venkatarama Reddi (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I think, Sir, I also must oppose this Bill. After the lucid explanation of the Honourable Member opposite I think the Honourable Mover will be well advised to withdraw this Bill. I do not think I can usefully

[Mr. K. Venkatarama Reddi.]

add anything to what the Honourable Member said, but I would say that the ideas relating to religious and charitable institutions, and the principles on which they are based differ from community to community and from province to province, so I think it would be safer to leave this question to the Provincial Governments to legislate if public opinion demands. Diverse trusts cannot be analysed and cannot be brought under the purview of legislation from this House because the trusts differ in their incidence and character. Then there are difficult questions arising as to the class in which a trust falls. There are private trusts and there are those not absolutely private. Again there are trusts which are partly pious and partly given to maintain families which are entrusted with the duty of wishing prosperity to the donor and his family. Property attached to a trust might have come from different sources, that is property might have been earned by self mortification of the trustee; it might have been donated by the votaries, and property might have been given by various charitable persons, I do not think, Sir, that because this Legislature has passed the Wakf Act, we are justified in giving assent to this Bill also. The ideas relating to religious and charitable institutions are quite different from those relating to *wakfs*. On these grounds I oppose this Bill.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, much as I sympathise with the general aspect of the question presented to the House by my Honourable friend the present Law Member as regards leaving this matter to Provincial Legislatures, the recent Madras experiment in this matter has convinced me that in the matter relating to public trusts, it is safer that the all-India Legislature handles the subject rather than the Provincial Legislatures. An all-India Legislature can act with that caution and deliberation in these delicate matters affecting Hindu religious rights and usages, while perhaps a Minister in charge belonging to a party as he does is oftentimes dissuaded from the right course of action, or rather from the cautious course of action which he ought to pursue, by party attractions. In fact the Madras Legislature have passed legislation which has evoked a storm of opposition from whole sections of the community. If this Legislature, for instance, had the handling of the subject I am sure some of the provisions which have found a place in that legislation would have been more carefully weighed before they became provisions of law. ✓

Another reason which induces me to think that this Legislature is the proper authority to deal with the subject is that we have already on the Statute-book two pieces of legislation dealing with this subject, that is, Act XX of 1863 referred to by my Honourable friend, and this Act XIV of 1920. Both of them are Acts of the Central Legislature. In fact if you leave it to the various provinces to deal with these subjects, they enact provisions which are in opposition to measures already contained in these pieces of legislation. For instance, section 22 of Act XX of 1863 is a very general provision which was introduced, as Honourable Members who have studied the history of the subject will remember, after careful consideration as to the non-intervention of Government or Government officers in matters of religious institutions. It formed the subject of keen controversy, and section 22 of Act XX of 1863 was deliberately enacted for that purpose, the Parliament also having carefully considered that question. Any departure from such a general principle by any local legislation should be carefully considered by the central authority, and I know in the case of Madras that

provision was introduced there without previous consultation with the Government of India. The hands of the Government of India were forced in that matter when a departure from the principle contained in that section was introduced in the Madras Act, and of course when the matter comes up to the Governor General as the vetoing authority merely it becomes a difficult matter for him to interfere at that stage. So that the subject is a very delicate one. You cannot be too cautious in matters of this kind, and a central legislature is the proper body to deal with these subjects because it can bring impartial judgment to bear on the various questions in examining the provisions of a Bill. Nobody denies that the legislative provisions which now exist for the protection of religious endowments are defective. They have to be revised, and how best they can be revised is a matter for consideration—which is the best authority which can consider it without local prejudices and passions? I think the Central Legislature is the body which can deal with that subject free from these passions and prejudices which actuate the local people. I therefore, Sir, think that orthodox people who object to provisions of this sort will welcome legislation from a central body like this rather than from the local legislatures. I therefore support the motion of Sir Hari Singh Gour to recommit this Bill to Select Committee.

Maulvi Abul Kasem (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I have heard the halting, hesitating opposition of the Honourable the Law Member to the motion of my friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour. We have been told times out of number that this is a matter for provincial legislation and that the Central Legislature should not interfere. We have been hearing this for the last four or five years, but have the Provincial Governments or the Provincial Legislatures taken any action in the matter? An appeal has been made to our feelings, to our sentiments and to our responsibility by saying that people will think that we are anxious to grab all the powers and do not want to leave to the Local Legislatures work which ought properly to be done by them. I submit, Sir, that the Local Legislatures, as pointed out by my learned friend from Madras, are not the proper people. Their personal interests interfere with questions like these. Supposing the Minister in charge of Religious Endowments were to introduce a measure like this and there happen to be in that Council about 6 or 7 members who are trustees of these religious and charitable endowments, he will not dare to do so for fear of his salary not being sanctioned; and it has been done in some cases. Secondly, Sir, there is nothing in the provisions of this Bill which can cause, as it has been said, horror to either the Mahants themselves or to the most orthodox section of the community. The only thing that is asked in this Bill, as was very ably pointed out by the Honourable Law Member, was that they have to register trust properties. That is the only thing. Why should it cause horror to anybody only to go to the Collector's office and make a statement what the property which he holds in trust is and what is its income? In my part of the country every landholder, big and small, has to go to the Collector for his notices, assessments, and not only to register the names of his property and its extent and income, but also the individual rent he realises from each tenant. That does not cause much horror or much trouble to these people. Why should a trustee be so much afraid to get his trust properties duly registered? The only other thing he is asked to do is to submit at the end of the year an account of the receipts and expenditure. There is nobody to question it;

[Maulvi Abul Kasem.]

the only thing he has to do is to prepare for public inspection an account of his income and expenditure. It has been said that there is a provision in the law by which anybody interested in the trust can compel a trustee to submit his accounts. We all knew that; but the fact remains that the man who is interested, in order to compel the trustee to submit accounts, has to institute a suit and to follow it up, and those who have to deal with our law Courts, especially Civil Courts, know how difficult it is to institute a suit and follow it up and prosecute it to the end. Nobody will take the trouble and the expense and the worry of civil litigation simply to discharge a public duty. Besides that, if he files a suit he does not know what is the trust property, what is the income and what the terms are of the trust by which that money has to be spent; whereas the trustee has got all the advantages for his defence. Under the circumstances, Sir, I think it will be really shirking our duty and responsibility if we delay the passing of this Bill into an Act any longer. This has been hanging fire for some time. In fact in the beginning of this reformed Council, when I introduced my Bill, I was asked not only by Muhammadans but by Hindus as well, to make it an Act applicable to both communities, Hindus and Muhammadans. I knew that the trustees of Hindu religious endowments were very wealthy; they had a mint of money behind them and could produce an agitation against it. So I was nervous about it, and I left out the Hindu element from my Bill in order to have a clear sailing for the Muhammadan Wakf Act, and after that was passed into law, my friend took up the present Bill and now realises why I avoided the Hindu element. It has been said, Sir, that the Mahants strongly object to it. Of course they would, because if they have to submit an account, true or false, they will be liable to submit an explanation. Then it will be easier for people interested in the Trust to come forward and ask for removal of a Mahant if they find that there is something wrong in the accounts. It is only in rare cases that such suits are filed. Whenever a wealthy territorial magnate is insulted by a Trustee or Mahant, then he goes to Court and files a suit for removing the Mahant, and as soon as the suit is filed, it is found that the Mahant has been misappropriating the trust money for very many years and that it is necessary to remove him. I refer to the late Mahant of Devgarh.

Then it has been said that the Bengal Government is very much against the introduction of this measure in this House, and they say that it will hurt the Hindu sentiment and Hindu feelings. How did the Bengal Government fare during the fracas which took place at Tarakeshwar. The Mahant was on one side and the people were on the other side. The Bengal Government was not able even to protect the property or at least the vested interests of the Mahant of Tarakeshwar during this time. At the same time, the Bengal Government refused to legislate and impose upon the Mahant the duty of registering his trust properties and submitting an annual account of his receipts and expenditure. It is very fine for the Bengal Government to say that it will hurt the religious feelings of Hindus and that it is a matter for the local Legislature to deal with, and all such arguments in favour of their contention, but when time for action came, when the Mahant, who, I believe as everybody knows, has been misappropriating the princely trust moneys of the Tarakeshwar estates was assailed by the Hindu

public, rightly or wrongly, when the people went over to his place and interfered with the performance of his duties, rightly or wrongly, it is a fact that the Bengal Government could not protect him and he had to run away from Tarakeshwar to save his skin. Of course, the Bengal Government apprehended so many people on the ground that they had committed an offence under certain sections of the Act and hundreds of young men were sent to jail. All these troubles can be avoided. Why not make it compulsory on the trustees of the properties which belong to the public and which they have a right to enjoy, to submit a statement of their receipts and expenditure and facilitate the prosecution of a case against them, if necessary, and save all unnecessary trouble? Instead of that, they want to have the law as it is and create difficulties both for the public and for themselves. I hope, Sir, that wiser counsels will prevail and the House will support the motion of my Honourable friend Dr. Gour. I also hope, Sir, that before this Session comes to a close, this measure will be put on the Statute-book.

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Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot, Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to this Bill, the Mover in support of his contention that legislation of this kind ought to be taken up by the Central Legislature, has given the reason that because the Central Legislature protected the trusts and endowments of one community it must protect the trusts of another community also. That is the only reason which he has adduced why the Central Legislature must take up legislation of this kind. That argument was supplemented by my Honourable friend Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar who said that it was dangerous to leave legislation of this kind to a popular Minister in a province, who might be actuated by party considerations and other motives. Sir, when questions of provincial autonomy and decentralisation are talked about, my Honourable friend, Mr. Rangachariar, becomes very eloquent and adduces very many reasons why provinces ought to be placed on a more autonomous basis than they are at present. But evidently he is one of those who will have provincial autonomy but will not accept the implications of provincial autonomy. The framers of the Government of India Act have very rightly made the subject of religious and charitable endowments not merely a provincial subject, but a provincial transferred subject under the control of Ministers. My Honourable friend, Mr. Rangachariar said that a great deal of caution is required before legislation of this kind can be launched upon and that it is the Central Legislature sitting in the cool atmosphere of Delhi or Simla that can be trusted to have that caution and not the local Legislature sitting in the blazing heat of Madras or any other province. Well, Sir, if the history of the measure that has recently been passed in Madras is to be a criterion of the caution exercised by Local Governments, then I must say that they have erred too much on the side of caution altogether. The question of reforming and placing on a better footing religious and charitable endowments has been engaging the attention of the Madras Government for about half a century and it was when the Legislature became a popular House and when this subject came to be under the control of a popular Minister, that the problem was boldly tackled and legislation was passed. The example of Madras would therefore show that Provincial Governments have rather erred on the side of caution than otherwise. The plea of caution will not therefore justify the Central

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Legislature in taking upon itself to legislate on a measure of this nature. Sir, I was one of those who were responsible for piloting the Hindu Religious Endowments Act through the Madras Legislature, and I know by personal experience, though I am convinced that that Act is a very good measure in spite of some of its defects, the volume of opposition that was launched against that measure. One of the very salutary provisions of that measure which is sought also to be embodied in the Bill that is now before us is that heads of religious institutions and *mutts* and other persons in charge of charitable and trust property must be called upon to render an account to the public. When this provision was enacted, the heads of *mutts* in my part of the country set up a great agitation and maintained that they were not responsible, by virtue of their position, to any human authority and that it was derogatory on their part to be called upon to submit an account to any human Minister. That agitation was headed by my Honourable friend, Mr. T. Rangachariar. And here, Sir, my Honourable friend gives his blessing to the Bill that is now before us, the only provision of which is that the heads of religious institutions must be called upon to submit an account. As my Honourable friend, the Law Member, very rightly pointed out, the measure that is now before us is absolutely innocuous and useless. I do not know whether by the enactment of this legislation you will take away from the Local Governments the power that has already been given to them by the Government of India Act. You cannot do that. If this Assembly wants to arrogate to itself the sole responsibility for legislating in a matter like this, they cannot do that because the Government of India Act has very rightly delegated the power to the local Legislatures. If your object is to circumscribe the power which has already been given to the local Legislature, I think it is not a wise measure. Sir, legislation sometimes is undertaken in advance of public opinion. More often, legislation is taken after public opinion has been formed and in response to public opinion, and from the bitter experience that we have had in Madras over the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, which was passed by that Legislature, I am led to think that in legislation of this nature, it will be far better that we follow public opinion than be in advance of it. I strongly oppose the motion which has been brought forward by my Honourable friend Sir Hari Singh Gour.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I have heard my Honourable friend, Sir Narasimha Sarma. His most important point is that the Central Legislature should not take up this business, and that under the Reform Act it is the Provincial Legislatures that ought to have taken up this matter. This is not the place to discuss whether our religious matters, which are practically like those concerning the Ecclesiastical Department, and which concern Hindus and Muhammadans throughout India, should have been given over to the Provincial Governments so early. But now that they have been given, in principle legislation ought to be introduced in the provinces. But, as a matter of fact, except in Madras, for these five years no other province has taken to legislation in this matter. I come from a province which stands in the opinion of the Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma second in importance. I belong to Bihar and Orissa. Especially I belong to the Orissa Division, the whole of which is "holy ground", full of religious shrines and endowments. It is more for Orissa than for Gaya that perhaps Bihar and

Orissa stands second in the list. But as for the horror and dismay quoted by my Honourable friend, I belong to a most orthodox community and I live in a part peopled by orthodox Brahmins and high-caste men. If there was any horror and dismay on the part of the people, I should not have been allowed by my constituency to support this motion which I am here doing. I know that people of my constituency are looking up to the Government of India for such legislation, and as it may be innocuous and ineffective as my Honourable friend has stated, it will mean no loss to Government and at the same time it will undoubtedly have some moral influence, and it will create an atmosphere in the country under which the heads of religious and charitable endowments will find it difficult to behave as they do now. This will have a great moral effect though as piece of legislation it may, as he said, be ineffective, for it is in danger of not being accepted readily by many Provincial Governments. As for the Provincial Governments taking up this legislation, I think that it should proceed from this Indian Legislature, because as my Honourable friend, Maulvi Abul Kasem, has remarked the heads of Hindu religious and charitable endowments are very rich, and if money means influence they have got a good deal of influence in their localities. I do not know if it will be quite proper to mention it here, that I have known big mahants in Puri spend thousands and thousands of rupees in giving parties to Governors, and dancing attendance on Executive Council Members, Ministers and other high officials. This it is, and not the proposed Bill, that has actually been looked upon by the people with *horror and dismay*.

We have been told that the former enactments on this subject provide enough safeguards. But so far as I remember, my Honourable friend, Maulvi Abul Kasem, has clearly pointed out during the discussion of the Mussalman Wakf Bill, how it is practically impossible for people to act according to that legislation specially when they will have to go against mahants and heads of religious endowments who are very rich men. In one case it costs something like Rs. 65,000 as my Honourable friend mentioned—I do not remember the exact figure. If it is a safeguard at all, the safeguard which this Bill proposes is of a similar nature, but only this is easier for people to handle effectively and with small expense.

As for the disadvantages to the provinces and the people, the Mussalman Wakf Act has been passed and it was passed by this reformed Legislature. It has not created any disadvantages in the country. I do not claim equal treatment in this matter for I am not one who claims equality of rights on communal grounds. If the Muhammadans have it, and if the Hindus are not going to have it, for good reasons, I shall remain satisfied; I do not claim equal treatment on that ground. If the point is that it will create disadvantages to Government, where are the disadvantages? Under the Mussalman Wakf Act there are no disadvantages and this Bill, if passed into law, will create none. On the other hand, this will simply create, if not anything else, a moral atmosphere in the country, and for the present so long as the Local Governments are unable or find it impossible, for various reasons which I need not mention here, to take up legislation, so long will it effect as a moral atmosphere in the country. As for the orthodox opinion being against it, I assure the House on behalf of my constituency that there will be no *horror or dismay* or opposition from the people. They will be rather glad, for they look up to this Central Legislature to pass some such Act as will give some

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moral nerve to the people and have some moral influence on the heads of endowments. With these few remarks I appeal to the House to support this motion. ✓

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

Colonel Sir Henry Stanyon (United Provinces: European): Sir, as a European I speak with some diffidence on a subject which is essentially one for my Hindu friends. Nevertheless, with some experience of India and its people I offer my views for what they may be worth. Whether or not this measure is a logical sequence of the Mussalman Waqf Act of 1923, as claimed in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, I am not sure. There is much more variety in Hindu law, Hindu customs and Hindu religious views in different parts of India than, I think, in the law of Islam. I say, with all respect, that this is not a case to which one could apply the well-known saying, that "what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander". What may be applicable to the Muhammadans is by no means necessarily as good for the Hindu community. Therefore I do not base my support of the motion on what might be a controversial ground. But the first and main question is this. Is there need for reform? Of that I have no doubt. Twenty years ago, as Judicial Commissioner in Berar, I had before me a well-known case which showed an urgent need for the existence of some such measure as is now before the House. All my other experience has pointed in the same way. Trustees of public funds, and particularly of religious endowments, in many cases claim (as we have heard to-day they have done in Madras), that they are not responsible to human authority for the management of the public money entrusted to them. They desire to render accounts in heaven. It will be said that the proper power for bringing such accounts down to earth is the public opinion of the community concerned and not the Legislature. Sir, public opinion on many matters in this country is silent or shy or apathetic or dumb. We have been told that orthodox public opinion is against Sir Hari Singh Gour's measure. That is a fine sounding phrase and would be decisive of this debate if we could be sure that the so-called orthodox public opinion sent up to Local Governments is something more than petitions instigated by influential trustees and formulated by paid scribes. In the present condition of India public opinion has to be led towards reform. In some cases indeed it has to be forced. Reform must come from above. It will be argued, again, that the Assembly is not the proper place for a purely moral reform. Is the reform here proposed purely moral? Is it not as much a legal reform as any other legislative measure for the prevention and detection of crime against public property? At the same time I agree with my Honourable and much valued friend, Mr. Rangachariar, that we must proceed, as a House, with the utmost caution in handling a subject so closely connected with the religious sentiments of the largest community in India. But I think that in a reasonable way this is just what is being done. Sir Hari Singh Gour is to be congratulated on the moderation and care with which his Bill has been drafted, and the proposal now is merely to refer that Bill to a large

Committee, representative of Hindu sentiments all over India, with only one European, I think, and two Muhammadan Members on it. This Committee can be trusted to thresh out the measure in all its bearings, and in particular on the question whether provincial or central legislation would meet the requirements of the case. Personally, I incline to the view that provincial legislation would be preferable. But I should be guided in this matter by the opinion of this representative Committee. I shall be agreeably surprised if that Committee can reach a unanimous report. I anticipate a cleavage of opinion for and against the measure, and for and against provincial legislation. But at all events here we have a matter in which this House, by legislation, seeks to lead and educate public opinion on a matter of reform, call it social or moral if you like, bearing on what is the peculiar business of one of the Indian communities. And it seems to me that this is a move in the right direction, and that the Government would do well, at least, not oppose this effort to discharge the responsibility that undoubtedly does lie on this House to lead the country towards enlightenment. With these few remarks I beg to support the proposal to refer this Bill to the Select Committee.

✓ **Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar** (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I wish to say a few words in connection with the question of the Act itself. The Government of India Act is intended to serve a transitional stage and the questions relating to religious rites and usages have been specifically reserved for the Indian Legislature. Section 67 of the Act clearly mentions it and even there the Governor General's previous sanction is required to the introduction of any measure in this Legislature also. A confusion of ideas has arisen by the fact that religious and charitable endowments are included in the list of transferred subjects. That confusion must be clarified if the Act is to be understood. Section 67 of the Act, as I said, excludes religious rites and usages from the operation of the Provincial Councils because of sub-rule (2) of Rule 3 of the Devolution Rules, which runs as follows:

"Any matter which is included in the list of provincial subjects set out in Part II of Schedule I shall, to the extent of such inclusion, be excluded from any central subject of which but for such inclusion, it would form part."

