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TO THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FOURTH SESSION OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL.

December 1925

Volume XXVI

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COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO THE GRIEVANCES OF NON-GAZETTED OFFICERS

1st April 1925] [Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib]

"I ask, therefore, that, in the interests of the non-gazetted services, a committee similar to the one indicated in this resolution be formed and their grievances enquired into and justice done to them."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"I move that the question be now put."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I will call upon the hon. Mover, Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, to reply and then upon the Government. If afterwards the House is willing that the debate should continue, other hon. Members may speak."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"With your permission, Mr. President, I wish to say that having seconded the resolution, I formally requested you, Sir yesterday that I might be given a chance of speaking on the motion to-day : one who had tabled a motion on the same subject which was also balloted. I am simply reminding you of it so that I may be allowed to speak on the subject."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"In the course of the remarks which I listened to with great interest and pleasure, the hon. the Finance Member complimented the non-gazetted officers upon their good fortune in securing a good advocate to plead for them. I should certainly have been glad if that expression of his had been followed by a ready willingness on his part to accept the motion which in his opinion was sought to be piloted by a good advocate. A good advocate, as he has described the Mover to be, is one who is able to win his case."

"Sir, the hon. the Finance Member took up the points in the order in which they were placed before the House and saw the force of some point. He characterised some points, to be good but laid stress upon the difficulties that will have to be overcome at one or two places. He placed before the House difficulties which in my humble opinion do not appear to be insurmountable. The hon. Member also stated that the question of raising the status or bettering the condition of the services was a matter within the competence of the Executive, and that it was part of their duties. Without meaning disrespect, without making any serious charge upon the Executive, I may say that because the case of the non-gazetted officers did not receive that amount of consideration which its intrinsic merits demanded at the hands of the Government, the non-official Members thought it necessary to table a motion so that their view points might be represented and to succeed in an attempt to strengthen the hands of the Executive making up its mind to constitute a committee to go into the question. As I stated yesterday, this resolution does not commit the Government to anything at this moment. It is not that we ask the Executive by means of this resolution to fling open the doors of the exchequer and dole out moneys in the immediate future. All that it lays stress upon is the appointment of a committee to investigate the question in all its aspects and come before the House with their well-considered recommendations. One argument of the hon. the Finance Member is much disappointing. He said that it was impossible in the nature of things to accept the composition of the committee. So far as I am able to see there is nothing intrinsically wrong or bad about it. The resolution requires that the committee shall consist of six members, two members of this Council. If two members happen to be elected from that they"

COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO THE GRIEVANCES OF NON-GAZETTED OFFICERS

[Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar]

[1st April 1925]

confidence of the House—two officers of the Government—it is perfectly open to the Government to choose any two officers—and likewise two representatives of the non-gazetted services. There is absolutely no reason to suppose that this body constituted as it is under the circumstances that I have just now mentioned is likely to take a very obstinate or wrong-headed view of the situation so as to embarrass the Government. No apprehension need be entertained on the ground that this body which is to come into being is likely to take up an attitude of hostility to Government. I refuse to believe that.

“I do not want to refer to all the points of detail. The hon. the Finance Member took up each point by itself and subjected it to a microscopic examination instead of taking all of them together and considering the cumulative effect of all. He has followed the practice which has recently been deprecated by Their Lordships of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In measuring the nature and the quality of the evidence, they recalculate the effort on the part of the judges of the High Courts to take up each item of evidence instead of considering the case as a whole. There is no doubt that these officers have a real grievance. The hon. the Finance Member said that if the pay of these officers were raised even by Rs. 5 it is likely that the total expenditure would come to about twenty lakhs, may be a little further and said it might be a crore of rupees. The extent of the demand, I may point out by way of answer, will very largely depend upon the extent of relief which the Government are prepared to accord in the light of the recommendations of the committee. All that the resolution wants is the constitution of a committee. Let the committee come up with certain proposals. It will still be open to the Government to take up each department by itself and examine the proposals carefully and if the Government thinks that in certain respects the demands are unreasonably high and extravagant the suggestion can of course be thrown out. On the other hand, if in certain respects the Government think that the recommendations are fair and moderate, they can give effect to them. On that account, there is nothing to prevent the Government from giving effect to the resolution. As I was listening to his speech, it struck me that the hon. the Finance Member was not altogether against the idea of any committee being constituted. For I was able to see almost every minute in his speech that the claims of the non-gazetted services really commanded his sympathy and he also in one portion of his speech said that it should not be understood that he was sympathetic in any way towards these services and that he was prepared to consider any reasonable suggestion of the committee.