From this it will be seen that the religious and charitable endowments are transferred but religious rites and usages are reserved. So, religious rites and usages, apart from religious and charitable endowments, stand part of a central subject. It is not only that. You will again see in the Reservation Rules the same thing. Under rule 2 of the Reservation Rules questions affecting the religion or religious rites of any class of British subjects in British India shall be reserved for the consideration of the Governor General by the Governor of any province when there is any legislation undertaken in that legislature for subjects connected with that. So that it will be seen that under both the Devolution Rules and the Reservation Rules and section 67 of the Government of India Act religious rites and usages, apart from religious and charitable endowments, are excluded from the Provincial Legislatures. So, such questions can actually be taken up only here. I submit, therefore, that the real difficulty has arisen like this. Finding that religious and charitable endowments are included in the transferred list, legislation has been undertaken in the Provincial Councils not only in respect of them but also covering much wider ground. It practically covered religious funds and endowments for secular purposes. That portion, therefore, in the present transitional constitution of the law has made it clear that such subjects ought to be practically

[Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar.]

within the guidance and control of the Governor General and that his sanction ought to be got and the same considered by the Central Legislature and not by any Provincial Legislature. The whole power therefore is not with this Legislature. It is only for certain purposes and for training them to understand the system better that some subjects have been transferred, but religious rites and usages have been particularly reserved. Under those circumstances, what I wish to place before this Assembly is that the Act has not been properly construed in the matter connected with the Religious and Charitable Endowments Bill of Madras which clearly interferes with religious rites and usages, as I said, in the case of *mutts* as also by allowing them for secular purposes. But the real difficulty seems to have arisen in connection with the Reservation Rules where it is said that the Governor of a province, if he finds it interferes with religious rites and usages, shall reserve it to himself. The discretion which is given to the Governor of a province does not mean that, if the Bill actually interferes with religious rites and usages, he can declare that he thinks that it does not interfere with religious rites and usages. Therefore, I say that, if a Governor in his discretion declares that an Act does not interfere with religious rites and usages, it is the province of the Governor General to decide whether it does or not. If it is so, then the Governor General will have to reserve it and see that this Legislature alone takes it up and that it is not allowed to be done by the Provincial Legislature. In the case of the Madras Presidency this fight has been going on between the Governor General and the Provincial Government. It is, of course, a matter for the authorities to decide whether the Act itself interferes with religious rites and usages or not. I dare say the matter will have to be settled at last by the Secretary of State. That, however, is a different matter. The present Bill that has been introduced requires certain powers to ask the people who claim to be the sole lords of the trust monies, religious or charitable, to render their accounts and to do certain other things which are provided in the Bill. That portion of the Bill, I submit, can never be undertaken by a Provincial Legislature. It is wrong to suppose that the Governor General can allow such a thing. I know the Governor General may permit a Provincial Legislature to take up a question and to place it before him for consent and he may sanction such a Bill. But, ordinarily, the right of this Legislative Assembly to consider such questions cannot be taken away. I do not think it is a matter which the Government ought to oppose. Questions may arise where it may be pleaded that religious sanction has been given to particular heads not to give accounts to anybody in this world, as was suggested by Colonel Sir Henry Stanyon. Even such cases can, with the sanction of the Governor General alone, be taken up only by this Legislature and not by any Provincial Legislature. I submit, Sir, that under those circumstances it is not a case in which it is open for the Government to oppose the Bill altogether. It will have to be taken up. If they subsequently think that any portion of it relates to the charitable and religious endowments and that the Provincial Legislature might be trusted to look to the details of the management and other things, it may be done. But that is quite a different matter. Broad questions relating to the interests of persons who religiously lay claim to that right have to be dealt with here and only here—with the previous sanction of the Governor General and in this Legislature. I submit under these circumstances it is a mistake and it is not proper for the Government to oppose this Bill. I know that the Religious Endowments Bill of Madras was by the action of

the Government of India considerably encouraged to be doing the wrong way; but that is no reason why the present Bill should meet with opposition here. I submit that under the structure of the Act itself and according to the real intention of those who framed the Act, the Governor of any province is bound to reserve when he finds any interference with religious rites and usages. But here is a question of seeing that money intended for religious purposes is not used for other purposes is interference with religious rites and usages. Under these circumstances I submit this Assembly has got the power to deal with this matter, and I support the motion of my Honourable friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour.

Mr. L. Graham (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, I had no intention of taking part in this debate though after what he said just now I feel I must accept the challenge of my Honourable friend opposite. I understand—I hope I am taking it in the right way—his first point was that the Madras Religious Endowments Act—which somehow or other seems to be the centre of conflict in the House at the present moment, although I thought we were engaged on another motion—was outside the jurisdiction of the Madras Legislative Council, and his reason for saying that apparently was that the provisions of section 67 of the Government of India Act require that, if a measure is introduced in the Central Legislature affecting religious rites and usages, the previous sanction of the Governor General shall be obtained. From that he proceeded to the conclusion that because sanction is required in the Central Legislature to the introduction of legislation of this sort, such legislation could not constitutionally be introduced in a Provincial Council. Sir, I venture to differ. The powers conferred on Provincial Legislatures are extremely wide. In the first place, they may make laws for the peace and good government of the territories for the time being constituting that province; and they can frame laws for the administration of subjects which are allocated to them as provincial subjects under the Devolution Rules. Now one of these subjects which have been declared to be provincial subjects is Religious and Charitable Endowments. I do not think it can be contested for a moment that the main subject-matter not only of the Bill before us but also of the Bill about which all this contention is really raging, is the regulation of religious endowments; and that subject is a transferred provincial subject.

Now in making the distribution between central and provincial subjects, we have left on the central list Civil Law, Criminal Law and various large heads like that; but in legislating for provincial subjects the Provinces have inevitably to some extent I will not say trespassed but overrun the border. This was contemplated when the Act was framed. There is this express provision under section 80A of the Government of India Act that where a Provincial Legislature proposes to pass legislation which in any way regulates a central subject, the previous sanction of the Governor General shall be obtained.

Now, Sir, the main subject-matter both of the Madras Bill and of the legislation now before us is undoubtedly religious and charitable endowments; and therefore the first place in which you would expect legislation on this subject to be introduced is the Provincial Legislature. If Honourable Members will look at the back of the Bill before them they will find an endorsement to the effect that the required sanction of the Governor General has been obtained to its introduction. Now, why was that done? Because under section 67 of the Act this Bill before us is one regulating a provincial subject. The Honourable Member opposite, I may say, tried

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to draw the House away by what are really minor issues which do not arise on this Bill at all, when he referred to the matter of Bills affecting religion and religious rites. The Bill before us does not affect religion or religious rites. I think I have the agreement of the author of the Bill when I say that. It is a Bill affecting the management of religious and charitable endowments. Therefore, this contention which was introduced, this further apple of discord thrown into the House by the Honourable Member was entirely off the point. It might happen that a Bill providing for the regulation of religious and charitable endowments might to some extent affect the religion or religious rites of a class of British subjects, but that, Sir, is no reason why a Bill of which the main subject-matter is the regulation of religious and charitable endowments should not be introduced in a Provincial Legislature. In fact, Sir, if a Bill of which the main subject is to regulate religious and charitable endowments is to be introduced anywhere, the proper place, in the first instance, is the Provincial Legislature. It might be introduced here, but in that case the sanction of the Governor General is required, as has been done in this case. But I repeat, Sir, that the proper place both for the Madras Bill and for this Bill is the Provincial Legislature.

Mr. E. H. Ashworth (United Provinces: Nominated Official): Sir, the object of this Bill is the better provision for the management of Hindu trust properties throughout India. Whether the Bill will effect that better management is a question, I think, that is open to doubt. The machinery is that accounts should be filed in the Court of the District Judge. What will actually happen I think I am in a position to explain to Members of this House; they may not themselves otherwise be aware of it. The accounts that are filed will be put in the charge of a clerk in the District Judge's Court. I should be very much surprised if the clerk put in charge of that department is a clerk who would draw more than Rs. 60 a month. Whether a clerk who receives such salary is a clerk who can scrutinise such accounts is a matter that I leave to the House to judge. There is no machinery in the Bill whereby the District Judge himself is called upon or expected to scrutinise these accounts, unless some private person interested in the particular endowment should come forward. We all know how difficult it is, even in the advanced industrial city of London, to require companies to put in accounts which shall not be misleading. I venture to think that the provision of this Bill which it is intended should improve the management of Hindu trusts will be a dead letter. In coming to that conclusion I am fortified by the admission of a Member who supported this Bill, who himself, if I heard him rightly, said that the Bill will be a dead letter or may be inoperative, but that it would be a fine moral gesture, on the part of this House, to show that the opinion of this House is that Hindu trusts and Hindu endowments should be better managed. This brings me to the position which I wish to take up at a very early stage in my association with this House. It is that the Statute-book is not the proper place for moral gestures and for sermons. I was

unable to catch the eye of the President on the last Bill, but
3 P.M. I was going to make exactly the same point. In that Bill there is a provision which in the opinion of many in this House is likely to be a dead letter, and it is proposed to put it into the Statute-book because it will demonstrate the opinion of this House that marital relations should not begin before a certain age. That again is what I may call an attempt to use a section in the Statute-book to preach a sermon. The Indian Statute-book, as it is, is voluminous enough, without increasing its volume

by measures of this character. The Honourable Mover of this Bill has, I believe, in another place a Resolution to clear the Statute-book of what is irrelevant and unnecessary. It will not assist him in that labour if he himself adds to the future labour by putting on the Statute-book unnecessary and inoperative enactments. I would ask the House very carefully to consider the desirability of keeping away from the Indian Statute-book any measures which, however fine moral gestures they may make, fail really to make operative law. If the House does not see its way to curtail the Statute-book in this way, I would suggest, as a Judge who has to constantly refer to the Statute-book that, for the convenience of the Bench and the Bar, these Statutes of a moral nature, or what I may call sermon Statutes, might be printed in a different style; they might have a different binding, say pink or something different to the sombre colour which the really operative Statutes at present bear.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Sir, I should very briefly reply to the various criticisms that have been hurled against my Bill, and in doing so, I shall give the place of honour to the Honourable the Law Member. I am surprised, Sir, that a member of the bureaucracy should for once pose as a champion of democracy. The best part of his speech was devoted to convincing this House that we must be extremely chary and jealous of the rights of the Provincial Legislatures and that we should not encroach upon and trample down the rights and privileges of the Provincial Governments and the Provincial Ministers. It was very refreshing to hear the Honourable the Law Member propound his proposition, but I hope he will remember it in the proper time and place when the result of the reform inquiry is to be announced to this House.

My Honourable friend said that this is a subject which is more appropriate to the Provincial Legislature, and in doing so he gave three very good reasons which, he said, were reasons against it. Those reasons were that all previous Acts of the Indian Legislature deal with Religious and Charitable Endowments. From the year 1863 down to 1923 every Act dealing with Religious and Charitable Endowments is an Act of the Central Legislature. My friends will say, but what about the reforms? I have not forgotten the reforms, and I know this House has not forgotten the reforms either. The last Act, the Muhammadan Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, was enacted after the reforms and under the present constitution and by the Central Legislature. My friend admits that.

The second point to which my Honourable friend drew the attention of this House was that these Hindu shrines lie scattered throughout the length and breadth of the country. As my friend, Mr. Das pointed out, some of these shrines are very sacred to the people of all India and therefore it is necessary that an all-India Legislature should deal with them and control them. Having therefore categorised three most weighty objections why a piece of legislation of this character should be in the hands of the Central Legislature, he then brushed aside the whole question and said: but this is a matter which is essentially within the province of the Local Government. Well, Sir, if this were a matter within the province of the Local Governments, the Governor General would not have certified my Bill as appropriate for introduction in the Central Legislature; and I go further and say that in 1923 when a similar measure affecting the Muhammadan endowments in this country was brought forward, the question was considered and after consideration it was decided that this is the proper place for the enactment of this legislation. I submit, therefore, the matter is *res judicata*. And my learned friend on the Bench opposite

[Sir Hari Singh Gour.]

is too late in the day in trying now to recanvas the question which has once been settled and settled against him. (My friend, Mr. Jinnah, says it is equally time barred.) Well, Sir, then my learned friend on the other side read scraps from here and there to convince this House that the provinces were against it. I shall only give you two examples of what his scrappy reading led to. First of all, he said: "A very large number of valuable endowments are situate in the United Provinces" and therefore he said: "I shall read to you the opinion of the Government of the United Provinces," and he read it. Now I ask the Honourable the Law Member to bear with me while I read to him the very next sentence which he did not read and this is what is said on page 35. He read to you the first sentence, now read the second sentence which I will continue to read:

"In view of the comparatively small use made of the existing law by which the better control and administration of trusts can be secured, the Governor in Council doubts whether the remedy does not lie in the education of public opinion rather than in additional legislation."

Public opinion is so apathetic in the United Provinces. They say: "Here is a man who is misappropriating other people's money, what business is it of mine to interfere?" That is the view they take in the United Provinces and therefore the Government say: "Very well, educate public opinion, let this dormant, apathetic public opinion be roused to a sense of public wrong from which they suffer on account of the continuous malversation of funds and public money, and then it will be time for legislation." Is this saying anything against my Bill? Certainly not. (A Voice: "Of course it is.") Then he says: "It is the opinion of the Government of Bihar and Orissa." Now, Sir, I will also read the opinion of the Government of Bihar and Orissa. I read from page 38 of this compilation. This is what the Bihar and Orissa Government say:

"Although, therefore, there is probably some feeling in Orissa in favour of legislation of this kind owing to the alleged mismanagement of religious endowments in that division, Government consider it certain that a very large majority of Hindus in Bihar proper would be definitely opposed to any legislation at all."

The Government of Bihar and Orissa say that in Orissa the feeling is strong in favour of legislation and the strength of feeling has been further made firm by reason of mismanagement of these endowments, and as regards Bihar Hindu opinion is against it. Now, Sir, I wish to ask what Hindu opinion is against it? Well, if I happen to possess large property which is not mine and I happen to enjoy it. I should certainly be most firmly opposed to anybody interfering with the enjoyment of that property, and I venture to submit that most of the opposition that has been engineered against my measure has come from interested quarters.

Then it is said that Bengal and Bombay are opposed to it. Now, Sir, a very large number of endowments in this country have been made by the Marwari community, and I invite the attention of the House to the opinion given by the Marwari Association, who have not only supported the measure but have opined that it is rather weak to meet the requirements of the case. I therefore submit that so far as public opinion is concerned, it supports my measure. What better forum of public opinion can I demand than the opinion of this House, and if the Government challenge a division, they will very soon have the opinion of this Assembly as to whether it is in favour of this measure or against it. Then, Sir, it has been said that this measure is innocuous, it is futile, it is unnecessary. If these are all adjectives which can be safely applied to my measure, why any opposition at

all? Let this innocuous, futile measure go on the Statute-book. Honourable Members who accuse it of innocuousness and futility know that it serves a great purpose, the purpose being first to place upon the national register all the public endowments which belong to the public and which are fast falling into private hands, and, secondly, that the trustees should render to the public an account of the trust and thus retain their character as trustees and not arrogate to themselves, as they too often do, the position of masters and owners. That, I submit, Sir, is the short purpose of my Bill, and I ask this House to support it.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: (Home Member): Sir, let me in the first place express my full sympathy with the chivalrous attitude of the Honourable Knight from Nagpur in attacking the grave scandals which we all deplore. The prevention of the malversation of public funds, which I believe from what I have heard to be common, is obviously an object which must be the care of all of us, and particularly of the Government. I have no quarrel at all with the objects of this Bill, but I have certain matters which I should like to lay before the House in connection with it more especially in connection with the constitutional position. Let me make it perfectly clear that I sympathise with and admire the object of this Bill and the ardour with which the Mover of this Bill has put forward his case. We are at one with him and there is no ground whatever for difference in the matter. We all desire the same end, though we may desire to attain it by somewhat different means. I have been extraordinarily interested in the debate of this morning. I have heard people speaking from different points of view and there have been cross currents, if I may so call them. But it has been a very interesting morning indeed for me. The debate has shown curious tendencies. It may in some instances be perhaps due to not entirely appreciating the constitutional position. But in other cases I can hardly believe that it entirely explains the views which were put forward. Now, my Honourable friend, the Law Member, has dealt with the legal aspect of the matter with his usual admirable manner and I do not desire to add one word on that. But I will put one question to my Honourable friend, the Mover of the Bill. It was raised by the Honourable the Law Member in his speech, but I do not know that the Honourable Mover definitely dealt with it. It is a question raised by the Calcutta High Court. The question is, does the Honourable Mover intend this Bill to apply to private trusts or does he not? If he does, is he asking this House at this moment to say that the legislation he brings forward is suitable legislation in the case of those private trusts which are referred to in the letter from the Calcutta High Court?

Sir Hari Singh Gour: That can be settled in the Select Committee. On the last day of the debate I pointed out that this is a matter for the Select Committee. They can cut out private trusts if they like.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: I should like to point out that it is a matter of great importance whether the Bill applies to private trusts or not, and it should be decided by this House before it goes to the Select Committee and I have not heard a definite expression of my Honourable friend's intention in the matter. It is not a matter for Select Committee but a point of principle for the House itself. The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma dealt with the point of view that there are apprehensions in the minds of the orthodox section in regard to this Bill. On that subject I do not propose to go further. My Honourable friend is a lawyer,

[Sir Alexander Muddiman.]

a Brahmin and a liberal-minded man and if he thinks that there are apprehensions in the minds of the orthodox section, it is certainly not for me to say no. I will not proceed further on that point. At any rate I think those of us in this House who are not Hindus might well weigh his opinion, his considered opinion carefully, and if there are apprehensions, however fallacious, in the minds of the orthodox community, it is a matter for serious consideration. So much, Sir, on the merits.

I come now to what I regard as the really important aspect of the case and that is the constitutional position. The point that I desire to develop is this. Religious endowments are a transferred subject and we have consulted the Local Governments on this Bill which relates to religious endowments. That is indubitable and it has not been seriously challenged. Who are the Local Governments who have given opinion on this Bill? Who are they? They are the Ministers, the elected representatives of the people, (A Voice: "Question") that part of the Government which is at any rate—you may deny they are all representative—(Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: "I deny it") which is as far as we can ascertain it representative. We had urged before us on the Reforms Committee repeatedly that the Ministers were not able to express their opinions freely. I ask whether on a subject like this, a subject which concerns religious endowments, the Ministers are likely to be influenced or any one is likely to be tempted to influence their views. My own experience is that we perhaps sometimes pay too great attention to the opinions of our Indian friends on these matters: I am sure we do not pay too little. Therefore, these opinions are the opinions of Ministers and no one else and all these Ministers tell you,—they may be right, they may be wrong, on that point I am not prepared to express any opinion—but they tell you that this is a matter which they desire and which they think ought to be dealt with in the local Council. If you are satisfied with their opinion it has serious implications. I am well aware that my Honourable friend opposite takes the view that they are not competent to deal with a matter of this kind, that religious endowments are not a matter for Ministers and that they are a matter for the Central Legislature. That is a somewhat novel point of view. I do not propose to combat it, but still it is not the constitution as it now exists. The logical conclusion of that argument is that a subject should be retransferred and should be made Central and not Provincial. That is a matter on which I for one am not prepared to express an opinion at this moment, but that is the logical result of my Honourable friend's argument and I submit further that will be the logical result of a vote of this House if it should take to itself the power to enact measures which relate to a transferred subject when, mark you and that is the point in issue, all the Ministers concerned have expressed their views that the legislation should be local. Now, Sir, some one said to me (I do not wish to take up the point at great length because I am extremely reluctant to oppose this) as I was leaving the Chamber for lunch "What on earth have Government to do in this matter? Why don't you let these people have their own way? It is a matter which concerns their own religious endowments". The argument would be a good one if it were not for the constitutional position. It is not a light thing for you to override the opinion of Provincial Governments in this matter and to act against the theory of the constitution. It has been said that legislation has been undertaken in the Imperial Council. Well, that is perfectly true. There was one Bill in 1863 and another in 1920. That was before the reforms.

There was one afterwards in 1923, the Wakf Bill. I am not going to say anything about the Wakf Bill. Legislation was put through by the Government of the day and that is history. Still it has to be remembered that against that there has been legislation in the provinces. There has been the Madras Bill which, as my Honourable friend behind me reminded me, has figured very largely in this debate and has been influencing Members on the general question. There is another Bill. I think it is in Coorg. I am told there is a Bill that has been received from Bengal which is now under disposal here. So, on the merits, there has been Provincial legislation and there has been Imperial legislation and my Honourable friend, Mr. Shanmukham Chetty (I should like to congratulate him on his admirable and clearly expressed speech) pointed out the difficulties that had arisen and have been dealt with in Madras. Then I am told by my Honourable friend, the Mover, that the matter, because the Governor General gave his sanction to the introduction of this Bill, is *res judicata*. Now, surely, even in Nagpur the rule is not so harsh as that.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: I did not say that. What I said was the matter was settled in 1923 in connection with the Wakf Bill and that matter is *res judicata*.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: The Wakf Bill is *res judicata* but the principle which led to the Wakf Bill is not *res judicata*. I submit this in all humility. I do not oppose this motion out of mere obstinacy or from any desire to go contrary to the wishes of the House. I do feel that this involves a serious constitutional question and the House is really on a side issue, while this important issue was not brought before the House at the previous debate and I honestly think was not considered by many Members who spoke. The question is whether in a transferred subject, where the Ministers have all reported in favour of local legislation, we should rush in this House and insist on legislating here. The tendency of all authorities is to amplify jurisdiction, but we must endeavour to resist that tendency as far as this Legislature is concerned and not encroach on the provincial sphere. My Honourable friend, Sir Henry Stanyon, suggested that the question between Central and local legislation should be left to the Select Committee. Now any suggestion from him must always receive the most careful consideration. But I do think this is a matter of principle. It is a question whether the House is going to exercise jurisdiction or not, and that I think is a matter for the decision of the House itself here and not a matter which can safely or rightly be transferred to any Select Committee, however large or however representative.

Well, Sir, I do not desire to go over the ground again but to repeat very briefly what I have said, my points are these. I have every sympathy with the Mover of the Bill. I have every sympathy with his ideals. I will not go so far as my Honourable friend, the Law Member and say the Bill will not do any good. I will not go so far as to say that as a moral gesture it is worthless. I do however think the Bill is not a very effective one and will do little good. I will not hide that from the House. But my main ground for opposing it is the constitutional ground which I regard as of great importance, which I regard as carrying with it if wrongly decided implications of great moment. If the House are prepared to undertake this legislation then they affirm a principle with decided implications which carry us much further than this Bill. I accordingly feel it my duty as a Member of the Government to ask for a recorded vote of this House and I shall take the motion to a division.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill to make provision for the better management of Hindu religious and charitable trust property and for ensuring the keeping and publication of proper accounts in respect of such properties, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. N. C. Kelkar, Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer, Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, Mr. Ambika Prasad Singh, Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi, Lala Hans Raj, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Pandit Motilal Nehru, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Maulvi Abul Kasem, Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar, Mr. M. A. Jinnah, Mr. T. C. Goswami, Mr. Chaman Lall, Mr. S. C. Ghose, Rai Sahib M. Harbilas Sarda, Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra, Pandit Nilkantha Das, Mr. M. C. Naidu, and Sir Hari Singh Gour; and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be seven."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—53.

Abdul Karim, Khwaja.
Abul Kasem, Maulvi.
Aiyangar, Mr. C. Duraiswami.
Aiyangar, Mr. K. Rama.
Akram Hussain, Prince A. M. M.
Alimuzzaman Chowdhry, Mr.
Chaman Lall, Mr.
Cocke, Mr. H. G.
Crawford, Colonel J. D.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Pandit Nilkantha.
Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.
Ghulam Abbas, Sayyad.
Goswami, Mr. T. C.
Gour, Sir Hari Singh.
Gulab Singh, Sardar.
Hans Raj, Lala.
Hussanally, Khan Bahadur W. M.
Ismail Khan, Mr.
Iyengar, Mr. A. Rangaswami.
Jeelani, Haji S. A. K.
Jinnah, Mr. M. A.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Lindsay, Mr. Darcy.
Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.
Misra, Pandit Harkaran Nath.

Muhammad Ismail, Khan Bahadur Saiyid.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Sayad.
Naidu, Mr. M. C.
Nambiyar, Mr. K. K.
Nehru, Dr. Kishenlal.
Nehru, Pandit Motilal.
Nehru, Pandit Shamlal.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Patel, Mr. V. J.
Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Sir.
Ramachandra Rao, Diwan Bahadur M.
Rangachariar, Diwan Bahadur T.
Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.
Ray, Mr. Kumar Sankar.
Rhodes, Sir Campbell.
Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Shafee, Maulvi Mohammad.
Shams-uz-Zoha, Khan Bahadur M.
Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.
Sinha, Mr. Devaki Prasad.
Sinha, Kumar Gangnanand.
Stanyon, Colonel Sir Henry.
Sykes, Mr. E. F.
Wajihuddin, Haji.
Willson, Mr. W. S. J.
Yusuf Imam, Mr. M.

NOES—39.

Abdul Qaiyum, Nawab Sir Sahibzada.
Abhyankar, Mr. M. V.
Acharya, Mr. M. K.
Ajab Khan, Captain.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Ashworth, Mr. E. H.
Bhore, Mr. J. W.
Blackett, The Honourable Sir Basil.
Bray, Mr. Denys.
Burdon, Mr. E.
Chetty, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham.
Clarke, Sir Geoffrey.
Clow, Mr. A. G.
Cosgrave, Mr. W. A.
Dalal, Sardar B. A.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Fleming, Mr. E. G.
Ghose, Mr. S. C.
Graham, Mr. L.
Hudson, Mr. W. F.
Innes, The Honourable Sir Charles.

Makan, Mr. M. E.
McCallum, Mr. J. L.
Mittra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath.
Muddiman, The Honourable Sir Alexander.
Mutalik, Sadar V. N.
Piyare Lal, Lala.
Raj Narain, Rai Bahadur.
Reddi, Mr. K. Venkataramana.
Rushbrook-Williams, Prof. L. F.
Samiullah Khan, Mr. M.
Sastri, Diwan Bahadur C. V.
Visvanatha.
Sim, Mr. G. G.
Singh, Rai Bahadur S. N.
Tonkinson, Mr. H.
Ujagar Singh Bedi, Baba.
Venkatapatiraju, Mr. B.
Webb, Mr. M.
Wilson, Mr. R. A.

The motion was adopted.

THE WEEKLY PAYMENTS BILL.

Mr. Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to make provision for the weekly payment of wages to workmen, domestic servants and other employees, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Ranga Iyer, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Colonel J. D. Crawford, Mr. T. C. Goswami, Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha, Mr. Harkaran Nath Misra, Mr. Yusuf Imam and myself."

Some years ago Mr. Bernard Shaw, one of the greatest dramatists of our times, told me that the best translations of his plays had been made by people who had not understood his meaning. I think most of the opposition to this particular Bill of mine has come from people who have not understood my meaning. There is a French saying "*Tout comprendre c'est tout pardonner*"—To understand all is to forgive all. Unfortunately those who delude themselves that they understand everything are least inclined to forgive me my sins in presenting this Bill to this House. This Bill, Sir, is a very simple measure. There are just two points connected with it which ought to make this measure go through this House without any difficulty whatsoever, and these two points are these. Firstly the point of view of the worker, and secondly the point of view of the employer. We know that in Bombay and other industrial centres in India the workers are invariably in debt. This Bill is rather an inadequate measure for providing for the best means of enabling the workers to get out of the clutches of the money-lender. We find that when a worker and his family come in from the mofussil they have some little cash with them. If their cash can be replenished week by week by the employer, there is every chance that they will not resort to the money-lender who charges them a high rate of interest, or to the *mahajan* who charges them four annas in the rupee for every article of necessity they buy from him on credit. The second point is the point of view of the employer. I admit in this House there are very many employers and their interests are diametrically opposed to the interests of the workers; but I will appeal to them to realise that this is a measure of justice which they owe to the worker. Not very long ago in Bombay there was a huge strike amongst the mill hands and we discovered that the employers refused to pay them the wages that were due to them. This was a sort of victimisation they were indulging in to induce the workers to come back to work; they were trying to starve the workers to come back to work. Even papers like the *Times of India*, which cannot be said to be too highly sensitive to the point of view of the worker, as well as the *Bombay Chronicle*, were all in favour of the workers' point of view. They insisted in leading articles and notes that the employers had no justification whatsoever to withhold the wages of these workers, but the employers did not relent until the Government of Bombay were constrained to move in the matter and they, I believe, appointed a Committee. I do not know what the recommendations of the Committee were, but the Committee did work on these lines, and I believe there was a suggestion that the wages instead of being paid on the 15th of every month should be paid to the workers every fortnight. There are no doubt provisions in this Bill which can be cut out in the Select Committee, but I want to draw the attention of the representatives of employers here to the fact that there are many industrial centres in India where this system actually prevails to-day. I believe in many jute mills payment is made weekly; also in the coal area I am told payments are made in several places on a weekly basis. When you have this system in actual working order to-day and supported by a large body of opinion amongst employers or employers'

[Mr. Chaman Lall.]

representatives, I see no reason whatever why the employers' representatives here should raise their hands in horror when a measure of this kind is presented to them. It is a measure calculated to help the worker to keep on his feet. We are familiar with all the horrible tales relating to the woes of our industrial workers, where these workers live in the clutches of the money-lender. We know that when we took a census of Bombay, nearly 98 per cent. of the postmen were discovered to be in perpetual debt and there was no chance of their being redeemed into solvency. Such conditions should be abolished. I therefore very briefly, Sir, move that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to make provision for the weekly payment of wages to workmen, domestic servants and other employees, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Ranga Iyer, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Colonel J. D. Crawford, Mr. T. C. Goswami, Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha, Mr. Harkaran Nath Misra, Mr. Yusuf Imam, and the mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be six."

I may point out to the Honourable Member that the motion does not satisfy Standing Order 40, in that it does not contain the name of any one who can preside over the Select Committee.

Mr. Chaman Lall: I am sorry I was not present at that time, but may I add the name of Mr. K. C. Neogy?

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That the name of Mr. K. C. Neogy be added."

Mr. E. G. Fleming (Burma: European): Sir, I rise to oppose this measure. The views I have to express emanate principally from the large employers in Burma and I am convinced that the conditions existing there cannot be peculiar to that Province only. Firms connected with the forests and with rice and cotton mills are opposed to it. The River Transport Company is also definitely opposed to it. They do not see how they would be in a position to conform to the regulation if this measure were to become law. To give some details. Take for instance the timber industry. The officers and employees are away from their headquarters for months on end with absolutely no need or desire to have money with them. The risk of dacoity and such things are severe. The employees are well rationed, and at the end of two or three months they return to headquarters and draw the pay which is due to them. In the oil industry, which covers a large area, the paymasters going out to the fields are away from their headquarters paying the employees as long as three weeks out of every month, so that they are fairly well kept on tour the whole time. The cotton mills, of one of which I was myself for several years a Manager, found that pay day always entailed a certain cessation of work. That coming once a month is serious enough, and if it was to be repeated every week, would entail a considerable loss in output and other disorganisation of labour. As regards the river transport concern, the steamers are away from headquarters frequently for a month to six weeks on end, and it would be quite impossible and inconvenient to give the Commanders of these steamers funds to pay their men. Another point raised is that the labourers from India remit, monthly, considerable sums of money to their homes in India. If that money were to be remitted weekly, and the remitter were to entail the cost of say four annas a week instead of perhaps four annas a month, it might be prejudicial to the amount of money he would be able to remit, and might stop remittances altogether.

The general opinion, I think, on my side of the Bay is that the Bill is absolutely unnecessary. Where employees or staff, in a few cases, are in financial difficulties there is nothing in the way of their obtaining an advance from their employers; and it has even been suggested that for the first fortnight people taking up new employment could arrange to be paid by the day for the first two weeks and that would prevent them getting into the hands of money-lenders—which the Honourable Member suggests is the object of his Bill.

With these words I oppose the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Industries Member): Sir, I beg to move an amendment to the motion which has just been placed before this House by my friend Mr. Chaman Lall. My proposal is that the Weekly Payments Bill should be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.

I submit, Sir, that it is hardly fair to ask this House to proceed to deal with this Bill until it is fully satisfied that the need for the measure in the present-day conditions of India is felt by the people whom it is intended to benefit and is admitted by the public at large. We must also know the views of the employers on this question. Mr. Fleming has already told us that employers in Burma and possibly throughout India are strongly opposed to the Bill. For these various purposes it seems to me that the Bill should be given the widest publicity. It is also necessary to obtain the opinions of the various Local Governments, for under the existing constitution welfare of labour is a provincial subject. I may state for the information of the House that in October last Government circulated the Bill to the various Provincial Governments for their opinions. Two of the more important Governments, namely, Bombay and Bengal, have however not yet found it possible to arrive at any definite conclusions on the subject and we have not received their replies. It may also interest the House to know that the opinions so far received seem to be in strong unanimity against the need for the measure. Several Local Governments have reported that most of the workers and employees in the province who have expressed any opinion on the subject of the Bill are opposed to its provisions. We are told that this is the view of certain employees' associations in the Madras Presidency; that the labourers of Rangoon have recorded a strong protest against the Bill, that the Jamshedpur Labour Association regard the Bill with apprehension as likely to deprive the monthly paid staff of payments for holidays and other privileges and concessions which they now enjoy; and that Government employees generally are opposed to the Bill. Sir, I accordingly move that the Weekly Payments Bill be circulated for the purpose of obtaining opinion thereon.

Mr. Chaman Lall: I am prepared to accept that amendment if it is acceptable to the Assembly.

Mr. President: The original question was:

"That the Bill to make provision for the weekly payment of wages to workmen, domestic servants and other employees, be referred to a Select Committee."

Since which an amendment has been moved

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinions thereon."

The question I have to put is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinions thereon."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890, be taken into consideration.

It will be remembered that this Bill was introduced in this House in September last with the object of prohibiting the labelling of compartments on railway trains as reserved for any particular class, community or creed. The evil which this Bill seeks to remove is very well known indeed, and Indian opinion has expressed itself in unmistakable terms in this Chamber as also outside it. The strength of Indian feeling may be gauged from the fact that there have been instances in which Indians have deliberately transgressed the railway regulations and sought to enter compartments reserved for Europeans with a view to court prosecution. I will not insult this Assembly by dwelling at any further length on this aspect of the question and give my justification for this Bill.

Now, a word as to the manner in which I propose to make the amendment. While the different High Courts were engaged in considering the question as to whether the railway authorities had the power to reserve compartments for the exclusive use of any particular community, class or creed, they had to examine the provisions of clause (2) of section 42 of the Indian Railways Act, which lays down that it shall be unlawful for any railway administration to show any undue preference to any person or passenger. As the decision of the High Courts turned upon the interpretation of section 42, I have sought to add an Explanation to clause (2) of section 42 to the effect that for the purpose of that section any such reservation shall be deemed to be undue preference. I do not suppose I need say anything more in support of my motion just now and I hope that the Government will gracefully accept my Bill.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Commerce Member): Sir, I am afraid it is my duty to oppose this Bill, but I can assure Mr. Neogy that I shall do so as gracefully as I can. Sir, from the Statement of Objects and Reasons, I understand that the first object of this Bill is to remove a certain obscurity in the law. Now, Sir, I do not admit that this obscurity exists. I am not a lawyer, but I have taken the precaution of getting hold of the latest pronouncement of the learned Judges of a certain High Court upon this matter. I will quote the Law Report. It is Calcutta 51, 168—I believe that is the correct way to cite a law report. (Cries of: "It is not.") The substance of the judgment was this: The management of a railway is vested in the railway company and ordinarily it has power, unless expressly curtailed by law, (Mr. K. C. Neogy: "Exactly so") to make such arrangements as it considers necessary for the convenience of its customers. It goes on to say that section 42 (2) of the Act prohibits undue or unreasonable preference. What is or is not within the description of those words depends on the facts of each case. Now, as far as I can see, the law on the subject is perfectly clear. As I said, I am not a lawyer; but it seems to me that when you have a word like that "undue or unreasonable" the interpretation of that word must depend upon the facts of each case. I say, Sir, that the effect of this Bill will not be to clear up the law, but it will be to curtail the power of a railway company to make arrangements for the convenience of its customers, that is to say, the passengers.

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It is next said that the object of the Bill is to bring the law into harmony with public opinion. I presume that Mr. Neogy's point is that public opinion is sensitive on this point because it is felt that this reservation implies a racial distinction. I join issue at once with Mr. Neogy. I have here the history of this reservation, and I shall proceed to show to the House that that reservation was introduced by the railway companies for no racial considerations at all but it was introduced by the railway companies at the definite request of Indians. In 1904, Sir, there was a conference held at Lucknow. That conference appointed a select committee to report on the grievances of third class passengers. Let me read resolution No. 42 of this conference. It recommended that:

"Every train be provided with a separate compartment for Europeans partitioned by planks, and not by iron bars, and that European third class passengers be restricted to the use of that compartment."

Sir, these racial distinctions are very deplorable things. Here we find a conference of Indians held as far back as 1904 asking that Europeans should be separated from Indian third class passengers not merely by iron bars but by wooden planks. But, Sir, I am prepared to admit that those who proposed this Resolution were not actuated by any racial motives at all. I happen to have here an account of this conference written by a very old officer of the railways who, I suspect, was actually present at the conference. He writes:

"It is not perhaps generally known that this reservation of railways arose from a demand made by Indians themselves at a conference held at Lucknow which was presided over by Sir Henry Burt who was at that time Agent of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway. Objection was raised that Europeans and Eurasians (as they were then called) eat beef and ham sandwiches in front of orthodox Hindus and Muhammedans thereby greatly offending against their tenets and susceptibilities and it was suggested by an Indian that the best way to get over the difficulty was to reserve a compartment for Europeans and Eurasians which was done almost universally on Indian railways from that time onwards."

Now, Sir, I think I have proved what I have said, that this reservation was introduced by the Indian railways at the request of Indians themselves for no racial considerations but merely for the convenience of passengers. That, Sir, is the view which the Indian railways have always tried to put forward and which has never been accepted by this House. It seems to me that it is a curious revenge that time brings. We do our best in the Railway Department to meet the views of our Indian passengers in the way of what they call their grievances. In 1904 we went out of our way to introduce this reservation at the request of Indians themselves. Now it is held up against us as a racial discrimination. It is nothing of the kind. It is nothing of the kind for another reason. We do not confine these compartments to Europeans or Anglo-Indians. We admit into any of these compartments Indians wearing European dress. The reason is, that these compartments have been differently fitted up from the ordinary third class compartments in order to meet different habits of life and different dress.

Now, Sir, it will be said that, whatever public opinion may have been in 1904—mind you, orthodox public opinion in 1904 was strongly in favour of this reservation—it will be said that public opinion is now changing and that the railways should try to meet that public opinion. Sir, that is

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exactly what we have been doing and what we are doing now. I took the trouble only in last September in reply to a question to make a statement of our policy in the matter.

"We do not think", I said, "that the reservation of intermediate class compartments for Europeans and Anglo-Indians is any longer required by traffic considerations, and we have therefore issued instructions for its cessation on State-managed railways. These instructions will apply to the East Indian Railway when it comes under State management at the end of this year."