“With these words, I request that this resolution may be carried.”

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—“Sir, I do not think I have very much to add to what I have said and to what hon. Members have said. In answer to my objection to the moving of resolutions on this subject, the hon. Member for the University has quoted the fact that questions are frequently asked in Parliament about service matters. I am not concerned with defending or condemning that practice, but I may mention that I have never objected on account of the asking of questions here on such matters though I must admit that I regard some of the questions asked as of a petty and trivial nature. Still I have always acted on the principle that if questions are asked, the Government should answer them.”

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DEMAND V—REGISTRATION

20th March 1925]

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—“Even the minimum or maximum fee or any intermediate fee is to be sanctioned and approved before it is levied.”

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“Until we attain full responsibility and when we are working this particular Act and when there are provisions in it which empower the Executive to levy fees or duties within a certain limit, we are entitled to do so. As far as this particular matter concerned, I submit it is within the limit prescribed in the schedule, and the Indian Registration Act gives the Executive the power to regulate rates according to the needs and conditions of the province. That has been done.”

“As for the general question that no taxes should be levied without the legislative sanction, there is no dispute, and in the case of any new tax which the Executive want to levy they must come before the legislature to obtain their sanction.”

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“So far as the principle is concerned, I understand the hon. the Minister for Education has no objection to bring any new scheme for levying fees before the legislature for their sanction. As for the registration fees and excise fees, these are enhanced by Executive orders under the existing Statutes, but I believe I will hereafter table a resolution and will take the opinion of the Council before he issues any executive orders regarding the enhancement of registration fees or excise duties.”

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“That will be surrendering the power given in the Act. Therefore it will be difficult to agree to that proposition.”

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—“I do not know how any responsibility can be enforced in this, or for the matter of that, in any country where the Executive comes before the legislature for the enhancement of a fee or tax. The general procedure ought to be that they should take the opinion of the Legislative Council by means of a resolution or by means of an amending Act for enhancing any rates or fees. Unless it is done in that way, no responsibility could be enforced in any country in any manner. The hon. the Minister for Education has drawn the analogy of the Boards Act and the District Municipalities Act, and I am sure if he follows the analogy still further, he would rather damage his cause than mine. I should not have felt any surprise if this argument had been put forward by the hon. the Executive Councillors of the Treasury Bench, but it is not even theoretically responsible to us. The Ministers are responsible for their character as representatives and they are responsible to the Council and so even in cases where it is not necessary for them to get legislative sanction, they should do it and they ought to do so and establish precedent. In the present case they cannot do so without levying additional taxes without the sanction of the Council. The two propositions being admitted, I do not know whether the logic that the power will be affected is correct. I am so sure of it that I have taken. There is therefore no other alternative motion for a division.”

was put to vote and lost.

DEMAND V—REGISTRATION

[20th March 1925]

Motions Nos. 32 to 35.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMACHARLU :—“ Sir, I beg to move the following motions standing in my name :—
12-15 p.m.

- ‘ To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,600 for 1 Registrar,
- ‘ To omit the allotment of Rs. 16,800 for 7 Sub-Registrars,
- ‘ To omit the allotment of Rs. 19,380 for 19 Clerks,
- ‘ To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,600 for 15 Peons.’