That is to say, now on all State railways we have abolished altogether the reservation of intermediate compartments for Europeans and Anglo-Indians. And the reservation of intermediate class compartments has already

4 P.M. been discontinued on all other company railways. It has also been our policy to reduce the reservation of third class compartments and from the statement which I laid on the table Honourable Members will see that the practice has already been to reduce it to very small dimensions. You will remember that the recommendation of the Lucknow Conference in 1904 proposed that a compartment should be reserved for Europeans on every train. Now, we have reduced it on the North-Western Railway to one small third class compartment on mail and fast passenger trains, on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway to one third class compartment on the Punjab and Dehra Dun Mails, on the East Indian Railway to one small third class compartment on mail and express trains, on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to third class accommodation on mail and express trains. The Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway in September last had one third class compartment reserved on mail and fast passenger trains only. Since then they have dropped it altogether. The Bengal Nagpur Railway has one third class compartment on mail and fast passenger trains. And so on. Now, Sir, I have shown that, in response to public opinion, the railways have been cutting down this reservation as much as they can. We have withdrawn it altogether in so far as intermediate compartments are concerned. As regards the third class accommodation, we merely reserve one small third class compartment on mail and fast passenger trains. I say, Sir, therefore that the proper way to deal with this matter is to regard it, as we in the railways regard it, as merely an administrative detail. We regard it in the railways not from any racial point of view at all. We try to run our railways as business concerns and it is our object to consult the convenience of our passengers. And we believe that by this reservation of this one third class compartment on mail and fast passenger trains we are consulting the convenience of our passengers, of our Anglo-Indian passengers as well as our Indian passengers. Though, Sir, this convenience seems to bulk very large in this House, I do not believe that among the vast majority of your third class passengers in India—and I beg you to remember that last year we carried some 600 millions of them—I believe that the vast majority of these like this reservation, they like it because they do not want to travel for long distances cooped up with men whose habits of life are different from their own. I am aware, Sir, as Mr. Neogy has said, that some Indians think it their duty to assert their right of travelling in these compartments. They think it their duty to court prosecution in order that they may vindicate their rights as Indians to do so. Sir, it seems to me a very extraordinary thing that any educated Indian should think it necessary to force his way into one of these reserved compartments in order to demonstrate that he is in no way inferior to an Anglo-Indian

or to a European. Surely it is an entirely unnecessary thing to do. It brings this silly matter into far more prominence than it deserves. The fact is that as far as the railways are concerned, we do not care two straws whether this reservation is removed to-morrow or whether it is not. But we in the Government think this matter ought to be left to the railways to be dealt with as a purely business matter. We think it beneath the dignity of the Assembly to interfere in a matter of this kind, to legislate in a petty matter of this kind. What will be the effect of legislation of that kind? Sir, I believe myself that one of the most serious problems before the India of the future is the future of the Anglo-Indian community. It is very difficult for members of that community to see their path before them. It is very difficult for them to see what the future has in store for them. They are peculiarly sensitive as regards a little privilege of this kind. Is it generous, is it right for this House to mobilise all the forces of law to take away a little privilege which has grown up during the last 20 years? It will be misunderstood. It will be thought that it is a case of the majority imposing its will on the minority in an improper way. Mr. Ashworth just now said, that it would be wrong to put a moral gesture upon the Statute-book. Sir, I submit it would be wrong for this House to deal with this matter in this way and that you will be defacing your own Statute-book if you do so. Sir, I oppose the motion.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this subject comes before this Assembly for the third time. I was the first to bring up this subject before the Assembly in 1921, when I brought forward a Resolution asking that these reserved compartments be abolished. At that time or soon afterwards, Sir Danvers Waghorn, then President of the Railway Board, gave me an assurance that these reserved compartments would be done away with, except on one or two trains—I suppose he said only the mail trains. But as I thought he did not keep the promise I brought up this point again by Resolution in 1924 and there was a very big discussion upon the subject. My friend Maulvi Abul Kasem attributed the Resolution having come up before the Assembly to the vagaries of the ballot box, and he taxed me very severely for having brought up this petty matter before this Assembly once more. I now see that Sir Charles Innes also calls it a petty matter. (A Voice: "Silly".) Well, Sir, at that time, there was very considerable discussion, as you will see from the debates of that period, and my friend Colonel Gidney, whom I do not see here to-day, also opposed my Resolution tooth and nail, and called the reservation a necessity, whereas I argued that on several railways, and especially on the North-Western Railway with which I am more intimately connected, while Indian ladies could hardly find standing room in their compartments with a number of children, a solitary individual of a European or Anglo-Indian or domiciled person carried away a compartment which was meant for 15 to 20 persons, and was enjoying it all by himself. Very frequently this compartment travelled empty and yet the guard in charge of the train would not allow any Indian to get in. Then it was said that Indians travelling in European dress were now allowed to travel by these compartments. I argued at that time that if my son with a sola hat got into that compartment, he would be allowed to do so, whereas if I went in with my fez, I would be kicked out. Sir, at that time Sir Charles Innes again made a promise that these reserved compartments would be abolished, and it was on that assurance that I withdrew the Resolution once more. Since then I wrote a private note to Sir Charles Innes to say that these reserved compartments were still kept up, especially

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on the North-Western Railway and he gave me an assurance that they would be done away with. Well, Sir, I now find that on some trains the intermediate compartments have been done away with. But on others the reservation is still there. These compartments are to be kept up on the mail trains and fast passenger trains. Now on certain lines, and even on the main lines, on the North-Western Railway especially, we have hardly any slow train so that practically these reserved compartments are still kept up on the trains that are used mostly by Indian passengers. My friend Colonel Gidney said that these compartments were meant for only 6 or 8 individuals and I beg to assure him that this is not so. These compartments are so big as to contain more than 20 to 25 persons, and as there is congestion on every railway, surely the Indian passengers are entitled to accommodation as much as any European or Anglo-Indian or anybody else, and I do not see why these compartments should be reserved for any particular community. The Honourable Sir Charles Innes in his speech to-day says that it is a "privilege", and as I said just now, my Honourable friend Colonel Gidney called it a "necessity". I do not see any necessity at all, and recently, only about 6 or 8 months ago, there was a case in Karachi. A respectable Parsi gentleman of Karachi wanted to travel in a third class compartment reserved for Europeans. He was kicked out and very roughly handled. He reported the matter. The Europeans occupying the compartment were soldiers and eventually the matter went up before a court martial. But the case failed on account of bad identification. These are the circumstances in which this matter which is called "petty" and which is still maintained to be a "privilege" comes up a third time. I wrote to the Honourable Sir Charles Innes some time ago that I would be compelled to bring in a Bill to remove this reservation, but my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy has anticipated me and I am glad that this Bill has come up to-day so that once for all this vexed question may be settled. I do not see any reason at all why any particular community should have any reservation for itself in these days. The Honourable Sir Charles Innes has referred to a conference at Lucknow. He referred to it also in his speech on the last occasion about 18 months ago. But that conference took place about 25 years ago, and circumstances have since then considerably changed. I hope the House will vote with me and do away with this distinction. There have been several cases which were taken to the courts of law and even to the High Courts and different Judges have given different views. While some Judges have been of the opinion that under the Indian Railways Act there is no power reserved to Government or the railways to reserve any particular compartment for any particular community, other Judges have expressed a contrary view. Some of these cases I quoted in my speech when my Resolution came up and I need not go into them again, and those persons were eventually convicted. One of these cases went before a third Judge also in the Appellate Court and the man was convicted. Such cases crop up now and then and the Indian public is excited over this question petty though it may be. I think it is high time now that the power of reservation under the Act was removed, and I hope the House will support the motion.

Mr. M. V. Abhyankar (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): I am afraid the Honourable the Commerce Member's speech has been self-contradictory. He first told us that the reservation in its inception and conception was only intended for the benefit of the Hindus and Muhammadans and then he wound up his speech by saying that the reservation

is a privilege which the Anglo-Indian community would not like to be taken away. I do not know whether it was intended as a privilege for the Hindus and Muhammadans or as a privilege for the Anglo-Indians. Evidently, I take it that at the end of the Commerce Member's speech, though unconsciously, the truth came out and the fact is that the reservation is intended not for the convenience of the Hindus and Muhammadans but as a privilege for the Anglo-Indian community. If it is so, no railway company ought to have any right to confer any privilege on any community whatsoever. The Honourable the Commerce Member said that reservation is abolished on State railways and that reservation at present is being curtailed to a minimum on the company owned railways. If that is so, I cannot see why he should stand up and oppose this Bill. If he does not want reservation and if he tells us that the time would not be long before reservation would be absolutely abolished he ought to support this Bill rather than oppose it. Even though the Honourable the Commerce Member may say that in company owned railways they reserve or they are asked to reserve only small compartments on fast passenger and mail trains the fact is that there are no small compartments on these mail and fast passenger trains; there are only big compartments on these trains and particularly so during the last two or three years, and therefore whenever a compartment is reserved it is really a big compartment and only 10 or 15 passengers are found travelling in that compartment though it has got accommodation for 40, while other passengers are cramped, jammed and packed like sardines in other compartments where there is not even standing room. And then, Sir, if the primary and the sole object of this reservation is to protect the sentiments of Hindus and Muhammadans, that a Christian may not eat his beef or his bacon in the third class compartment, is there any condition on these railways that the Anglo-Indians will not travel in other compartments not reserved for them? What is the use then of this reservation. If over and above this reservation the Europeans and Anglo-Indians are allowed to travel in any compartment they choose, the sentiment of the Hindus and Muhammadans that is tried to be left undisturbed cannot remain so. Then the one thing that the Honourable the Commerce Member laid stress upon was that it was silly for Hindus and Muhammadans to try to get into this reserved compartment and create trouble. I should ask him what would be his feeling if he were to travel with a third class ticket and not find room in the train for himself and his people while Europeans and Eurasians are having reserved and comfortable accommodation without paying for it at the cost of other passengers. I think this Bill really ought to be passed by this House.

Maulvi Abul Kasem (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official). Sir, my friend from Karachi mentioned that, when he moved his Resolution on this subject, I had the misfortune to oppose it and to-day I stand up again to oppose the motion of my friend from Karachi. Legislation is intended to provide certain conveniences for the citizens. I would have wholeheartedly supported this Resolution if it provided some convenience or comfort to the third class passengers or any other class of passengers. My friend says that it is necessary because other third class compartments are cramped and the passengers are filled up like sardines while a compartment is reserved for Europeans and they travel comfortably. May I put the simple question, if this one compartment is thrown open to Indian passengers, how much will it add to their comfort and convenience? If that is so, the only thing you have to ask for is not to

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abolish the reservation but to add another third class compartment for Indian passengers by that train, because that will be equally good. It certainly appeals to our sentiment and if without causing any loss of convenience to me some convenience is given to others I see no reason why I should grudge it. And there is another aspect to which reference has been made by my friend from the Central Provinces to the effect that there is no truth in the statement that the Indian passengers would also prefer the Anglo-Indians to travel in a separate compartment. He remarked that the Honourable the Commerce Member was contradicting himself when in the first place he said that it was for the convenience of the Indians and then concluded by saying that it is a privilege enjoyed by Anglo-Indians. It may look like a contradiction in terms but in fact I think the Commerce Member is quite correct in his statements; because in the first place I as an Indian would prefer to travel with Indian passengers rather than with any European passengers, because I would feel uncomfortable travelling with European passengers. I know there are countrymen of mine who would like to travel in the same compartment and who would feel quite comfortable and perhaps even prefer to travel with Europeans rather than with Indians; but for myself I would prefer to travel with an Indian and preferably with a Bengali rather than anybody else. And let us look at the facts. Who are the third class passengers? They are poor illiterate people and if you just thrust one Anglo-Indian into their midst he will cause a good deal of mischief. (Laughter.) And it is ten to one that at every station he will afford some trouble to the Indian passengers. (Inaudible interruptions.) Yes, there will be trouble. Why create trouble and then set out to remedy it. Then it has been said by my friend from Karachi that he has seen Indian ladies and children all crowded in a compartment while another was going with only 5 or 6 passengers in it. What I say is that the real remedy lies in providing for more rolling stock and thus enabling the railway companies to run their trains more often and with greater accommodation for these passengers, rather than to abolish the one third class compartment reserved for Anglo-Indians. It will save trouble and save inconvenience to your own people, because I am sure that if these Anglo-Indians are allowed to travel in the same compartment as Indians the Indians will be very much inconvenienced and uncomfortable. Whatever you may say they will create difficulties and trouble. Lastly, it has been remarked that under the present arrangement with this reservation Anglo-Indians are yet allowed to travel in other compartments. That is a fact. They are allowed to, but in practice they do not for their own sake, and the railway companies also ask them to travel in the reserved accommodation provided. I think the proper course would be to reserve these compartments for Anglo-Indians and not to allow them to travel in any other compartment. And I repeat again, Sir, in spite of the remarks of my friend from Karachi, that this is a very small matter and in these days we ought not to encourage differences racial or otherwise on small matters like this when there are greater things that we have to do and discuss. With these words, Sir, I oppose the motion of my friend.

Colonel Sir Henry Stanyon (United Provinces: European): Sir, when I read this Bill I was conscious of a familiar fragrance. I was under the impression that something very like it, though in a slightly different form,

had come before this House the year last; and I find on looking up the Legislative Assembly Debates that on the 10th of March 1923 there was a Resolution by my friend Mr. Hussanally in these terms:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he will do away with reserved compartments for particular communities on all Indian Railways by all passenger trains unless fully paid for."

A rose by any other name will smell as sweet. What was a Resolution on the 10th March, 1923, appears to-day as a Bill of the Central Legislature. Nothing is worse to my mind than unnecessary legislation. We have heard, and we all know, that there is now no reservation of compartments in the way objected to in first, second or intermediate class railway carriages. Therefore, this House is now being asked to expend all its power and dignity in placing an enactment on the Statute-book to interfere with the railway management of third class passengers. I was permitted in 1923 to waste the time of the House in making some remarks on this point. I do not suppose any one of the Members remember what I said then, and, as "history repeats itself", I do not see why a humble individual like myself should not do so. I therefore venture to impose on the House a few extracts from what I then said. It saves me from having to think on the point again, and my opinion on the whole subject remains entirely unchanged. I said:

"British India is full of social difficulties and social anomalies. Education and a spirit of compromise are at work and are steadily overcoming a good many of these difficulties and anomalies. In education and in the spirit of compromise to which I have referred is to be found the real remedy for them. The hard and fast cleavage and distinction between class and class, and race and race, is being steadily and gradually eliminated. The question is whether this Central Legislature is going to allow itself to be used as a social reform club, and to exercise its great powers and responsibility for the purpose of wasting time over pinpricks of this kind. Distinctions do exist. Call them racial if you like. I myself think that many which are so called are not really racial distinctions in the proper sense of the term. But they do exist, and for a long time to come they must continue to exist, and we must try, working together, to make the best of them."

Sir, I see railway stations with refreshment rooms reserved for Hindus and with refreshment rooms reserved for Muhammadans. I do not see at any station a refreshment room reserved for Europeans; and I am very glad not to see it. I am glad, however, to see that there are reservations of that kind made for Hindus and Muhammadans, because I have the highest respect for the conservative feelings which those communities entertain with regard to their food, their habits and so forth."

Now, Sir, coming to this motion itself, it boils down to this, that, a central, imperial enactment is to be passed to prevent a particular class of passengers, whose habits and manners are quite different or are very largely different from those of Indians and—I say it without hesitation though I am a European myself—whose habits in many respects may be offensive to our Indian friends, from being segregated by the railway administration when they journey by train. Now, to speak of this arrangement, which has rightly been described by the Honourable Sir Charles Innes as a travelling convenience, as an undue preference is, to my mind, an unjustifiable straining of language. Surely, education has gone so far, even in India, that no one can say, because I am put there and you are put here on account of the differences in our habits and to promote mutual convenience, that there is undue preference of the one over the other. If it had been the rule that every third class European passenger should

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have an intermediate compartment reserved for him, while third class Indian passengers must go in third class carriages, that certainly would have been preference. But, in fact, all pay the same amount of fare and all travel in the same kind of carriage. They are only separated in that carriage for the convenience not of one but of both parties. Are we by legislation going to take away this power of administering to the convenience of the travelling public from the railway administration? I do not want to specify cases. I have no wish to raise feelings about subjects on which there is much controversy. But I do say this that, if you take away this power from the railway administration to-day and to-morrow there should be a party of Brahmins going on a pilgrimage who may naturally wish to keep "untouchables" out of their compartment, no railway officer, to whom an appeal could be made to make suitable arrangements, will be in a position, in the face of this legislation, to put matters right for the comfort of those Brahmins? These are little, petty, matters of railway administration. My Indian friends pay a very poor compliment to themselves if they think that this distinction and discrimination mean racial or any other kind of preference. The European passenger is not raised any higher and the Anglo-Indian is not made any bigger by being put into his own particular place. It is as much a convenience to one party as it is to the other. As I said in my remarks in 1923, out of a hundred compartments, 99 could be reserved for Indians and one for the Anglo-Indians with whom Indians do not like to travel. But what is the simpler course? The simpler course is to reserve the one compartment for the small party. I urge the House to rise to a sense of its dignity and not lend itself to this petty legislation. Is this really the voice of the third class passengers? Scores of people will say that the illiterate third class passenger has nothing to do with it—that it is merely a political sentiment. I do not say that; but I think that the House will lend itself to it being said that, in order merely to give effect to political sentiment over a supposed racial preference given to the Europeans, an Imperial enactment has been passed. I say to my friend Mr. Neogy, who is one of the most learned and sensible men in this House, that this enactment, if passed, will not stand to the credit of this House. In the first place, as I have pointed out to describe the separation of different classes of passengers as an undue preference is a misuse of language. And, secondly, the legislation will constitute undue interference in a matter which should be left to the railway administration. We must trust the railway administration to carry out the wishes of the people in petty details of this kind. They have already proved their good faith in the matter, if any proof was necessary. The discrimination has been done away with in all classes of carriages except the third class by which large hordes of people travel and where there must be some sort of checking and arrangement to prevent quarrels, difficulties and trouble on the trains. It is a very very small matter and I hope that the body of Members generally will rise not only to that dignity but also to that generosity and regard which is typical of the best Indian character.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: I move, Sir, that the question be put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir, I was not at all surprised at the speech which my Honourable friend Sir Charles Innes has thought fit to make in reply to mine. In fact I have had the opportunity of studying his mentality for the last four years, and the mentality of the department over which he presides. It is no wonder therefore to me that he has thought it fit to characterize my attitude as silly, and this piece of legislation as being *infra dig* for this House. I can at once tell my Honourable friend that I am not going to take any lessons from him in regard to matters relating to the dignity of this House. Sir, though my Honourable friend considers this to be a very petty matter, I can remind him that this matter had to engross the attention of at least four High Courts in India on more than one occasion in each case, and I suppose that the time and the prestige of the High Court is quite as valuable as the time and prestige of this House. (An Honourable Member: "Question?") Now, Sir, my Honourable friend made an apology at the very beginning that he was not a lawyer, but I find he has got into the trick of clever lawyers, in so far as he read out from a particular ruling the particular portion that helped his case and omitted to read out those portions that went against it. I will point out to my Honourable friend that one of the learned Judges in the particular judgment to which he has made reference observed as follows:—

"I cannot but feel that it is desirable that public bodies which exist for public convenience,"—I do not know whether my Honourable friend admits that description as a correct description of his department—"public bodies, which exist for public convenience," (I repeat), "for public convenience, derive their revenue from the general public and enjoy a monopoly in their trade under the law of the land, should take good care to remove all vestige of suspicion of preferential treatment of any particular class or community."

And then later on the learned Judge says:

"I am unable to conceive that such an apparently invidious distinction is not to be considered preference in favour of one community to the prejudice or disadvantage of another."

It is no doubt true that the Judges in that case had to decide upon the Railway Act as they found it, and upon an interpretation of section 42, clause (2), they said that it would have been a violation of the terms of section 42, clause (2) if the particular passenger who was accused in that case could prove that he could not get into other compartments because they were choke-full, and he was turned away from this particular compartment also. And that is what the learned Judges meant by saying it is a question of fact whether any such reservation would, in any particular case, amount to undue preference. And what does this Bill seek to do? It seeks to put it beyond doubt, beyond controversy, that such reservations shall be deemed to be undue preference. My Honourable friend said there is absolutely no obscurity about the law. But I would refer him to the Allahabad case in which the judgment of the High Court differs very materially from the judgments of the Calcutta, Bombay and Madras High Courts. The learned Judges of the Allahabad High Court thought that section 42 could possibly have absolutely no application to a case of this nature; so I think my Honourable friend will have the fairness to admit that there is some obscurity when we come to consider the conflicting rulings of the different High Courts. I was surprised to hear my Honourable and respected and learned friend Sir Henry Stanyon say that such a reservation could certainly not be construed as undue preference. I suppose he has

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been very long away from his judicial labours, otherwise I should have expected him to have some kind of acquaintance with the case law of the four Indian High Courts on this point. Now, Sir, my Honourable friend, Sir Charles Innes has pointed out that as matters stand at present these compartments are available for the use not only or exclusively of Europeans or Anglo-Indians; but Indians in European dress are also equally admitted. I fully admit the truth of the statement.

Pandit Shamlal Nehru: Except on the East Indian Railway.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Well so far as I know, even the East Indian Railway has issued certain instructions to its officers to admit Indians who are in European dress to these compartments. Sir, I do not know whether a privilege which was a racial privilege so long has improved itself by being turned into a sartorial licence; and if it was not supportable as a racial privilege it is certainly less supportable as a sartorial privilege.

Now, Sir, what is European dress? Is the kilt of the Scotch Highlander to be classed as European dress for this purpose? If that be so, I think my Honourable friend Mr. Fleming might complain that the more picturesque and certainly more decent dress worn by the Burmans should not be tabooed. Again I ask my Honourable friend—is bifurcation of the nether garments to be the test of the European character of one's dress? If that be so, I do not understand why the more ample garments worn by my friend Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum should be ruled out. (Mr. K. Ahmed: "What about the use of the latrine?") I will leave my Honourable friend to deal with that himself. (Mr. K. Ahmed: "I cannot change your habits.") So, my Honourable friend (Sir Charles Innes) will realize that once he admits Indians wearing European dress he will be landing himself in a very difficult position. Perhaps the only solution of his difficulty will be if he were to spare a pair of his own trousers and hang it out of the window of every such reserved compartment as the pattern of dress to which every Indian should conform in order to entitle him to use such compartments. Sir, I remember to have seen a cartoon in a recent issue of a Bengali journal which represented an incident well worth relating here. A Bengali in his much abused *dhoti* was occupying one of these compartments labeled as reserved for Europeans. There was nobody else in the compartment at the time, but as the train stopped at a particular station a European—quite as dark as myself—came up and peremptorily asked him to vacate the compartment. But the Bengali was rather a tough customer for him, so he had to call in the aid of the guard. By the time the guard arrived on the scene, this wily Bengali managed to encase one of his legs in a trouser; and when the guard came up he asked "What is the trouble about?" The answer came, "Wait just a minute; I am becoming a European!" Now, Sir, are we really to have an apotheosis of the European dress? That is the question that I put to this House. Are we to concede this privilege, if not to the Europeans and Anglo-Indians for whom my Honourable friend pleads, to any man wearing European dress because he happens to wear European dress? (Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: What about the Salvation Army men?) It was only the other day that my Honourable friend was holding forth very vehemently on the impropriety of letting politics interfere with the railway policy. I know what my Honourable friend considers to

be politics. It is not politics so long as the Railway Department recognises a special privilege in favour of the European or the Anglo-Indian; it becomes politics when Indian opinion demands that no such special privilege should be allowed. Well, my Honourable friend said the other day that if politics were allowed to interfere with the railway management, then, the railways might spoil this Assembly, and this Assembly might spoil the railways. I find that the Railway Department has spoiled my Honourable friend. He has thoroughly identified himself with the narrow outlook of that department which stands for racial discrimination wherever it possibly can. Sir, my Honourable friend said that those Indians who travel in these compartments by virtue of their wearing European costume like this arrangement and so do the Anglo-Indians. Quite right; but we do not like it; that is exactly what this Bill intends to say to the Honourable Member. Indian opinion does not like such an arrangement to be continued. I believe we have lately had a good deal of sympathy shown in this House for the poor Anglo-Indians. My Honourable friend, Sir Campbell Rhodes pleaded their cause in moving terms the other day in this House, and my Honourable friend Sir Charles Innes has followed suit. I make it quite clear here that I am not in favour of taking away any of the privileges enjoyed by the Anglo-Indians so long as those privileges can be enjoyed by the Indians alike; I am not in favour of discrimination against the Anglo-Indians, but I am absolutely opposed to any discrimination against the Indians. (Mr. W. S. J. Willson: "Reserve carriages for Indians, then.") My Honourable friend, Mr. Willson says, why not reserve carriages for Indians? If we are to accept the principle which has been laid down by my Honourable friend, Sir Charles Innes, we will have to reserve compartments not merely for Indians as a class; we will have to reserve compartments for people coming from the North-West Frontier Province, because a timid Bengali like myself ought not to be allowed to travel in a compartment where there is a single north-west frontier man. Then we will have to reserve compartments for Jains, for Sikhs, for Hindus and for Muhammadans; we do not know where this will end.

My Honourable friend, Sir Henry Stanyon, very innocently asked "Why should this Central Legislature be bothered about this?" For the very good reason that the Indian Railways Act happens to be a central subject; and for the very good reason that my Honourable friend, Sir Charles Innes and the department over which he presides cannot be depended upon to do the right thing in this matter. That is why we need legislation on this point; otherwise we could have perfectly rightly left it to be regulated by the Honourable Member and his department. He has thoroughly disappointed us. We put forward demands asking for the abolition of this distinction once or twice in 1923 and before; and what has he done? He says "We have got the reservation only for the third class". If it is good enough for the third class why not extend it to the first and second classes? He says "Well, the fittings have to be altered and made of a different kind." But are you sure that Hindus and Muhammadans who travel in the upper classes appreciate the sort of fittings that you have in mind, or are you going to have a regular class for them so as to give them lessons in certain things?

Sir, My Honourable friend Sir Henry Stanyon further asked, is it really the voice of the third class passengers? I am very much afraid that he does not read newspapers, because if he were reading the Indian papers he would have found that this Bill of mine has been supported by public opinion, especially at several meetings of passengers held in different parts

[Mr. K. C. Neogy.]

of India. I do not think, Sir, the House is going to accept the advice so very kindly tendered to it by S.r Henry Stanyon, nor do I believe that it will be influenced against this Bill by the sermon which my friend the Honourable Sir Charles Innes has thought fit to deliver. I hope that this motion will be carried by this House.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: Sir, Mr. Neogy accused me of having quoted from a judgment in 51, Calcutta,—I believe that is the correct way of putting it,—(A Voice: "No, Report")—I have consulted the Honourable the Law Member—Mr. Neogy accused me of having quoted from this judgment such passages as suited me and not quoting those which did not suit me. Sir, Mr. Neogy is entirely wrong. What I read out to the House was the head note. I have been told by the Honourable the Law Member that I was entirely wrong in doing so, but at any rate, it gave the substance of the judgment. Now, Sir, Mr. Neogy has been doing the very thing which I expressly refrained from doing. He has quoted from the judgment the passage which suited him and he has not quoted the other passages which did not accord with his case. Allow me, Sir, to follow the example of Mr. Neogy and read one or two passages which suit my side of the case. This is from one of the distinguished Judges who wrote the judgment.

"The setting apart of a compartment for Europeans is not apparently to accord invidious distinction to a particular class of passengers. The object is to secure the convenience of the travelling public with due regard to the diversity of their habits, customs and prejudices. An European especially of the class which ordinarily travels in such third class compartments may be more disagreeable to his Indian fellow passengers particularly of the orthodox type and peaceful disposition."

Sir, time is getting late, and I must confess that I think that we have spent more time over this little Bill than it really needed, and therefore I will not repeat at any length what I have already said. I wish to sum up my case, and I will say, Sir, that I do not believe that this Bill is necessary to clear up the obscurity of the law. I will say, Sir, that it certainly is not necessary from a railway point of view.

It has been said by my Honourable friend Mr. Wali Muhammed Husanally that the reservation of these third class compartments increases our difficulty in carrying ordinary third class passengers. Sir, that is not so. The compartments which we reserve on mail and fast passenger trains are compartments which hold 10 passengers only. The mere fact that we reserve a compartment holding ten passengers for Anglo-Indians or Europeans makes no difference at all to our carrying capacity for carrying third class passengers. (A Voice: "Question?") Therefore, I again ask the House what is the object which is going to be secured by carrying this Bill. Let me again follow Mr. Neogy's example, and read one more passage from this judgment.

"An attempt has been made to convert what is clearly only a question of railway administration into a racial question. So far as I can see no racial question whatever is involved in this case and it is to be regretted that attempts should have been made to make it one."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890, be taken into consideration."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—50.

Abdul Karim, Chwaja.
Abhyankar, Mr. M. V.
Acharya, Mr. M. K.
Aiyangar, Mr. C. Duraiswami.
Aiyangar, Mr. K. Rama.
Akram Hussain, Prince A. M. M.
Alimuzzaman Chowdhry, Mr.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Chaman Lall, Mr.
Chetty, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham.
Dalal, Sardar B. A.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.
Ghose, Mr. S. C.
Ghulam Abbas, Sayyad.
Goswami, Mr. T. C.
Gulab Singh, Sardar.
Hans Raj, Lala.
Hussanally, Khan Bahadur W. M.
Ismail Khan, Mr.
Iyengar, Mr. A. Rangaswami.
Jeelani, Haji S. A. K.
Jinnah, Mr. M. A.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Lohokare, Dr. K. G.

Makan, Mr. M. E.
Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.
Misra, Pandit Harkaran Nath.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Sayad.
Mutalik, Sardar V. N.
Nehru, Dr. Kishenlal.
Nehru, Pandit Motilal.
Nehru, Pandit Shamlal.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Patel, Mr. V. J.
Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Sir.
Ramachandra Rao, Diwan Bahadur M.
Rangachariar, Diwan Bahadur T.
Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.
Ray, Mr. Kumar Sankar.
Sadiq Hasan, Mr. S.
Samiullah Khan, Mr. M.
Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Shams-uz-Zoha, Khan Bahadur M.
Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.
Sinha, Kumar Ganganand.
Venkatapatiraju, Mr. B.
Yakub, Maulvi Muhammad.
Yusuf Imam, Mr. M.

NOES—36.

Abdul Mumin, Khan Bahadur Muhammad.
Abdul Qaiyum, Nawab Sir Sahibzada.
Abul Kasem, Maulvi.
Ahmad Ali Khan, Mr.
Ajab Khan, Captain.
Ashworth, Mr. E. H.
Bhore, Mr. J. W.
Blackett, The Honourable Sir Basil.
Bray, Mr. Denys.
Burdon, Mr. E.
Clarke, Sir Geoffrey.
Clow, Mr. A. G.
Cocke, Mr. H. G.
Cosgrave, Mr. W. A.
Crawford, Colonel J. D.
Duval, Mr. H. P.
Fleming, Mr. E. G.
Graham, Mr. L.
Hudson, Mr. W. F.
Innes, The Honourable Sir Charles.

Lindsay, Mr. Darcy.
McCallum, Mr. J. L.
Mitra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath.
Muddiman, The Honourable Sir Alexander.
Muhammad Ismail, Khan Bahadur Saiyid.
Raj Narain, Rai Bahadur.
Rhodes, Sir Campbell.
Rushbrook-Williams, Prof. L. F.
Sastri, Diwan Bahadur C. V. Visvanatha.
Singh, Rai Bahadur S. N.
Stanyon, Colonel Sir Henry.
Sykes, Mr. E. F.
Tonkinson, Mr. H.
Webb, Mr. M.
Willson, Mr. W. S. J.
Wilson, Mr. R. A.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1, and 2, and the Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir, I move that the Bill be now passed.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE MATERNITY BENEFIT BILL.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: (Nominated: Labour Interests): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to regulate the employment of women in factories and mines and on those estates, to which the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, applies, some time before and some time after confinement, and to make provision for the payment of maternity benefit, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. L. Graham, Mr. A. G. Clow, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Sir Campbell Rhodes, Mr. Darcy Lindsay, Dr. S. K. Datta, Mr. M. A. Jinnah, Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, Dr. K. G. Lohokare, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Diwan Chaman Lal, Mr. B. Das, Sardar Gulab Singh, and myself, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be six."

I would like to add to these names the names of the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra which I omitted by mistake, of Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha, and of Khan Bahadur Mukhdum Syed Rajan Baksh Shah.

Mr. President: The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra is in charge of the Department under which this Bill comes?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Industries Member): Yes.

Mr. President: His name will appear automatically in the list. It is not necessary to put his name in the motion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: My Bill is intended to protect the life and health of women employed in industries. It is a matter of great pity that married women of child-bearing age should be compelled by their economic condition to take employment in factories, mines and other undertakings where they have to work long hours in a very unhealthy atmosphere. Although it may not be possible for us to improve their economic condition to such an extent as to remove this necessity of their having to take work in industrial undertakings, I feel it is the duty of this Legislature to regulate their working conditions in such a manner as to remove the danger to their health, to their lives and to the health and lives of their babies. I think, Sir, there will be no one here in this House who will question the soundness of the proposition that work in factories, mines and other industrial undertakings for long hours at present allowed by law is detrimental to the health of women, especially during the critical stage of their confinement on account of child birth. My Bill therefore provides that the employment of women six weeks after confinement should be prohibited by law. It provides that if an employer knowing that a woman has given birth to a child employs her within six weeks of her confinement he will be considered to be guilty of a

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: May I ask that the debate be now adjourned as I have got to attend an important meeting of the Executive Council?

Mr. President: The request obviously is not unreasonable, and as the Honourable Member will have his chance, now that he has begun to move his motion, on the next day set apart for non-official Bills. I propose now to adjourn the House.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 2nd February, 1925.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 2nd February, 1925.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

WEIGHT LIMIT OF POSTAL ARTICLES CARRIED BY POSTMEN.

532. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that the weight limit to be carried by postmen is 800 tolas?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of reducing the weight limit from 800 to 600 tolas?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: (a) There is no fixed limit of weight of postal articles to be carried by postmen. The weight must vary according to circumstances, e.g., length of beat, nature of place of delivery, etc. Hired labour is employed whenever the articles for delivery are too heavy for a single postman to carry.

(b) The question does not arise.

DEBIT OF LOSS ON INSURED ARTICLES TO THE POST OFFICE GUARANTEE FUND.

533. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that loss sustained on account of insured articles is debited to the Post Office Guarantee Fund?

(b) If so, will Government please state the grounds on which this decision is based?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

PAYMENT OF PENSIONS BY POST OFFICES.

534. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that pensions to retired Post Office and R. M. S. Officers are paid by Government treasuries?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of paying them by post offices instead of by Government treasuries?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: (a) Yes.

(b) The question of paying all Government pensioners drawing Rs. 20 per mensem and below by post offices was considered before and had to be given up as the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs was of opinion that it would be very difficult for post offices all over the country to do the work. Government do not desire to reconsider the question specially for the pensioners of the Postal Department. In some parts of India pensions are being paid by postal money orders.

ECONOMIES IN THE PERMANENT SUPERIOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

535. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Is it a fact that the total saving over the reorganisation scheme on the North Western Railway, relating to the permanent superior establishment amounts to only Rs. 7,439 according to a reply given in another place by the Honourable Mr. G. L. Corbett?

(b) Is it a fact that in the volume entitled "Report outlining a scheme for the reorganisation of the general working system of the North Western Railway" the cost of existing establishment was stated to be Rs. 2,88,025 whereas that of the then proposed scheme was Rs. 2,90,000, i.e., Rs. 1,975 in excess?

(c) Will Government give the House the correct figures and the reasons why no substantial economies in the permanent superior establishment have been effected?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes. The saving expected is Rs. 7,539 a month.

(b) The Honourable Member is apparently referring to a preliminary and unpublished report the proposals in which were considerably altered in the final scheme.

(c) The correct figures are those given above, namely, Rs. 7,539 per mensem, but against this must be set the cost of additional audit staff of approximately Rs. 6,000 a month. The object of the scheme is to secure increased efficiency and the chief economy expected from the reorganisation will be a reduction in working expenses to which at present no exact figure can be attached.

SPECIAL CARRIAGES FOR OFFICERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

536. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Is it correct that lakhs are being spent on the use and maintenance of special carriages for the use of officers on the North Western Railway?

CARRIAGES FOR OFFICERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

555. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Will Government state what kind of carriages on the North Western Railway are set apart for the exclusive use of the railway officers? Further, will Government give a statement giving full particulars such as description of the carriage, cost, approximate annual maintenance charges of each carriage and the list of officers using such carriages?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I will reply to this and the Honourable Member's question No. 555 together.

Carriages specially set apart for the exclusive use of railway officers on the North Western Railway are of two kinds, namely, railway service carriages and reserved carriages of the 'A' class. Railway service carriages are 4-wheelers and consist of a combined living and office compartment, a lavatory and a kitchen. Reserved carriages of the 'A' class are usually short bogie carriages which contain similar accommodation to the railway service carriages except that a few have a small observation compartment at the end for inspection purposes, and also a servant's compartment.

The cost of railway service carriages varies from Rs. 3,600 to Rs. 9,000 and that of reserved 'A' class carriages from Rs. 3,300 to Rs. 33,000.

It is not possible to give the approximate maintenance charges for each individual carriage, but the approximate average annual cost of maintenance is Rs. 150 for a railway service carriage and Rs. 300 for a reserved 'A' class carriage.

There are 41 railway service carriages which are used by 58 Assistant Engineers and there are 23 reserved 'A' class carriages, which are used by the officers named in the list, which is being placed on the table.

List of officers using reserved 'A' class carriages on the North Western Railway.

1. Agent.
2. Deputy Agent.
3. Chief Operating Superintendent.
4. Deputy Chief Operating Superintendents (2 officers)
5. Chief Commercial Manager.
6. Chief Mechanical Engineer.
7. Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer.
8. Chief Engineer.
9. Deputy Chief Engineer.
10. Controller of Stores.
11. Signal Engineer.
12. Inspection Car.
- 13-19. Divisional Superintendents (7).

20-30. These 4 carriages are shared by Deputy Agent personnel, Deputy on special duty on reorganisation, Deputy on special duty, marshalling yard design, Deputy Commercial Manager, Deputy Chief Engineer (Designs and Projects) and Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction).

Mr. Chaman Lall: May I ask Government whether they would consider the advisability of doing away with these special carriages?

Mr. G. G. Sim: They are required for officers for their work.

Mr. Chaman Lall: Is it not possible for them to travel in first class compartments in ordinary trains?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The carriages have to be detached from the trains and kept in sidings to enable the officers to do their work.

Mr. Chaman Lall: In every case, for example let us say in travelling from Lahore to Rawalpindi, do not these officers want special saloons or special carriages?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The officers usually live in their carriages while they are engaged on their duties.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally: What is the total annual cost of running these special carriages?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I have given the figures.

Mr. Chaman Lall: Also the figures of actual running charges of these carriages?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Yes. If the Honourable Member means the haulage cost, I have not got that figure.

Mr. Chaman Lall: May I ask the Honourable Member to give us the haulage cost of these carriages as well as the cost of maintenance?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I must ask for notice of that question.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. F. WEBB, AS SUPERINTENDENT, CENTRAL REGISTRY
OFFICE IN THE OFFICE OF THE AGENT, NORTH WESTERN
RAILWAY.

537. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Will Government kindly state whether one Mr. F. Webb has been appointed as Superintendent, Central Registry Office, in the office of the Agent, North Western Railway, on a salary of Rs. 350 rising to Rs. 400 per mensem; if so, what are his duties and responsibilities?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Webb was a chargeman in the North Western Railway Carriage Shops getting Rs. 210 per mensem prior to his new appointment?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Webb had no office experience and that he never even held charge of any branch in any office?

If so, what led to his new appointment?

(d) Will the Government kindly state how many clerks in class V in the Rs. 275 grade, who officiated as Superintendents in North Western Railway offices, have been superseded by this appointment and for what reasons?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to a similar question by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das on the 22nd September 1924 in the Council of State.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE AGENT, NORTH-
WESTERN RAILWAY.

538. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Is it a fact that the post of Office Superintendent in the North Western Railway Agents' office was held by several senior Indians?

(b) Is it a fact that on the death of Pandit Shiv Charan Lal, Mr. Sahair, head establishment clerk, Agent's office, being seniormost should have been appointed as Office Superintendent, Agent's office?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Holmes, who was appointed on 5th December 1914 (whereas Mr. Sahair was appointed on 1st February 1899) as an assistant record clerk in Loco. Superintendent's office superseded him?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. Sahair on another occasion was again superseded by one Mr. Coates?

(e) On what grounds was he superseded?

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER,
NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

539. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Is it a fact that L. Chuni Lal, head establishment clerk of the Chief Engineer's office, North Western Railway (salary Rs. 400 per mensem) had been officiating off and on as Office Superintendent of that office?

(b) Is it a fact that when a vacancy occurred it was not given to L. Chuni Lal or to another Indian equally qualified who happened also to be available, but to one Mr. Cullen of the Loco. Superintendent's office (salary Rs. 275 per mensem)?

(c) On what grounds was this appointment made?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I propose to answer questions Nos. 538 and 539 together. They both inquire why certain individual clerks were passed over for promotion to particular subordinate appointments. Government do not know and are not prepared to inquire. The railway administration is in the best position to judge between the relative claims of candidates for appointments of this kind.

Mr. Chaman Lall: May I ask whether the Honourable Member is aware that every time we ask these questions we have been put off with the reply that the railway administration is the best judge of these matters?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Chaman Lall: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a great deal of discontent among Members of this House that no information is given on questions relating to racial matters?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I may say that the Railway Department consider that these questions should be left to the railway administrations and that the Legislative Assembly should not interfere in details of this kind.

Mr. T. C. Goswami: We think otherwise.

Mr. Chaman Lall: What are we here for if we cannot get information on these matters?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The Railway Department think that the Legislative Assembly should criticise the administration and criticise the Railway Board and they are entitled to influence policy, but nothing can be more fatal to the efficient management of railways than that the Legislative Assembly should try to interfere in details of railway administration.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: But is the railway efficiently managed under the present administration?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The Honourable Member will find it out when he sees the budget statement.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I ask whether there are any rules provided in the Legislative Rules for the guidance of Members on these questions?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: It is left to the good sense of the Members themselves.

Mr. Chaman Lall: May I ask for a ruling whether we, as Members of this Honourable House, are not entitled to obtain the information that we ask for on these matters, especially when they raise racial issues?

Mr. President: Questions are admitted when they satisfy the Rules and Standing Orders. Whether Honourable Members are able to extract replies from Government is a totally different matter in regard to which I have no responsibility.

Mr. Chaman Lall: Sir, is the process equivalent to that of endeavouring to extract blood from stone?