“ Turning to page 81 of the Budget Estimate, Sir, we find that instead of 29 registrars for the current year, we have 30 for the next. There is also one additional registrar. We find in the details for the provision, there to be one on Rs. 600, 29 on Rs. 250—500 and one for eleven months. Below this figure we find the figures 30 and 32 within brackets. Now, Sir, why there should be one additional district registrar. I read the memorandum of the Finance Secretary but I do not see in the explanation for this increase. Perhaps it may be due to the bifurcation of the Kistna district. Even then, there are 29 registrars and in addition, one other for eleven months, so that there are 30. Why should there be a provision for one more, making the figure 32? Even if we allow an extra officer for the Kistna district which is to be bifurcated, there is one additional officer. I do not see any reason why in this year of deficit we should provide for the additional officer. There may be and there will be different opinions on the way in which the department is being administered. The same argument and the same reasons hold good in regard to the other items that I move to be omitted. It may be said that I am unduly particular with reference to the clerks and peons. It is not so for when we omit the allotment for one district registrar and seven sub-registrars, it is but natural that the clerks and peons intended for them should also go. I should like to say that these items may be omitted now and could be taken up when we are over the period of financial stringency that we are at present faced with.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ I am afraid I am not able to follow the reasoning of my hon. Friend that because this is a year of financial stringency, no expansion should be made in the Registration Department. I may submit to the House that there have been hundreds of applications from various villages for the opening of new offices and for a bifurcation of the jurisdiction of offices in accordance with the convenience of the people. The one district registrar referred to is needed in connection with the bifurcation of the Kistna district. We propose to have new offices. As regards the sub-registrars, I wish my hon. Friend to realize that there is a limit up to which a sub-registrar can work in the course of the year and that limit is on an average of about 3,000 documents. It is in order to give relief to the sub-registrars that the strength is proposed to be increased. I am presently. My hon. Friend started by saying that in a year of financial stringency this additional expenditure should not be incurred. I reply that all these offices are self-supporting. They are on the revenues. They are not only self-supporting, but being high at present, they are also to yield a revenue to the Government of the Province. We propose to start a sub-registry at Palayameota taluk. There are in the neighbourhood

occurred on Honours, one registering 3,400 documents. Questions are asked in the Legislative Council. I have always acted on the basis of the facts.

DEMAND V—REGISTRATION

20th March 1925]

[Sir A. P. Patro]

3,289 and a third 2,864 a year. These people are doing the work of sitting late in the night in such a way as to be detrimental to their health. Another office is to be opened at Kankipadu in the Kistna district. All neighbouring sub-registrars are in the same way very much overworked. The one at Vuyyur gets 3,200, the other at Gunnavaram gets 3,600, while the third at Bezvada gets 3,650 documents to be registered in the course of a year. It is far above the average that can be expected of a sub-registrar. Another is proposed to be located at Uttukkuli in the Erode taluk. There, here again, five neighbouring registration offices registering between 3,100 and 3,400 documents every year. The same thing about Chabrole and Sattu Ramnad district. In the latter place, 5,000 documents are being registered in the neighbouring offices. Humanly speaking, the officer must be extremely tired, must make himself a very miserable man on account of the high rate of registry. In all these cases, it will be seen that relief is necessary and hence the increase in the provision.

“ As I submitted, Sir, these sub-registrars' offices are not only self-supporting but in course of time they will yield revenue to the Province. It is not correct to say that it is a matter of expenditure alone. It is necessary that the relief should be given to these hard-worked officers. New offices shall be opened so that in course of time they may yield revenues to the Province. I hope my hon. Friend will not oppose these motions.”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMACHARLU :—“ Sir, I am glad that the Minister is a source of supply to the other departments both in the Excise departments. He supplies the largest amount of revenue and the smallest expenditure. I am glad to see that he is expanding his department with a view to get more and more so that all departments may be better financially. The hon. the Minister in this way is serving a very good purpose to the reserved half of the Government. As regards the aspect of the question, the hon. the Minister has simply said that in the places mentioned by him the sub-registrars had much work to do. It is to him whether he has examined places where sub-registrars register 100 to 120 documents at the most in a month and has he satisfied whether amalgamation of such offices is not possible. If he had considered the aspect of the matter, his reply would have been more satisfactory. What he has said, it is clear that he is very useful in getting relief by expanding his department. I do not like to stand in his way. I would like to have the permission of the House to withdraw.”

The motions were by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 36.

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“ I move
‘ that the allotment of Rs. 24,69,500 for district chattri be reduced to Rs. 100.’

“ Sir, my object in tabling this motion is to raise a question of levying search fees for encumbrance certificates for the records which were destroyed in the recent Mappilla outbreak at the offices in Malabar. Sir, you know that the civil court records and encumbrance certificates for a period of twelve years were destroyed for decree debts. It is well-known

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PERSONNEL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Governor of Madras.

His Excellency the Rt. Hon. the Viscount GOSCHEN OF HAWKHURST, G.C.I.E., G.B.E. Took his seat on 14th April 1924.

Members of the Executive Council.

1. The hon. Sir ARTHUR ROWLAND KNAPP^a, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.B.E., I.C.S., Home Member. Took his seat on 1st April 1922 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur. Took his seat on the 30th March 1925.

Administration report.	Labour (including factories).
Agency and Laccadives.	Malabar affairs (including law and order in Malabar).
Air-craft.	Military.
Arms and explosives.	Passports.
Civil supplies.	Pilgrims to the Hedjaz.
Court of Wards and Zamindars.	Political (other than matters relating to Indian States).
Criminal Tribes Act.	Press and registration of books.
Depressed classes.	Railways.
Ecclesiastical.	Reformatories.
Emigration.	Rewards for saving life and property.
European education.	Staff and household of His Excellency the Governor.
Foreigners.	
Forests (including cinchona).	
Government Houses	
Jails.	

2. The hon. Mr. CHETPUT PATTABHIRAMA RAMASWAMI AYYAR, C.I.E., Law Member. Took his seat on 12th February 1923 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

Breach of Contract Act.	Legislative.
• Certificate of age and qualification.	Magistracy.
Civil Justice.	Miscellaneous Judicial heads.
Criminal Justice (including petitions for mercy).	Police including Criminal Investigation Department.
Elections.	Report on matters of political and administrative importance.
Fortnightly report.	Regulation of medical and other professional qualifications and standards.
Electricity (including hydro-electric schemes).	State prisoners.
Irrigation.	Translators to Government.
Landlord and tenant.	

[^a Resigned his seat on 30th March 1925 and the hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur took his place on the same date.]

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DEMAND V—REGISTRATION

[Mr K. Prabhakaran Tampan] [20th March 1925]

the outbreak many sub-registry offices were destroyed with all records kept there. Still the civil courts insist on securing the encumbrance certificates from these sub-registry offices. It was brought to my notice that sub-registrars were levying fees for the period for which they have not got any sort of records in their offices. Very recently I was informed in connexion with the execution of a decree a certificate for twelve years. The sub-registrar charged the fee for the whole period. It is really, unjust and unfair on the part of the officers to insist on the payment of full fee when there are no records at all to be searched. I wish to know whether the matter has been brought to the notice of the hon. the Minister and, if so, what his opinion is."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, under article 13 of the schedule, fees are not liable to be charged in cases like the one which my hon. friend has stated. Instructions were already issued to the officers of the registration department that no charges should be levied in such cases. I am glad that my hon. Friend referred to is not known to me, but I will enquire into it. I may add that general instructions have been issued in the matter already."

MR. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" I am glad to hear that the rules do not extend the levy of such fees. As regards my own case, it took place a month ago and I shall be glad if the hon. the Minister will consider it and issue orders for the refund of the money to the parties concerned. I don't press the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 37.

In the absence of Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar who gave notice of Motion No. 285, on the agenda, Mr. G. Rameswara Rao was permitted by the hon. the Minister to move it.

MR. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" Sir, I move
that the allotment of Rs. 24,69,500 for district charges be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

The question of charging postage on documents sent by registered persons is an unmet question, and the hon. the Minister for Registration has promised to try to reduce the charges but he has not succeeded. I would, Sir, with your permission, remind him that in a question relating to this matter he gave that promise. In October 1924, I pointed out to him that in the year 1922 the amount paid from these postal charges was Rs. 6,000, and in 1923 it was Rs. 600, and in 1923 it was Rs. 17,000. So, year after year the registration department has been getting this unearned increment and they are getting it as a sort of gratuity. It has been increasing by leaps and bounds every year. The registration department must charge for mere postage this increased actual postage on each individual packet as was done in 1922 to make it a profitable bargain. It is said that the registration department is expected to earn, and yet they are imposing these charges which would suggest that the hon. the Minister would at least try to reduce it over a second time and try to give effect to his promise."

[20th March 1925]

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" I shall be very glad to give particulars of the enquiry and examination. If the hon. Member want it, I shall show him the report."

MR. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" This is not the first time that such promises are made without being carried out, and this is not also the first time that I am disappointed with such promises. So, I would like to press my motion."

The motion was put to the House and lost.

Motion No. 38.

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I move

that the allotment of Rs. 25.29 lakhs for registration be reduced by Rs. 1,111'.