RETIREMENT WITHOUT FORFEITURE OF GRATUITY OF RETRENCHED
STAFF OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

540. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Is it a fact that officers belonging to the Indian Civil Service were allowed certain privileges of retirement on proportionate pension for a certain period after the inauguration of the Reforms Scheme?

(b) Is it a fact on the other hand that railway employees, who under retrenchment, were offered lower posts, were told that a refusal will result in the forfeiture of their gratuity "whether they had rendered more or less than 15 years' service"?

(c) Will Government explain the distinction applied in the case of officers of the Indian Civil Service and the staff of the North Western Railway?

(d) Will Government state the number of cases in which such gratuity has been forfeited?

(e) Are Government prepared to withdraw the orders issued in this connection and permit retirement without forfeiture of gratuity?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes—since such men would under the rules not be entitled to a gratuity. It was, however, stipulated that exceptional cases would receive special consideration.

(c) The two cases are not comparable.

(d) Government are not aware of any case in which such gratuity has been forfeited.

(e) In the circumstances stated above, Government see no reason for modification of the orders already passed.

INDIANS IN CERTAIN SPECIFIED APPOINTMENTS ON THE NORTH WESTERN
RAILWAY.

541. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Will Government state the proportionate number of Indians in the North Western Railway in the following posts:

- (1) Special Station Superintendents.
- (2) Commercial Superintendents (Senior and Junior).
- (3) Traffic Inspectors (Special, Senior and Junior).
- (4) Chief Controllers, Deputy Controllers, and Assistant Controllers.
- (5) Senior scale of Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters, Yard Masters and Goods Supervisors.
- (6) Platform and Luggage Inspectors (Senior Special, Junior Special).
- (7) Ticket Collectors (Senior Special Class, Junior Special Class, Glass D)?

Mr. G. G. Sim: A statement is placed on the table containing the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

Serial No.	Designation of post.	Total No. of posts.	No. held by Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	No. held by Indians.
1	Special Superintendents	3	3	...
2	Commercial Superintendents:			
	Senior	3	3	...
	Junior	4	2	2
3	Traffic Inspectors:			
	Special	2	2	...
	Senior	19	19	...
	Junior	17	15	2
4	Chief Controllers	4	4	...
	Deputy Controllers	6	6	...
	Assistant Controllers	30	29	1
5	Senior Scale Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters, Yard Masters, Goods Supervisors:			
	Class F (i)	10	9	1
	" F (ii)	14	13	1
	" E (i)	20	19	1
	" E (ii)	77	57	20
6	Platform and Lug. Inspectors:			
	Senior spl.	2	2	...
	Junior spl.	7	7	...
7	Ticket Collectors:			
	Senior spl.	1	1	...
	Junior spl.	7	7	...
	'D' class	8	4	4

EUROPEAN, ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDIAN APPRENTICES ON THE NORTH
WESTERN RAILWAY.

542. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Will Government state as to how many Indian apprentices have been taken in the last four years in the Loco., Carriage, Signal, Engineering, Electric (North Western Railway) Department and the number of Anglo-Indians and Europeans with their rates of pay?

(b) Will Government explain the differentiation in the rates of pay?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) A statement showing the number of Indian, Anglo-Indian and European apprentices during 1923 and 1924 in the Loco., Carriage and Wagon and Engineering Departments of the North Western Railway with their rates of pay is laid on the table. The figures for the previous two years are not available but will be procured and furnished to the Honourable Member if desired.

(b) It will be observed from the statement that the remuneration for work done is the same for all classes of apprentices. The subsistence and hostel charges are however granted according to the standard of living.

[illegible]

Mr. Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable Member see to it that this distinction is done away with?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I must ask for notice, Sir.

Mr. Chaman Lall: Is this again a question of racial discrimination, Sir?

Mr. G. G. Sim: No, Sir.

Mr. Chaman Lall: On what other basis does the Honourable Member explain the differentiation?

Mr. G. G. Sim : I have already explained that it is due to the difference in the standard of living.

Mr. Chaman Lall: That depends upon race, Sir, does it not?

ORDERS SENT TO GERMANY FOR ROLLING STOCK.

543. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 4th January, 1925, page 7, under the heading "Indian Rolling Stock" "Reported order for Germany"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the statement made is correct?

(c) If correct, will they please state the number of goods and passenger coaches ordered for Indian railways?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.
(b) and (c) Government have no information on the subject.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Will they try to get the information, Sir?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Sir, the reply which I just gave that Government have no information on the subject refers to a newspaper report, and I do not quite see how we can get the information.

REPORT OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE COMMITTEE.

544. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the paragraph published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 4th January, 1925, page 8, under the heading "Territorial Committee"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the statement made is correct and if the report of the Territorial Force Committee will be circulated to the Members of the Assembly during the forthcoming session at Delhi?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) Government have seen the paragraph referred to.

(b) The Committee have signed their report which is at present in the process of publication. It is hoped that the report will be available to Honourable Members during this session.

545. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Sir, this question formed part of a more comprehensive question. As the other parts of the question have been disallowed, I do not propose to put it.

+ "Will Government be pleased to state how much iron has been estimated to exist in British India according to geological survey?"

Mr. President: The other parts of the question were disallowed because they related to matters which were the primary responsibility of Local Governments, and this part was allowed because it concerned the responsibility of the Central Government.

UGANDA TOWNSHIP RULES.

546. ***Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following which appeared in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 30th October last?

"INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA.

Restriction in respect of residence and trade.

Mombasa, Oct. 3.

Recently the Uganda Official Gazette published the new 'Township rules' wherein is found the following:

The Governor may, by notice in the Gazette, prescribe areas within which no piece or parcel of land may be occupied by any person not of European origin or extraction for the purposes of trade, residence or otherwise except with the consent or prior permission of the Governor in writing. This does not apply to domestic servants."

(b) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps the Government of India have taken to remove the abovesaid addition to the Township Rules?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 23rd January 1925, to Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda's question 115.

REFUSAL OF A WIRELESS LICENSE TO MR. S. D. NADKARNI OF KARWAR.

547. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi:** (a) With regard to the Wireless License Rules issued by the Director General of Wireless, laying down the qualifications necessary for the grant of a wireless license for amateur purposes, will Government be pleased to say which of those qualifications Mr. S. D. Nadkarni of Karwar was held not to possess when his application for a wireless license was refused by the Director General of Wireless, as stated in answer to my question No. 1820, published at page 3207, Legislative Assembly Debates, 11th September 1924?

(b) If it was not for absence of any of those qualifications that Mr. Nadkarni's application was refused, will Government be pleased to say why it was refused?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Mr. Nadkarni stated at the time of making his application that he had no experience in working Wireless Telegraph Transmitting apparatus and that he had no certificates of competency for working such apparatus.

LIST OF PRIVATE PERSONS HOLDING WIRELESS LICENSES.

548. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi:** Will Government be pleased to supply a list of private persons in India and Burma who hold wireless licenses, with details against each case as to whether the license is in respect of a "receiving set" only or for a "transmitting set" only or for both receiving and transmitting sets, and also mention the community, whether Indian or Anglo-Indian or European, to which the licensee belongs; or at least a tabulated analysis of these statistics?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: I shall be glad to show the Honourable Member in my office a list giving the information asked for so far as this is available. The list contains nearly 800 names, and Government do not consider that it will serve any useful purpose to lay it on the table.

WITHDRAWAL OF ORDERS PROHIBITING THE TEACHING OF WIRELESS SCIENCE IN COLLEGES.

549. ***Mr. D. V. Belvi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Government of India Circular prohibiting the teaching of Wireless Science in the colleges to which Dr. S. K. Datta drew attention in this House on 11th September 1924 (*vide* page 3209, Assembly Debates, Volume IV, No. 50), is still in force?

(b) If it is withdrawn, when was it withdrawn, and why? If not, why does it continue even nominally in force?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) and (b). The question of the withdrawal of the circular is now engaging the attention of the Government of India; and it is hoped that it will be possible to withdraw the orders in question at a very early date.

REDUCTION OF CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

550. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there will be reduction in the North Western Railway clerical establishment in connection with the Reorganization Scheme? If so, in what percentage?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether this reduction will also affect the numbers of superior and subordinate officers and if so, to what extent?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of Anglo-Indians and Europeans (Lower, Upper Subordinate and Superior Staff separately) who were brought under reduction or were increased during the last 4 years; also a list of Indians (Clerical Staff, Outdoor Staff and Artisans to be given separately)?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes eventually. It is not possible to state the percentage at present.

(b) Yes, but it is too early to estimate the full effect to the introduction of the Divisional System.

(c) The preparation of the detailed lists asked for would entail an amount of labour and expense which the Government do not consider would be justified.

QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS IN THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

551. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether all the officers who are appointed in the North Western Railway Workshops, especially Loco., Carriage and Signal, obtain their qualifications in any special technical and mechanical colleges before they are engaged and what standard of mechanical education is considered necessary and essential for their qualification?

(b) Will the Government give a statement showing the number of such officers as have achieved the higher standard qualification of Mechanical and Civil Engineering Colleges with the degree or degrees possessed by each of them, also the total number of those who have not received such education?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of officers (Indians, Europeans and Anglo-Indians) on the North Western Railway, who hold the following diplomas?

Member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

Associate Member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

Associate Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

Associate Member of the Institute of Signal Engineers.

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the basis on which the technical allowance is given to these officers?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) So far as the Locomotive and Carriage Departments are concerned the officers recruited do not obtain their qualifications from any special technical or mechanical colleges.

Appointments are made by the Secretary of State on the advice of a Selection Committee subject to certain general conditions, the principal of which are that the candidates shall have had a good general and technical education followed by at least three years' training in the shops and six months in running and firing.

All candidates must in addition have a thorough understanding of applied mechanics. Signal engineers have been recruited from different sources, in some cases by transfer from the Engineering Service and in a few instances by direct appointment from Home of men possessing previous knowledge and experience in the duties required.

(b) It is not understood what the Honourable Member means by the expression "the higher standard qualifications of Mechanical and Civil Engineering Colleges".

(c) The Honourable Member will find the information he requires in the Railway Classified List, a copy of which is in the Library.

(d) Technical pay was granted in consideration of the additional value to the railway of an officer who has undergone the expense of a training in Europe. It has now been abolished as a separate allowance.

QUALIFICATIONS OF FOREMEN, LOCO. INSPECTORS, ETC., ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

552. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Will Government be pleased to state the standard of education requisite for qualification on the North Western Railway as a Foreman, Loco. Inspector, District Electrician, Chargeman and Carriage and Wagon Inspector? Further, will Government explain the reason why this class is specially recruited from outside India?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The requisite qualification for the posts indicated is the possession of technical ability and practical experience which will enable the holder to do the work. There is no definite standard of education. The major portion of the men required for the purpose have hitherto been procured from England because there were no adequate facilities for training in this country. Arrangements have, however, been now made by the Local Government in collaboration with the North Western Railway to give training to fit men for duties of this nature and it is hoped that an increasing number will in future be obtained from this source.

Mr. Chaman Lall: Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that no particular educational qualification was necessary?

Mr. G. G. Sim: No, Sir. I said that there was no definite standard of education prescribed.

Mr. Chaman Lall: And yet did I understand the Honourable Member to say that he could not recruit men in India because men with the necessary qualifications could not be found here?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I said there were no facilities for training men in India but that they are now being provided by the Local Government in collaboration with the North Western Railway Administration.

Mr. Chaman Lall: Will the Government see that in future recruitment in England is stopped?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Sir, not unless people are available in this country. When they are available, the number recruited from England will be reduced.

Mr. Chaman Lall: I asked whether recruitment in England would be stopped? I did not ask whether it would be reduced.

Mr. G. G. Sim: No, Sir, not until we are able to recruit a sufficient number of men in this country.

RECRUITMENT OF INDIANS FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIED APPOINTMENTS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

553. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why Indians are not recruited as Signal and Bridge Engineers, Mining Engineers, Coal Superintendents, District Locomotive Superintendents and District Carriage Superintendents on the North Western Railway? Is it a fact that they are considered as qualified to be appointed as Executive Engineers, District Traffic Superintendents and Accounts Officers?

Mr. G. G. Sim: There are no posts of Coal Superintendents on the North Western Railway. As regards other appointments it has not hitherto been possible to get qualified Indian candidates possessing the necessary technical qualifications to fill them. Arrangements are, however, being made to improve the facilities for technical training for railway

officers in India which it is hoped will enable an advance in this matter to be made.

It has been found possible to secure Indians possessing the necessary qualifications for the posts of Executive Engineers, District Traffic Superintendents and Accounts Officers.

REDUCTION OF CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

554. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact, that owing to reduction (Reorganization Scheme) in the clerical establishment in the North Western Railway the clerks have to work overtime, i.e. (10 to 6 P.M.), while the time for attendance is 10 to 4 P.M., and also that the clerical establishment is sometimes disallowed casual and privilege leave?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The only reductions that have in fact taken place in the clerical staff are in respect of temporary clerks. Possibly on some occasions both officers and staff have had to work longer hours than are ordinarily prescribed and this may occur in any office. Leave cannot be claimed as of right, but there is no reason for the assertion that it has been unduly restricted owing to the cause alleged.

UTILISATION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY FINE FUND, ETC.

556. ***Mr. Chaman Lall:** (a) Will Government state whether the North Western Railway Fine Fund and the Unpaid Wages Fund is mainly utilized for the following purposes?

1. For maintenance of European and Anglo-Indian Railway School.
2. For maintenance of European Railway Band.
3. For maintenance of Railway Institute.
4. For maintenance of Recreation Club.
5. For maintenance of Volunteer Corps.
6. For maintenance of school buses for conveyance of the children of Anglo-Indians and Europeans from and to school.
7. For building the Institute.

(b) Will Government state whether nearly 95 per cent. of the expenditure out of the North Western Railway Fine Fund, and unpaid wages fund is spent on Anglo-Indians and Europeans and 5 per cent. on the Indian staff?

(c) Are Government prepared in future to utilize these funds for the provision of free education for the children of Indian railway employees allocating proportionate funds for the education of the children of Europeans and Anglo-Indians?

(d) Will Government be pleased to give a statement showing the amount of fines and unpaid wages realized from Indians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans, separately?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). Unpaid wages as a general rule form part of the sundry earnings of the railway and not utilised for the purposes mentioned by the Honourable Member. A statement showing the disbursements from the Fine Fund of the North Western Railway during the years 1922-23 and 1923-24 is placed on the table.

(c) The Government do not as a rule interfere in matters of this kind. The utilisation of the Fine Fund for the benefit of the employes is purely a matter of grace and Agents have been left to distribute it as they think

best. But the Government have ascertained that the Agent will welcome and encourage the growth of institutes for Indian employes, which could suitably receive assistance from this Fund.

(d) In view of the answer to questions (a) and (b) the necessity for the information relative to the unpaid wages does not arise. The information as regards the fines realised from the employes belonging to the different communities is not easily available and Government do not propose to collect it.

Statement showing the disbursement from the Fine Fund of the North Western Railway for the years 1922-23 and 1923-24.

Particulars.	1922-23.				1923-24.			
	European and Anglo-Indian.	Indian.	Joint.	TOTAL.	European and Anglo-Indian.	Indian.	Joint.	TOTAL.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Institutes . . .	9,029	2,160	...	11,189	10,845	2,160	420	13,425
2. Reading Rooms . .	420	240	810	1,470	420	240	800	1,460
3. Sports, Clubs and Tournaments.	1,634	2,672	1,224	5,530	1,039	2,813	2,492	6,344
4. Education, viz., Capitation and monthly grants to Schools.	...	...	...	...	...	390	...	390
5. Compassionate education of children of staff killed on duty.	2,969	1,043	...	4,012	3,191	1,380	...	4,571
6. Apprentices' Home .	2,268	...	...	2,268	2,220	...	...	2,220
7. Holiday Home . .	2,500	...	...	2,500	1,250	...	...	1,250
8. Protestant Cemetery	120	...	...	120	110	...	...	110
9. Chaplain . . .	3,500	...	...	3,500	3,600	...	...	3,600
10. North Western Railway Band.	...	...	6,300	6,300	...	...	4,800	4,800
11. Cost of War Memorial	...	...	...	...	2,175	...	...	2,175
12. Compassionate gratuity.	...	...	...	...	550	...	...	550
13. Grant to Red Cross, Karachi.	...	...	...	...	...	...	500	500
Total . . .	22,440	6,115	8,334	36,889	25,400	6,983	8,012	41,395
Add—								
Loan and advances to Co-operative stores and to Railway employees.	...	...	...	45,320	...	...	...	27,147
GRAND TOTAL . .	22,440	6,115	8,334	82,209	25,400	6,983	9,012	68,542

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, Sir, whether the Agents are free to utilise the Fine Fund and whether they are using it justly and fairly at the present moment?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Sir, I do not admit that the Agents are using the Fund unjustly or unfairly.

Mr. Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable Member find out from the Agents whether the reply to question (b) is correct or not? May I also add that I want to know whether 95 per cent. of the expenditure is incurred for the benefit of Europeans and Anglo-Indians?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I am placing on the table a complete statement of expenditure.

AMALGAMATION OF THE ORIYA-SPEAKING TRACTS.

557. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Do the Government propose to put all the Oriya-speaking tracts under one Government?

(b) If so, has any action been taken in the matter?

(c) Which of the provincial Governments have already given their opinion in the matter?

(d) Are the Government prepared to put all the Oriya-speaking tracts into a separate Oriya province?

(e) Will the Government please make a statement in the matter?

Mr. H. Tonkinson: The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given by the Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey on the subject to questions Nos. 196 and 137 on the 20th January 1923 and the 5th February 1924. The question is under the consideration of Government in connection with the report of Messrs. Philip and Duff regarding the attitude of the Oriya-speaking population of the Madras Presidency towards amalgamation with other Oriya-speaking tracts and they are not prepared to make a statement at the present time.

ALLEGED DISORDERLY CONDUCT OF SOLDIERS AT THE DELHI EXHIBITION OF ARTS AND CRAFTS ON THE 24TH DECEMBER 1924.

558. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the Delhi letter, published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated the 4th January, 1925, in which the following passage occurs:

"Riotous scenes were enacted on the Christmas night in the local exhibition of Arts and Crafts, when a few drunken Tommies made an attack on the innocent crowd of visitors. They began by bombarding the stalls with brick bats, and robbing a few stalls of odd things. This led to an affray in which a few civilians sustained injuries. 'A city of gaiety' was in a few moments transformed into 'a city of riots' by the drunkards. Panicky people began to run for their lives, shop-keepers at once closed down their stalls. The soldiers went on merrily with their mischief till the Police came, and drove them out of the pandal"

(b) Is it a fact that liquor was freely allowed to be sold at the premises?

(c) Do the Government propose to make an inquiry into this affair, and lay the result before the House?

And if not, why not?

Mr. H. Tonkinson: (a) I have seen the article in question.

(b) Ordinary bar licenses were issued for the exhibition premises but there is reason to believe that the soldiers who caused the disturbance were under the influence of liquor before they reached the exhibition.

(c) The usual police and military inquiries are being held.

DISMISSAL OF MAHANAND LAL, A RECRUITING AGENT.

559. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** With reference to my starred question No. 1373 of the 9th June, 1924, and the statement laid on the table in that connection on the 8th September, 1924, will the Government be pleased to state the nature of misconduct for which the recruiting agent Mahanand Lal was dismissed?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Government of India have no information.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: But why have they no information? Will the Government of India be pleased to find out the information on the subject?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: No, Sir.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Why not, Sir?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: Because, Sir, the individual concerned was not one of their officers. He was appointed by the Emigration Commissioner who is also not an officer of the Government of India. Hence the Government of India have no control over him, or his actions.

AGENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN MAURITIUS.

560. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** With reference to my starred question No. 1376 of 9th June, 1924, will the Government be pleased to state the names, pay and antecedents of the Agents appointed in Mauritius under section 7 of the Emigration Act (Act VII of 1922)?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: No such Agent has been appointed.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Under section 7 of the Emigration Act, was it not compulsory for the Government of India to appoint an Agent? Why is it that such an Agent has not yet been appointed?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: It is not compulsory, Sir, and the Government of India do not consider that circumstances at the present moment demand the appointment of such an Agent. I have already explained in reply to a previous question that the Government of India have sent an officer to make inquiries into the conditions in Mauritius and that their future line of action will be decided by the nature of the report that they get from their officer.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: In the meantime, do I understand that no further recruitment will take place in India?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: No further recruitment is taking place.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: And will not take place till the result of that inquiry?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: Certainly not, Sir.