"The agenda shows the object I have in view in making this motion, and, that is, to ask the progress of the scheme for maintenance of record-of-rights in registration offices. Some time ago there was a proposal by which an attempt was to be made to maintain a correct record in the registration offices by frequent comparisons with the entries in the revenue registers. I have elicited that information I have given notice of this motion."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" I have also given notice of a similar motion, Sir. Some time back the hon. the Minister for Registration came here for a supplementary grant for additional books for introducing a new system of registers. I put a question to him whether these registers were intended for the maintenance of a record-of-rights. He said that it was not for that purpose, but they were only new registers that were required and might be used as suggested. I understood from that, reading between the lines, that the Inspector-General of Registration was of opinion that he could devise a system by which this difficult question of record-of-rights could be solved, but the Revenue department were not so sanguine about the proposal he had made. That was the position in which the matter stood when it went before a special committee that was appointed by the Government to consider this matter. I should like to know how the matter stands now whether the proposals of the Inspector-General of Registration have sufficiently advanced to enable the Minister to give an opinion on the matter whether the new registers would serve the purpose of record-of-rights. I should like to know also from the hon. the Revenue Member who fortunately is here (laughter), what he thinks about the new registers which have been devised by the Inspector-General of Registration, whether he considers that they would serve the purpose of record-of-rights, as the Inspector-General thinks they would. It is for that purpose that I have given notice of my motion."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, at one time it is said that a scheme was prepared which was a very elaborate one in order to co-ordination in the matter of revenue accounts between the Registrar and the Revenue departments, in other words, in order that the survey as noted in the diplot and other registers of the Revenue department correspond with the entries in the registers of the Registration department so that if an encumbrance certificate is to be applied for, a survey can be very easily traced and from that the various points connected with it may be more easily ascertained. The scheme was prepared for co-ordinating the work of the Revenue department with the Registrar."

20th March 1925]

[Mr. G. Rameswara Rao]

proposal of charging the actual postage. He was pleased to tell us that the actual postage would be chargeable when two documents or more were sent, but at the same time he said that when one document was sent, it would not be possible to estimate the actual charge for postage for that one document. I am not able to understand why the estimate would be exactly correct and precise when two or more documents are concerned, but the officers feel incompetent and fail in their attempt to make a correct estimate in the case of a single document. I cannot understand the logic of that position or the impracticability of making the estimate. Therefore I suggest that there is no reason at all in maintaining an illogical principle in distinguishing between one document and more than one document.

"Secondly I suggest that if the original document itself is returned through post and the officer wants it to be sent to him, there is absolutely no difficulty at all, for the sub-registrar can make a small endorsement thereon. Therefore I think that it is not impossible at all for the department to arrive at a correct understanding of the actual postage. So, I suggest that this unearned increment or undeserved increment of the Registration department ought to be done away with as soon as possible."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, I think my hon. Friend is quite right in drawing attention to the fact that there is a small surplus in the matter of postage charges which the department makes. I had the matter examined last year, but we found that the surplus that accrued after defraying the actual charges is a negligible amount and therefore, for the time being, I thought that it might lie where it was, and if we see that there is any real danger or difficulty we may consider it again. In view of the fact that we have not been able to make any large saving, we thought we could examine it when conditions were more favourable. At present the conditions are not favourable, and I am not forgetful of the fact that I said last year that the question would be examined when the conditions proved favourable. I may add that these charges cover not only postage and registration but also services rendered by the department to its clientele, and what value is to be put on such services is a factor which is very uncertain. On that account, therefore, the hon. Mover is right in asking that the rates should be as low as possible; but in view of the increased postal rates (the cost of postage is increased to As. 5) and the cost of the envelope, paste, sealing-wax, the time and labour involved in checking and addressing, we have to consider what reduction can be made. But, however the increase is not very large in regard to this matter. I examined it last year and found that there was no sufficient reason to reduce the rates then, in view of the increased rates of postage and the cost of other stationery, etc. However, I agree with my hon. Friend in thinking that the matter may again be examined, and it will be examined when conditions are more favourable."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—"I would like to have more detailed results examination conducted by the hon. the Minister. I do not know why he did not take us into confidence and tell us the nature of that enquiry, and the amount of these charges which has increased from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 7,000 is insufficient to cover the charges for paste, gum, wax, etc. The thing that is done by the department is to put the documents in a separate cover and address it. That is all."