RECRUITMENT OF EMIGRANTS AT BENARES.

561. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) With reference to my starred question No. 1371 of the 9th June, 1924, regarding recruiting of emigrants at Benares and the reply of the Government that "the depôt is used for the accommodation of emigrants and its location at Benares is in no way inconsistent with the provisions of the rules" published under Government Notification No. 212, dated the 10th March, 1923, will the Government be pleased to state if recruitment did not actually take place in Benares, and if so, how many recruits were obtained in Benares proper?

(b) Will the Government kindly state if recruitment was stopped in Benares "during time of pilgrimage", and if so, will Government state the periods during which such recruitment was held in abeyance since its existence in Benares?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) and (b). The Government of India have no information but will make inquiries, if the Honourable Member so desires.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I do desire that information, Sir, if you please.

RECRUITMENT OF SWEEPERS FOR MAURITIUS.

562. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) With reference to my starred question No. 1373 of the 9th June, 1924, are the Government aware that in the statement which was laid on the table on the 8th September, 1924, it is mentioned that "122 sweepers were recruited under special orders"?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the "Special orders" referred to above; and also state under what rule or notification this special class of people were recruited?

(c) Is it not a fact that the notice entitled "*Jazira Mauritius meo Kashtkaron ki Zaurat*" referred only to the recruitment of agriculturists (Kashtkars), belonging to respectable families (Moaziz Khandan)?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) These sweepers were recruited by the Emigration Commissioner in accordance with instructions received by him from the Government of Mauritius. The Government of India do not possess a copy of these orders and are therefore unable to lay them on the table of the House. As these sweepers come in the category of "unskilled labourers" their emigration was regulated by the Government of India Notification No. 232-Emi., dated the 22nd March 1923.

(c) Yes; that particular notice referred only to the recruitment of agriculturists.

RETURN OF INDIAN EMIGRANTS FROM MAURITIUS.

563. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a message published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated the 3rd January, 1925, to the effect that 513 Indian emigrants are returning to this country from Mauritius in the first week of January?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if in this batch there are any, who were recruited by the Benares depôt, under Notification No. 282-Emi., dated Delhi, the 22nd March, 1923? If the reply is in the affirmative will the Government state the reasons of their return?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The Government of India have no information on the subject.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I want to know why the Government of India do not possess information on this important subject?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I think the Honourable Member does not realise the nature of the question that he has put. Here are a number of emigrants who are returning from Mauritius. Does the Honourable Member suggest that the Government of India should go round to every returning emigrant and ask him what was the reason for his return to this country? If so, I most respectfully beg to differ from him.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: That is not my meaning. Have not the Government of India received any information from their officers in Mauritius in regard to the emigrants who have returned to this country?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Government of India have none of their officers stationed in Mauritius.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Have the Government of India received no further intimation as to why these emigrants have returned?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: No, Sir.

RETURN OF INDIAN EMIGRANTS FROM MAURITIUS.

564. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any report or return in respect of the emigrants have been received by the Government of India from Mauritius in accordance with section 12 of the Notification No. 282-Emi., dated Delhi, the 22nd March, 1923?

(b) If the answer be in affirmative, will the Government be pleased to publish the same?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) No report has so far been called for from the Government of Mauritius.

(b) Does not arise.

PROTECTOR OF IMMIGRANTS IN MAURITIUS.

565. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is there any Protector of Immigrants in Mauritius?

(b) If so, what is his name, pay and antecedents?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) Yes.

(b) Mr. B. A. Francis, whose annual pay is Rs. 12,000 with a personal allowance of Rs. 1,000. For his antecedents, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to page 625 of the Colonial Office List, 1924.

RESUMPTION OF EMIGRATION TO MAURITIUS.

566. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they have received any representation from the Government in Mauritius, for the resumption of emigration to Mauritius after the closure of the Benares depôt?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the communications on the subject?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

ALLEGED MALPRACTICES OF LABOUR RECRUITERS.

567. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** With reference to my starred question No. 1378 of the 9th June, 1924, regarding an article in the *Servant* of 10th April 1924, in which an account has appeared regarding the way in which a number of poor people were booked and brought to Calcutta for being sent to Mauritius, will the Government be pleased to state whether the statements made therein were substantially correct; if so, what steps were taken to bring the alleged offenders to book, and to prevent a recurrence of such incidents?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The inquiry made into the allegations referred to in the article published in the *Servant* of the 10th April, 1924, showed that they were incorrect. The second part of the question does not therefore arise.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: What is the correct version of the incident that is referred to in the paper?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The inquiry was made by the Government of Bengal and their report to us was that the facts as stated were not correct.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I want to know the correct version?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: As far as I remember, the correct version was that these people came to Calcutta fully cognisant of the condition of recruitment and were dissuaded by their friends from going to Mauritius.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Is there any evidence in the possession of Government to show that these people were dissuaded by their friends from going to Mauritius?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: That, Sir, is the report of the Government of Bengal.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of this report on which they have based their conclusion?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: No, Sir.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Why not, Sir?

TANGANYIKA ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE OF GUJRATI FOR KEEPING TRADE ACCOUNTS.

568. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the new Ordinance in the mandated territory of Tanganyika, prohibiting the use of the Gujrati language for keeping trade accounts?

(b) Do the Government know that 90 per cent. of the trade of Tanganyika is in the hands of the Indians?

(c) Do the Government further know that the majority of the Indian traders of Tanganyika have their central offices in Bombay where all their accounts are kept in Gujrati?

(d) What steps if any have been taken by the Government in this connection?

(e) Is it a fact that when the territory was in the hands of the German Government no bans of such kind existed against the Indians?

(f) Is it a fact that French traders have been allowed to keep their account in French?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas' question No. 430 on the same subject.

LEGISLATION IN TRINIDAD REGARDING INDIAN MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES.

569. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Is it a fact that an Act called the "Indian Marriages and Divorces Act" has been or is about to be passed in Trinidad, and will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of it on the table?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Government of India are making inquiries.

POSITION OF INDIANS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE EMPIRE.

570. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken in the various Colonies to give effect to the following resolution passed at the Imperial Conference 1921:

"This conference reaffirms that each community of the British Commonwealth should enjoy complete control over the composition of its own population by restricting immigration from any of the other communities, but recognises that there is incongruity between the position of India as an equal member of the Empire and the existence of the disabilities upon British Indians lawfully domiciled in some parts of the Empire and this Conference, therefore, is of opinion that in the interest of the solidarity of the Commonwealth, it is desirable that the rights of such Indians to citizenship should be recognised."

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to a booklet entitled the Proceedings of the Imperial Conference 1923 regarding the position of Indians in other parts of the Empire, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

RECRUITING AGENTS EMPLOYED BY THE EMIGRATION DÉPÔT, BENARES.

571. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) With reference to my starred question No. 1373 of the 9th June 1924, regarding Emigration Agents, is it a fact that the Emigration Rule 7 (2) says "that the agents whenever possible, be men who have actually worked in the country for which they are employed?"

(b) Is it a fact that none of the recruiting agents employed by the Emigration Dépôt, Benares, were Mauritius returned men?

(c) Was any attempt made to get such men? If not, why not?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) and (b). The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) Under the rules the Emigration Commissioner had full power to appoint the Agents. Government are therefore unable to answer this part of the question.

ACTION TAKEN AGAINST AGENTS FOR FAILURE TO ENLIST THE PRESCRIBED NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS.

572. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** With reference to my starred question No. 1373 of the 9th June 1924, will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, were taken by the Emigration Commissioner if an emigration agent failed to enlist the prescribed number of emigrants?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Government of India have no information on the subject.

FEES RECOVERED UNDER THE EMIGRATION ACT.

573. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount of fees recovered from the Emigration Agent or Emigration Commissioner, under Rule 50 of the Emigration Act (Act VII of 1922) and how the money is utilised?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply given to Mr. N. M. Joshi's question No. 510 on the same subject.

GRIEVANCES OF INDIANS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

574. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Government of India to have the grievances of the Indians of British Guiana as brought to light in the report of the British Guiana deputation, removed?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar's question No. 305 on the same subject.

CREMATION OF THE DEAD BODIES OF HINDUS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

575. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that the Hindus constitute 32 per cent. of the total population of British Guiana.

(b) Is it a fact that they are not allowed to cremate their dead bodies?

(c) Do not the Government know that Dr. Wharton is an influential Indian Christian of the Colony?

(d) Is it a fact that he applied for permission to cremate the dead body of his father who was a Hindu, and was not allowed to do so?

(e) Have any steps been taken by the Government to arrange for the cremation of the dead bodies of the Hindus? If not, why not?

(f) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the remarks made in the majority report of the deputation in this connection that the immigration department was lacking in sympathetic understanding of the Indian sentiment and feeling?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) and (e). The Government of India understand that there is no legislative prohibition against cremation and the British Guiana deputation gave an assurance last year that wherever Hindus had any difficulty in the matter, the position would be satisfactorily adjusted. An inquiry will be made as to whether effect has been given to this assurance.

(c), (d) and (f). Yes

REFUSAL OF A PASSPORT TO DR. SUDHINDRA BOSE, A PROFESSOR IN THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.

576. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that Dr. Sudhindra Bose, a professor in the State University of Iowa (America) has not been allowed to come to India?

(b) Is it a fact that he was denied a passport in 1920 by the India Office, on the ground that he was naturalised in America?

(c) Is it a fact that a man naturalised in America cannot be allowed to come to India?

(d) Is there any proof of suspicion against Dr. Sudhindra Bose?

(e) If so, what?

(f) Have the Government of India been consulted in the matter?

(g) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the communications which passed between the India Office and the Government of India on the subject?

Mr. H. Tonkinson: I invite attention to the reply which the Home Member recently gave to a similar question asked by Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: Part (f) of my question has not been answered, which runs as follows: "Have the Government of India been consulted in the matter?"

This question I think was not answered previously?

Mr. H. Tonkinson: I am afraid I must ask for notice.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: This question is already down on the paper. What further notice can I give?

COLONIAL PAPERS SUBSCRIBED FOR BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

577. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the Colonial papers subscribed for by the Government of India?

Is the *Hindi of Jacobs*, South Africa, subscribed by the Government?

Mr. H. Tonkinson: I lay on the table a statement showing the Colonial papers taken by the Government of India.

Statement of Colonial papers taken by the Government of India.

1. The Cape Argus, Cape Town.
2. The Sunday Times, Johannesburg, Transvaal.
3. The East Africa Standard, Nairobi.
4. The Indian Opinion, Natal.
5. The Democrat, Nairobi.
6. The Ceylon Daily News, Colombo.
7. The Straits Times, Singapore.
8. The Malay Mail, Kuala Lumpur.
9. The Mauritius Indian Times, Port Louis.
10. The Cape Indian, Cape Town.
11. The Fiji Times and Herald, Suva, Fiji.
12. The Pacific Age, Suva, Fiji.
13. The South African Irrigation Department Magazine.

The *Hindi of Jacobs*, South Africa, is not taken by the Government of India, but a complimentary copy is received in the Department of Education, Health and Lands.

PROSCRIPTION OF CERTAIN BOOKS.

578. ***Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether and why any of the following books have been proscribed, viz:

- Hyndman's "British rule in India."
- Hyndman's "Civil Service."
- Hyndman's "Awakening of the East."
- Bryan's "British rule in India."
- Lala Lajpat Rai's "Britain's debt to India."
- Manabendra Ray's "Evolution of Economic Organisations of India"
- Sudhindra Bose's "British Rule in India."
- Labour Monthly Magazine edited by R. Palme Dutt?

Mr. H. Tonkinson: Of the publications mentioned the following have been prohibited entry into India under the Sea Customs Act as their circulation is not in the public interest:

1. Hyndman's "The Awakening of Asia".
2. Bryan's "British Rule in India".
3. M. N. Roy's "Evolution of Economic Organisations of India."
4. Lala Lajpat Rai's "England's debt to India".
5. Labour Monthly Magazine edited by R. Palme Dutt.

The forfeiture of books, etc., under section 99-A of the Criminal Procedure Code is a matter dealt with by the Local Governments.

Mr. Chaman Lall: May I ask whether those responsible for prohibiting these books have ever read any one of them?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Do Government compensate the subscribers of these magazines for the copies which are prohibited?

Mr. H. Tonkinson: No, Sir.

TRANSFER OF THE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY OFFICES TO CALCUTTA.

579. ***Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if the various head or other offices of the O. and R. Railway are shortly going to be transferred to Calcutta and other places outside the U. P. as a result of the proposed amalgamation of the O. and R. Railway with the E. I. Railway?
- (b) Are the Government aware of the unrest and anxiety caused to the subordinate staff employed in the above offices of the O. and R. Railway by the proposed transfer of offices referred to in (a) above?
- (c) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Government kindly state if they have considered the advisability of leaving such of the offices as could easily be run from Lucknow; and if they are prepared to consider the advisability of absorbing such of the employees who belong to Northern India in the new Divisions to be formed and located in the U. P.?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) As the result of the proposed amalgamation certain of the administrative offices of the present Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway will be closed down.

(b) Government have received no representation regarding this.

(c) It is not proposed to transfer from Lucknow such of the offices as under the reorganisation could suitably be retained there, and in any changes which have to be made in the public interest Government will see that the fullest possible consideration is given to the convenience of the staff.

LOCATION OF THE TRAFFIC AUDIT BRANCH OF THE AMALGAMATED OUDH AND ROHILKHAND AND EAST INDIAN RAILWAYS AT LUCKNOW.

580. ***Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) If it is a fact that the B. B. and C. I. Railway whose head offices are located at Bombay runs its traffic audit branch from Ajmere and is it also a fact that some years back the E. I. Railway with its head office at Calcutta used to do so at Jamalpur?
- (b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, are the Government prepared to locate the entire traffic audit branch of the two amalgamated railways (viz., O. and R. Railway and E. I. Railway) at Lucknow and if not to state any objections they have?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) Yes.

(b) The question is under consideration by the Auditor-General.

TOTAL SANCTIONED STRENGTH OF OFFICERS OF THE LOCO., CARRIAGE AND WAGON DEPARTMENTS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

581. ***Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

The total sanctioned strength of officers of the Loco., Carriage and Wagon Departments on the State Railways and how many of such officers are statutory natives of India (i) drawing pay at Rs. 800 per month or over, and (ii) drawing pay at less than Rs. 800 per month?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government have not the information but will make inquiries.

THE CIVIL LINES POST OFFICE, AGRA.

582. ***Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra:** Are the Government aware that the Civil Lines Post Office which was situated on the Drummond Road, in Bagh Muzaffar Khan, has been removed from January, 1923?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: Yes.

THE CIVIL LINES POST OFFICE, AGRA.

583. ***Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra:** Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact:

- (a) That the previous locality of the Civil Lines Post Office was in the vicinity of Agra and St. John's Colleges and their hostels?
- (b) That the residents of Bagh Muzaffar Khan number about 3,000 consisting mostly of the educated classes such as doctors, professors, students and other public servants?
- (c) That Bagh Muzaffar Khan has got a publishing house and publishing company?
- (d) That the present locality of the Post Office is in an out of the way place far away from the inhabited area?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) It is reported to be centrally situated in respect of the area served by it.

THE CIVIL LINES POST OFFICE, AGRA.

584. ***Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra:** Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact:

- (a) That the Secretary of the Agra Trade Association pointed out to the Postmaster General of the U. P. that the old house was far better and more spacious than the one now occupied?
- (b) That the portion of the old house occupied by the Postmaster for his personal use was not shown to him on the occasion of his last visit?
- (c) That a joint petition signed by a large number of the residents as well as by the Principals of the Agra and St. John's Colleges protesting against the removal of the Civil Lines Post Office was sent to the Postmaster General of the U. P. with no effect?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: (a) and (b). Government have no information.

(c) A joint petition dated the 1st August 1922 was received by the Postmaster-General, who then looked into the matter personally and decided that the office should be removed to the present building on the 1st January 1923.

THE CIVIL LINES POST OFFICE, AGRA.

585. ***Pandit Harkaran Nath Misra:** (1) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact:

- (a) That the Secretary of the Agra Trade Association has pointed out to the Postmaster General, the U. P., that the residents of the Wazirpura have nothing to do with the Civil Lines Post Office and that they transact their business at the Civil Courts Post Office, which is nearer and more convenient to them?
- (b) That the Secretary of the Agra Trade Association pointed out to the Postmaster General of the U. P. that the proprietor of the old building was willing to provide a shade to remove the objection of the Postmaster?

(c) That the Postmaster's statement that the Principals of the Colleges have no further complaint has been contradicted by the Principals themselves and this fact has been brought to the notice of the Postmaster-General?

(2) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of shifting the Civil Lines Post Office to the old building or to some other building in Bagh Muzaffar Khan convenient to the residents of that locality and to the staff and students of the two Colleges?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: (1) (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No.

(2) It is not considered advisable to move the Agra Civil Lines Post Office to Bag Muzaffar Khan. The question of opening a separate post office in this locality is, however, under consideration. I may add, Sir, for the information of the Honourable Pandit that I have looked into the matter personally and decided that his complaint is well justified and a post office will be opened in the place he desires.

CONSTRUCTION OF WAITING ROOMS OR SHEDS AT CHATNA AND JHANTIPAHARI STATIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

586. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that there are no waiting rooms or waiting sheds for passengers at Chatna and Jhantipahari stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway? If so, do the Government propose to take steps to have waiting rooms or sheds for passengers constructed at these stations?

SHEDS FOR FEMALE PASSENGERS AT CHATNA AND JHANTIPAHARI STATIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

587. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that there are no resting places for female passengers at Jhantipahari and Chatna stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway? If so, do the Government propose to take steps to have sheds for female passengers constructed at these stations?

CONSTRUCTION OF GOODS SHEDS AT CHATNA AND JHANTIPAHARI STATIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

588. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that there are no goods sheds at Chatna and Jhantipahari stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway and goods are left on the platform without even any tarpaulin cover to protect the goods from sun and rain for several days, causing heavy damage to the owners of goods. If so, do the Government propose to take steps to build goods sheds or godowns at these stations?

ENLARGEMENT OF THE GOODS GODOWN AT BANKURA STATION ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

593. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that the goods godown at Bankura station on the Bengal Nagpur Railway is too small for the goods and very often goods are kept outside the goods godown for want of accommodation? If so, do the Government propose to take steps for extending the godown?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I propose to answer questions 586, 587, 588 and 593 together as the reply is the same to all four questions.

The Government have no information. They will forward copy of the questions and of their answers to the Agent for such action as he thinks necessary.

NUMBER OF PASSENGERS TRAVELLING TO AND FROM CHATNA AND JHANTIPAHARI STATIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

589. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** What is the number of passengers daily coming to and going from Jhantipahari and Chatna stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The average number of passengers coming to and going from Chatna and Jhantipahari stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway daily during the year 1923-24 was approximately 106 and 65 and 100 and 69, respectively.

QUANTITY OF GOODS EXPORTED FROM CHATNA AND JHANTIPAHARI STATIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

590. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** What is the quantity of goods exported from Chatna and Jhantipahari stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

Mr. G. G. Sim: The total quantity of goods booked from Chatna and Jhantipahari stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway during the year 1923-24, was 2,654 and 6,769 tons, respectively.

SHORTAGE OF WAGONS AT CHATNA AND JHANTIPAHARI STATIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

591. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that goods are often left on the platforms for want of wagons at Chatna and Jhantipahari stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

It is a fact that there is no regularity in the supply of wagons for carriage of goods from these stations? If so, do the Government propose to take steps to ensure a regular supply of wagons for carriage of goods from these stations?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government have no information, but copies of the question and answer will be forwarded to the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, who is competent to deal with the matter.

DISTANCE BETWEEN THE WAITING SHED BOOKING OFFICE AT BANKURA STATION ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

592. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that the waiting sheds for the third and intermediate class passengers at Bankura is situated at a distance from the booking office for the third and intermediate class passengers and they have to cross and recross the overbridge for purchase of tickets, which is generally done 10 or 15 minutes before train time, causing great inconvenience? If so, do the Government propose to take steps to have either the booking office removed near the waiting sheds or the waiting shed removed near the booking office?

SITUATION OF THE PARCEL OFFICE AT BANKURA STATION ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

594. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Are the Government aware that Bankura exports a large quantity of Bellmetal ware and the situation of the parcel booking office being on the other side of the overbridge, great inconvenience is experienced by the merchants for carriage of these Bellmetal wares over the overbridge?