20th March 1925]

[Sir A. P. Patro]

Registration department with reference to enjoyment and actual possession of the lands. The matter, as indicated by the hon. Member from Coimbatore, was discussed by a Revenue committee. The conclusions of that committee were not in favour of having such a comprehensive system of Registration and Revenue accounts together. Therefore that was dropped and a separate scheme was prepared to improve the indexes of registers of the Registration department itself, so that by a mere comparison of the registers themselves we might be in a position to inform the inquirer what changes took place in the enjoyment of a particular survey number. For instance, taking a survey field, though the patta may stand in the name of one individual, the actual enjoyment of it may be in the hands of another, and even in the case of a single survey number, portions of the field may change hands, and when the document comes for registration in the Registration department we have to obtain the information from the karnam or from the taluk office. Unless it is separately registered in the Revenue accounts, it is not possible to obtain accurate information, whereas in the Registration department the portion of a survey field is entered in the registers, and that survey number and portion are marked in a separate page in the index register. But this will not correspond with the Revenue register unless there is a similar alteration and mutation of names made in the Revenue accounts. So we avoid this difficulty in giving the encumbrance certificates and in each individual case the entries are so altered that by virtue of registration itself facility is given to show the changes that a survey number has undergone in the course of a year, ten years or twelve years. The registration or the mutation of names is entered in these new registers, and in giving encumbrance certificates we are able to give accurate information by means of some of these index registers. That is to say, if a document is registered, we give a separate page for that number and all the alterations that take place in that survey number are carried out in red ink. Time after time when changes take place in the ownership of lands, corresponding changes will be made in the index registers. In this way the public interests will be protected when any one applies for an encumbrance certificate, as it can be thus accurately given without any reference to the record in the Revenue department."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"So, are we to understand, Sir, that the question of record of rights has been dropped altogether. What is now proposed to be done is a standing encumbrance certificate. If a party were to apply for a copy of the encumbrance certificate, he can very easily get a copy of the same. What I want to know is whether the original idea of maintaining a record of right has been dropped altogether."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I thought at first that certain offices had been selected so that this experiment might be carried on. I wish to know whether this experiment was ever carried at all and, if carried, at what place."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"In Tinnevely there was resettlement recently. A few years back we took up two taluks and we maintained this register for these two taluks. But as the Board of Revenue and the Revenue Committee said that the scheme was not workable throughout the presidency, we had to drop that elaborate scheme and work out our index system."

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* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I point out the defect of this system ? The defect is not in the department itself, but the defect arises from this fact that where a survey number has not been referred to by any document which is registered, we shall not be able to get any record of right. In fact, the Registration office deals with only a very few survey numbers in a particular village. What will be more useful to all classes of people will be the maintenance of the record of right being started by the Revenue department. This record of right is to be made not by the Registration department but by the village officers primarily. That is what seems to be the intention of this record of rights and that is what has been done in places where the system of record of rights has been introduced in the Punjab and in Bombay. The utility of this system consists in this ; that at one glance one can know exactly the history of each survey number, whether that survey number has run the gauntlet of an instrument or not. Or, supposing that a certain survey number is 100, then we may know exactly in whose name it stands, in whose possession it has gone, to whom it has been mortgaged, whether the pattadars are the actual occupiers or not, and what other transactions have been entered into, how it has been affected by any decree of court, so that even the courts have to co-operate with the Revenue department, not with the Registration department, and see that a decree which changes the condition or relationship of a particular survey number is also recorded in the record of rights. This will require some expenditure at the start. But if it is started by the Revenue department through village officers, that is with the present establishment of revenue inspectors and tahsildars, the cost would not be very much. It was introduced in Bombay within the last 15 years and the cost of introducing this system was not such as is anticipated by this Council. If inquiries are made, it will show that this cost is not at all so great as is feared it would be. The work can be done with the present establishment, with a slight addition to the establishment, the village establishment itself, supervised by the Revenue officials like the revenue inspector and the tahsildar and others who could do the work efficiently. The difficulties are hardly realized here. The difficulties of people to find out the title of property in this presidency would be very much avoided if the record of rights is introduced. We hope that the Revenue department will undertake this work as early as possible. Of course legislation will be necessary for this purpose and with the aid of the legislation I hope we can introduce the system to perfection, as is already found in other provinces like the Bombay Presidency."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" With the leave of the House, Sir, I beg to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 39.

* Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" I move, Sir,

' that the allotment of Rs 25.29 lakhs for Registration be reduced by Rs. 100 '.