If so, do the Government propose to take steps for shifting the parcel booking office near the third class booking office for the convenience of the merchants?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I propose to reply to questions Nos. 592 and 594 together. Government have no information, but the matter will be brought to the notice of the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway.

LIGHTING OF THE PLATFORMS AT CHATNA AND JHANTIPAHARI STATIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

595. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Is it a fact that the station platforms at Chatna and Jhantipahari on the Bengal Nagpur Railway are not lighted at train times at night although two trains stop at these stations at night? If so, do the Government propose to take steps to have the platforms of these stations lighted at train time?

Mr. G. G. Sim: This is essentially a matter to be dealt with by the Agent of the railway and copies of the question and answer will be sent to him.

THE LEPER PROBLEM IN INDIA.

596. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the leper problem is a provincial or an Imperial subject? If the former, will the Government be pleased to take charge of it as an Imperial subject?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The leper problem, as part of public health, is a provincial transferred subject. Government do not propose to take charge of it as an Imperial subject.

THE POST OFFICE GUARANTEE FUND.

597. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the rules of the Post Office Guarantee Fund which were framed at its start, and the present rules and to state the object of the fund at the start, and its object at the present time and the amount contributed respectively by the class of postal officials, the amount, if any, contributed by the employees of the Telegraph Department and by the Government to the Fund?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing (i) the balance at credit in each year since the amalgamation of the Telegraph Department, (ii) the amount paid to the postal employees, (iii) to the telegraph employees for purposes other than for the interests of the subscribers demanded and travelling expenses paid for medical examination for postal life insurance?

(c) Is it a fact that the fund has been spent for any objects other than that for which the subscribers as a body were not interested? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for so doing. Is it a fact that telegraph employees have been allowed to benefit by the fund although they did not subscribe to it? If so, will the Government be pleased to state reasons for the same?

(d) Is the Post Office Insurance Fund working at a loss? If not, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for paying the travelling allowances for medical examination for Post Office Insurance from the Guarantee Fund instead of the Post Office Insurance Fund?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they intend to convert the balance shown at hand in 1922-23 and held in the 3½, 4, 5, and 5½ per cent. securities into 6 per cent. so as to give the Guarantee Fund an enhanced rate of interest? If not, the reasons for not doing so?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: The information required by the Honourable Member has been called for and will be supplied to him as soon as it is received.

INCOME CREDITED TO THE POST OFFICE FROM THE POST OFFICE INSURANCE FUND, ETC.

598. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of income credited to the post office account from the non-postal branches of the Post Office Insurance Fund, receipt of salt revenue, sale of quinine, payment of Indian military pensions and Post Office Cash Certificates?

Sir Geoffrey Clarke: The note on page 3 of the Budget Estimate for the year 1924-25 gives the required information as regards Saving Bank, Cash Certificates, Postal Life Insurance, Army Mobilisation Stores and Customs duty collected through the Post Office.

For salt transactions the Post Office charges a commission of 2 annas per cent. subject to a minimum of 10 annas per indent. This amount is paid by traders and not by any Government Department.

For payment of military pensions, the Post Office charges the Military Department 12 annas for every Rs. 100.

The Department does not get any credit on account of quinine sales. Postmasters get a small commission from Local Governments.

UPPER AND LOWER DIVISIONS OF THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYED UNDER THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

599. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Is it a fact that before 1913, there was no classification as upper and lower in the clerical establishment under the Accountant-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Calcutta?

(b) Is it a fact that the entire lower division work as defined to-day was strongly recommended by the several Deputy Accountants-General to be classed as upper in their letter Nos. Calcutta—1279-A. G.-G., dated 21st January 1920, Delhi—E.84, dated 24th January 1920, Nagpur—G.-1377, dated 17th January 1920, and Madras—G. M.-3708, dated 17th February 1920? If so, why should the lower division not be abolished?

(c) Is it a fact that some of the clerks in the lower division are still performing the work classed for upper division while drawing lower division pay? If so, where is the line of demarcation between the upper and the lower division?

REFERENCE CLERKS IN OFFICES UNDER THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

600. ***Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Is it a fact that the reference clerks in the offices under the A. G. P. and T. are placed in the lower division with a pay of Rs. 40 to 80 while the reference clerks of other account offices are placed in the time-scale of pay Rs. 60 to Rs. 230? If so, what is the reason for this differential treatment?

(b) Is it a fact that there are no upper and lower divisions in account offices other than the offices for the audit of P. and T. accounts? If so, why this distinction?

(c) Is it a fact that many men with University qualifications including some graduates have been placed in the lower grade, while there are lots of unpassed hands in the upper division? If so, why should the former be not classed in the upper grade?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I propose to answer question No. 599 and question No. 600 together. Government are inquiring into the matter, and a reply will be given to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally: May I know what is the objection to answering the questions here in the House after the information is received? Many Honourable Members would like to know what the answers are. If the answers are communicated to the Honourable Member privately, other Members do not know what the answers are.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I do not think the House would be greatly enlightened by hearing the answer to this question when it is received.

COLLECTION BY THE RAILWAYS OF TERMINAL TAX ON PASSENGER FARES.

601. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government be pleased to say:

- (1) if any of the Railways in India have been collecting terminal tax on passenger fares at any of the stations?
- (2) what percentage of collections do the Railways take as cost of the work?
- (3) if the Nasik Municipality had asked the Railway Administration or the Government either direct or through the Local Government for collection of the passenger terminal tax at the Nasik railway station about 3 years before?
- (4) if so, what considerations led the Railway or the Government to refuse the collection on their behalf?
- (5) will Government be pleased to consider such cases and arrange to give the facilities desired to such local bodies as apply for them?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Railway Administrations are being asked to supply the information required and when it is received it will be sent to the Honourable Member.

LIFE SAVING APPLIANCES RULES.

602. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the new rules relating to the life-saving appliances to be carried on board ships which have been made by the Board of Trade in England and which are expected to come into force on the 1st July 1925?

(b) Do the Government propose to take into consideration the question of making similar rules applicable to ships registered in British India?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Yes.

(b) The Board of Trade life-saving appliances rules are applied to ships registered in British India except in regard to Native Passenger and Pilgrim Ships for which special rules issued by the Government of India are in force. The question of revising those rules is under consideration.

EXPENDITURE ON THE BRITISH LEGATION AT KABUL.

603. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose:** Will the Government state if any burden is imposed on the finances of India for the cost of maintaining the British Legation at Kabul?

Mr. Denys Bray: For the present Indian revenues contribute the whole of the expenses.

ILL-TREATMENT OF BRITISH INDIAN SUBJECTS IN CEYLON.

604. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the letter addressed to the Editor of the *Englishman* by Mr. D. N. Bonnerjee and published on the 8th December last about the ill-treatment accorded to British Indian subjects who may happen to land in Ceylon?

(b) Have the Government of India taken any action to prevent such harsh treatment of British Indian subjects who go to Ceylon and to protect British Indian subjects of His Majesty?

Mr. H. Tonkinson: The Government of India have seen the letter. They have received no representation from Mr. Banerjee but the matter is engaging attention.

RELIEF GRANTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS ON ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT FLOODS.

605. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) Was any relief asked for by the Government of Madras in consideration of the great floods in Madras?

(b) If so, has any relief been granted?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a) Yes. The Government of Madras applied for:

- (1) a grant of Rs. 15 lakhs from Central Revenues;
- (2) a loan of Rs. 20 lakhs to finance the Provincial Loans Account, and
- (3) a grant of Rs. 1½ lakhs from the Indian People's Famine Trust.

(b) The request for a grant from Central Revenues has been rejected while that for a loan has been granted. A grant of Rs. 1½ lakhs has also been made from the Indian People's Famine Trust.

CONNECTION OF INDIA AND CEYLON BY RAILWAY.

606. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) Is there any scheme before the Government of India for connecting India and Ceylon by railways?

(b) Is the scheme likely to be carried into effect in the near future?

Mr. G. G. Sim: There is no such scheme under the consideration of Government at present.

BRITISH TRADE AGENTS AT GYANTSE AND YATUNG.

607. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) What are the duties of the British Trade Agents at Gyantse and Yatung?

(b) What are the qualifications of Mr. D. MacDonald, the British Trade Agent at Yatung for being appointed the Trade Agent at Yatung?

(c) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the news published in the *Englishman* of the 9th October 1924 that Mr. D. MacDonald has been endeavouring to convert to Christianity Tibetan travellers passing through Gyantse? Is this true?

(d) What is the pay of the Trade Agents at Gyantse and Yatung and the cost of the establishments there?

(e) Is any contribution made by the British Government towards the cost of maintaining British Trade Agents at Yatung and Gyantse?

Mr. Denys Bray: (a) The duties of the British Trade Agents at Gyantse and Yatung are to further Indian trade in Tibet and generally to protect the interests of British subjects.

(d) Mr. MacDonald has an intimate knowledge of the Tibetan people and language, qualifications, which at the time of his appointment were very rare.

(c) Government's attention was called to the article. The allegation is untrue.

(d) The pay varies with the substantive pay of the incumbents. The pay of the present British Trade Agent at Gyantse who happens to be an Indian Civilian is Rs. 1,750 per mensem. The annual cost of the establishment is approximately Rs. 24,060.

The pay of the present British Trade Agent at Yatung is Rs. 750 per mensem. The annual cost of the establishment is approximately Rs. 19,350.

(e) No.

EMPLOYMENT OF INDIAN TROOPS IN CHINA.

608. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) Will the Government state the number of Indian soldiers including followers in Independent China and British China and to which regiments they belong?

(b) Is every pice of the cost of maintenance of those Indian soldiers paid by the British Exchequer?

(c) Is any portion of the expense borne by the Indian Exchequer?

(d) Did any casualty occur among the Indian troops during the last insurrection in Independent China?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) There are no Indian troops employed in what my friend means when he refers to Independent China. One Indian Infantry battalion which is relieved periodically by another battalion from the Indian Army is employed in Hong Kong and the numbers are as follows:

Indian ranks	...	...	...	745
Followers	...	...	...	56
Medical personnel	...	...	...	8

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There were no Indian troops there.

EXPORT OF MONKEYS.

609. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the news published in the *Englishman* of the 5th January about the shipment of monkeys from India to foreign countries?

(b) If the news is true, are the Government prepared to take steps to put a stop to such shipment?

(c) Are the Government aware that this news has caused great indignation among the Hindu community?

Mr. H. Tonkinson: The Government of India have already instituted inquiries in the matter from Local Governments from whom complete replies have not yet been received.

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION.

610. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose:** (a) Is any contribution made by the Government of India towards the Indian Historical Records Commission which meets yearly?

(b) Is the conference attended by Government officials?

(c) If so, do they draw pay during their absence from headquarters?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: (a), (b) and (c). The reply is in the affirmative.

Mr. K. Venkataramana Reddi: May I know, Sir, what exactly are the duties of this Historical Records Commission?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: The Commission visits various parts of India and makes an examination into the historical material in the way of records, etc., available in different parts of India. At the meetings of the Commission papers are read by scholars and *savants* on matters pertaining to historical research which are of the greatest interest and value.

Mr. K. Venkataramana Reddi: May I know the names of the members of the Commission?

Mr. J. W. Bhore: I must ask for notice of that question; I cannot give the names offhand.

TRAINING OF INDIANS IN NAVAL ENGINEERING.

611. ***Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** Will the Government please state what arrangements if any exist at present for the proper training of Indians in all branches of Naval Engineering?

Mr. M. E. Makan * (Bombay Northern Division: Muhammadan Rural):

جناب عالی

مجھے افسوس ہے کہ میں انگریزی زبان سے ناواقف ہوں اسلئے میں آپ سے درخواست کرتا ہوں کہ آپ مجھکو اس ملک کی دیسی زبان میں تقریر کرنے کی اجازت دیں۔

جناب عالی۔ بجٹ کی تفصیل سے کسی شخص کو اتفاق ہو یا نہ ہو لیکن جس قابلیت اور محنت سے انڈیئل فائنانس ممبر صاحب نے بجٹ کو تیار کیا ہے اس کی تعریف کئے بغیر میں نہیں رہ سکتا۔

اگرچہ بجٹ میں آمدنی و خرچ دونوں کو برابر کرنے کی انڈیئل فائنانس ممبر نے بہت کوشش کی ہے لیکن ایک کاروباری آدمی کی نظر سے جب میں بجٹ کو دیکھتا ہوں تو میں خیال کرتا ہوں کہ خرچ پھر بھی آمدنی سے زیادہ ہے۔ کوئی کاروباری فرضی اور غیر مستقل آمدنی کی امید پر خرچ کا چٹھا نہیں بناسکتا۔ جو کوئی فرضی آمدنی کے بھروسے پر زیادہ خرچ کرتا ہے۔ اوسکو ایک نہ ایک روز بہت نقصان اٹھانے کا اندیشہ رہتا ہے۔

مجھے افسوس اس بات کا ہے کہ انڈیئل فائنانس ممبر صاحب ہندوستان کی غریب رعایا پر سے کوئی ٹیکس در نہ نہیں کوسکتے۔ جب تک خرچ میں اور زیادہ کفایت نہ کیجائے گی ٹیکسوں میں کمی نہیں ہو سکتی۔ ہندوستان کی غریب رعایا ٹیکسوں کے بوجھ سے دبی جاتی ہے۔ لاکھوں آدمی ہمارے ملک میں ایسے ہیں جن کو چوبیس گھنٹوں میں ایک مرتبہ کھانا نصیب ہوتا ہے اور لاکھوں ایسے بھی ہیں جنکے بدن پر سوائے چٹھروں کے کچھ نظر نہیں آتا۔ ایسے ملک کے واسطے ایک سو کھرب روپے سے زیادہ خرچ کا بجٹ پیش کرنا زیادہ تعجب کی بات ہے۔

فوج پر جو 10 کھرب سے زیادہ خرچ کیا جاتا ہے۔ وہ ملک کی آمدنی سے بہت زیادہ ہے۔ ہندوستان کے آدمیوں کے پاس تو ہتھیار تک نہیں۔ نہ انکو لونا آتا ہے اور دوسرے ملک سے بھی کوئی لڑائی کا اندیشہ نہیں ہے۔ ایسی حالت میں فوج پر 10 کھرب سے زیادہ روپیہ خرچ کرنا سراسر ملک پر فضول بار ڈالنا ہے۔

*Vide p. 1218 of Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol. IV

وزیرستان اور دوسرے سرحدی مقامات کو قبضے میں رکھنے کی کوشش سے فوج پر اتنا روپیہ خرچ کرنا ہوتا ہے۔ اگر یہ مقامات جیسے کسی قسم کی آمدنی نہ تو ہوتی ہے اور نہ آئندہ ہونے کی امید ہے افغانستان کی گورنمنٹ کو دے دئے جائیں تو ہمیشہ کا جھگڑا ختم ہو جائے۔ اور فوجی خرچ آدھے سے بھی کم ہو جائے۔

مجھ کو اس بات سے خوشی نہیں ہوئی کہ پٹرول کا محصول کم کیا گیا ہے۔ اس لئے کہ پٹرول صرف امیر آدمیوں کے استعمال میں آتا ہے۔ اور غریبوں کو سستا ہونے سے کچھ فائدہ نہیں ہوگا اس کے بجائے اگر کپڑے پر سے محصول کم کیا جاتا یا نمک کا محصول بالکل معاف کر دیا جاتا تو مجھے زیادہ خوشی حاصل ہوتی۔ اب میں چاہتا ہوں کہ نمک کا محصول سوا روپیہ کی شرح سے کر دیا جائے۔ اور جن روپیوں کی بجٹ ہو وہ سوائے اس کام کے کسی اور کام میں نہ لگائے جائیں۔

اگر گورنمنٹ کو ضرورت ہو تو میری یہ رائے ہے کہ افیم اور مسکرات پر محصول اور کچھ زیادہ بڑھا دیا جائے تاکہ نمک کا محصول معاف کر دیا جائے۔ اسلئے کہ نمک آدمیوں اور جانوروں سب کے استعمال میں آتا ہے اور موقع پر بطور ”کھاد“ کے بھی کاشتکاری کے کام میں استعمال ہوتا ہے۔

میں افسوس کے ساتھ دیکھتا ہوں کہ تجارت کا کام بہت مدت سے مدہم ہو رہا ہے جن ٹیکسوں کی وجہ سے ملکی تجارت کو نقصان پہنچ رہا ہے ان پر سے ایک دم محصول دور کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔

ملک میں تمام شورش اور جوش زیادہ تر بیکاری اور افلاس کی وجہ سے ہے۔ گورنمنٹ کا سب سے بڑا فرض بیکاروں کو کام سے لگانا اور افلاس کو دور کرنا ہے۔ اسلئے اس بات کی ضرورت ہے کہ فوج میں اور دوسرے صیغوں میں بجائے انگریزوں کے ہندوستان کے آدمی لگائے جائیں۔

گورنمنٹ کی قوت اور وقعت رعایا کے دلنکڑ ہاتھ میں لینے سے ہوتی ہے نہ کہ توپ اور ہوائی جہاز کے ذریعہ سے۔ اگر برٹش گورنمنٹ اپنی قوت اور نیک نامی چاہتی ہے تو اسے چاہئے کہ لوگوں کے دلوں کو ہاتھ میں لے۔ اور جلد سے جلد ان کی بلچینی اور بیکواری دور کرے۔

ENGLISH TRANSLATION.*

Mr. M. E. Makan (Bombay Northern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I very much regret for my ignorance of the English language, and therefore beg you to allow me to deliver my speech in the language of the land.

Sir, whether any person approves of the details of the Budget or does not, I, personally, cannot refrain from commending the laudable labour and effort, with which the Honourable the Finance Member has prepared the Budget.

The Finance Member has endeavoured to do his best to bring the income and the expenditure to an equilibrium; but if we survey the situation from the standpoint of a business man, we find that the expenditure still exceeds the income. No businessman, on merely imaginary and fluctuating income, can prepare his Budget for expenditure; and a person who, relying upon such an income, indulges in an expenditure that is in excess of his income, is ever exposed to some extreme form of embarrassment.

The most regrettable feature of the Budget is that the Honourable Member has not been able to relieve the poor subjects of India from any of the taxes: unless and until some economy is observed in the expenditure, no reduction can be brought about in the taxes; in fact the poor subjects of India are being crushed under the heavy pressure of taxation. There are hundreds of thousands of people in our country, who, in the course of twenty-four hours, are hardly able to find a single meal, and their bodies, if covered at all, are covered with rags. The introduction of a Budget proposing an expenditure of over hundred crores of rupees, for a country labouring under such miseries, is really amazing.

Taking into consideration the income of the country, the outlay of more than Rs. 60,00,00,000 over the Army is much too high. The Indians, in general, do not possess any arms, neither are they trained in the art of warfare; at the same time there is no apprehension of India being involved in a war with any foreign country: in these circumstances it appears to be extravagant to spend over sixty-three crores of rupees for the maintenance of the Army, and it is actually overburdening the nation without any real advantage in exchange.

This large amount is spent over the Army, because we are endeavouring to hold Waziristan and other Frontier districts in our possession. If this territory, from which we enjoy no present revenue, and where there is no prospect of obtaining any in the future, is handed over to the Government of Afghanistan, the doors against the perpetual source of trouble would be closed for ever, and the military expenditure would be reduced to less than half of the present charges on that score.

It has not afforded me any pleasure to find that a certain portion of the tax has been taken away from petrol, for the obvious reason that it is consumed by the rich, and the poor would not derive any benefit whatsoever. If, in place of it, the tax on piece-goods were reduced, or the additional tax on salt were entirely remitted, it would have been a happier alteration. Now, I desire that the Salt Tax should be fixed at the rate of Re. 1-4-0, and the surplus money should be devoted to this cause and no other.

* Vide p. 1218 of Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume IV.

In case the Government realises the necessity for raising some extra money, I am of opinion that the tax on opium and other intoxicants should be enhanced to enable the remission of the Salt Tax. Salt is a commodity used both by man and animals, and sometimes it serves the purpose of manure as well.

It is really distressing to note that Indian trade has long been subjected to depression; and it is highly important that the taxes injurious to it should be abolished at once.

The sole cause of disturbances and agitation in India appears to lie in unemployment and poverty: the first duty of the Government at present should be to endeavour to get employment for the unemployed and to remove poverty. Therefore, it is incumbent upon them to Indianise the Army and other departments with still greater rapidity.

The strength and prowess of a Government consist in gaining the goodwill of its subjects, and not in guns and air-ships. If the British Government desire to establish their power and prestige, they should make an effort to win over the true devotion of the people, and to remove the discontented and agitated feelings at the earliest opportunity.



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