" My object now is to discuss the question of taking in Nadars (into the upper grade in the Registration department). Sir, I have pressed the question, I mean, the question of appointment of Nadars in Government service, time and again for the last one year and a half since I came to this

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House. But the Government have turned a deaf year to the feeble voice I raised. Year after year selections have been made to various departments and at the same time many Nadar young men have applied to those posts, and in the end none of them is selected. I hope, Sir, that at least hereafter our claims will be considered to a certain extent. Then, coming to the next point, I know that there are one or two sub-registrars in this presidency, I mean Nadar sub-registrars. But none of them has been taken into the upper grade. So, Sir, I appeal to the non-Brahman sense of the hon. the Minister to take one Nadar at least into the upper grade. I think, Sir, that to a certain extent my community has a claim over him. The hon. the Minister has himself presided over the Nadar Conference last year at Madura. He has visited the Nadar centres such as Virudunagar, Tinnevely and other places. He knows the ways and wants of the Nadar community and I must say that he is in a way very popular to the community, even though I am in the Opposition. (Laughter.) So, Sir, I hope that in deference to the wishes of the community as a whole, he will find his way to take one Nadar at least into the upper grade."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Mr. President, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Chidambara Nadar, was pleading so much on behalf of the Nadar community. Sir, will I be unreasonable to plead on behalf of the depressed classes ?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Not unreasonable ; but if the hon. Member would listen, unseasonable. (Hear, hear and laughter.) The question is about the representation of Nadars."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Well, Sir, I wish to say this much at least. Let the Nadars claim that they should be appointed as sub-registrars. Is it not my duty, Sir, to see at least that the depressed classes should be allowed to come into the office ? They come to the office, Sir, not for the purpose of playing, but for the purpose of registering documents. I know for certain, Sir, that they are being allowed to keep outside the office. They are not even allowed to go into the office to put their signature and the pen even is not handed over to them to put their signature, but simply the clerks are asked to put the *keeral* on the paper and thus making them keep outside the office. Sir, nobody knows how much I feel in connexion with that matter. There are several circulars issued by the Government, but still the irregularities are prevailing. I hope, Sir, that the hon. Minister who is in charge of the Registration department will really come to the rescue of the depressed classes."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Hear, hear."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" So that they may not be turned out of the offices, and that hereafter at least this irregularity may not prevail in the Registration department. There is no use of saying that the depressed classes are not bold enough to enter into the office. Well, Sir, while the clerks are stubborn in not allowing the depressed classes into the office, how is it possible for them, Sir, to enter into the office ? Sir, I believe, as citizens of the British Empire, they have also got equal rights to enter into the office. I hope, Sir, that the hon. the Minister at least will take sympathy on their behalf and do the needful that lies in his power."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, with regard to the hon. Member from Madura, there are already two Nadar gentlemen in the service. The qualification of one is Intermediate and that of the other is Secondary

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School-Leaving Certificate. It was because that the Nadars are not very much represented in the service that these two, in spite of their low qualifications, were appointed to encourage the community. The number of the one is 439 and the other 508 in the list of their respective cadres. These two are very junior sub-registrars and as such to promote them to the upper grade means that they have to be taken over the head of 438 persons in the one case and 507 in the other case."

* Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—"May I point out, Sir, that the junior sub-registrars, who belong to minor communities, are given preference?"

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, in the matter of promotions, the work which they turn out, their merits, and all such things have to be considered. Because they belong to a particular community, I am not one of those who say that as such they should have a preference. In addition to this, they should have the other qualifications necessary for in the department. I cannot subscribe to that statement, that simply because one belongs to a particular community he should be taken above their seniors. In the case of these Nadar sub-registrars, they were given preference in the matter of initial appointment. They were given preference in the initial appointment because they belonged to a particular community, even though their qualifications were lower than what the department required ordinarily. I am sorry therefore that in these cases I cannot agree to any promotion being given to the upper grade, as my hon. Friend desires."

* Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—"With regard to one of the sub-registrars, he has passed one of the branches in the B.A. Degree Examination. If he passes the other part, will the hon. the Minister be pleased to give him a promotion to the upper grade?"

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"It is entirely a different case. In addition to higher qualifications, other conditions will have to be satisfied. It will then be for my hon. Friend to urge his case, which will be considered only then, and not at present as he himself admits."

"In the case of my hon. Friend, Mr. Veerian, I am sorry to find that there are still some sub-registrars who do not admit the depressed classes in their offices. The practice is not a satisfactory one and in this department I deprecate the practice made by any sub-registrar of disallowing or not admitting the depressed classes into the office simply because they happen to be members of the depressed classes. I am sure that at least hereafter every department will realize that the depressed classes should be treated with consideration, as much consideration as possible."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"In such cases as this, where the hon. Minister himself has admitted with regret, that some sub-registrars are still preventing the depressed classes from entering the office, I should like to know what action has been taken by him."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"On the interpellations made by hon. Members of this House, circulars were issued to these people that that practice ought to be deprecated and that Government would take serious notice of it if any such thing was again committed."

* Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—"May I know, Sir, whether there is any direct recruitment to the upper grade?"

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* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"There is; by the selection of suitable candidates."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—"Is it through the Staff Selection Board?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"No."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—"May I know, Sir, whether Muhammadans are taken in the selection grade?"

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"One has been selected very recently into the selection grade."

The motion of the hon. Member, Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar, was then put to the House and lost.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I just want to know if the hon. Member, Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar, wants to move his motion No. 290 1-30 p.m. on the agenda. If he wants to do so, we can take it up after lunch. Otherwise I can now put the demand to the House and finish with it."

Motion No. 40.

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"I will not take more than about two minutes, Sir. My motion is:

'That the allotment of Rs. 25.29 lakhs for registration be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"Mr. President, Sir, I would not have tabled this motion but for the fact that I do not know what has become of the fate of the resolution that was passed by this Council recently for the appointment of a committee to go into the question of the communal Government Order. Sir, the communal Government Order is not new to this department. Even before the Legislative Council agitated, even before the public bodies agitated, Sir P. Rajagopala Acharyar, that farseeing politician, established a rule that out of every four appointments, three should be given to non-Brahmans and the fourth should be given to the Brahman. I do not know why even that rule has not been followed in these days when communal question is so much pressed in this Council. Recently, Sir, out of fifteen candidates that came up before the Selection Board fourteen appointments were given to members of one community and only one was given to a member of another community. When the question was put to the hon. the Minister, he said that the Inspector-General of Registration was not responsible but that the Government was responsible, the Governor in conjunction with the Minister. Sir, I want to ask the hon. the Minister whether that appointment was made in accordance with the Government Order. To speak the truth, if the Opposition thinks of moving a resolution or rather a motion of No-Confidence in the Ministers, it is in this case that they should do it. Because on the question of communal representation we shall be able to defeat the Ministry or the Reserved half. Not only the Members on the Opposition but also the Ministerialists and the Muhammadans would join on this question of communal representation. So, Sir, I move this resolution and I only want to know when the committee recommended by this House is to come into existence."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I do not know and it does not belong to my department to say what has become of the motion for the

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committee. The question may be addressed to my hon. Colleague. As far as this department is concerned, the spirit of the Government Order is being carried out as far as possible."

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Why not to the fullest extent, Sir, instead of as far as possible? What is it that was done in the case mentioned by me where 14 appointments were made from one community and only one appointment was given to another community? The Government Order has not at all been observed. I therefore want the hon. the Minister to let us know or the hon. Members of Government to let us know what has become of the resolution for the appointment of a committee."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"May I know which is the favoured community?"

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I know, Sir, if this matter is going to be fully discussed? Because the hon. Member first stated that he will take only two minutes and it is not fair that many points should be raised in this discussion, the other Members not being given an opportunity of expressing themselves or answering the points. In case there is going to be a full discussion, I would suggest that we might take it up after lunch."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Sir, I rather deprecate the idea that a Member of the Reserved half is liable to be brought on the carpet on Transferred subjects. But if it may shorten the discussion, I can say that the question as to the effect to be given to the resolution passed by this House for the appointment of a committee to go into the communal question is at the present moment under consideration and an order will shortly issue."

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"I withdraw my motion, Sir."

The motion was then by leave withdrawn.

Demand V—Registration for a grant not exceeding Rs. 25.29 lakhs was then put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

The House then adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-15 p.m.)

V

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE COMMITTEES.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"As the result of the election held on the 19th March 1925, I have to announce that the following Members have been elected to serve on the Committee on Public Accounts :—

- (1) Mr. Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai.
- (2) Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan.
- (3) Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
- (4) Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo.
- (5) Mr. A. V. Bhanoji Rao.
- (6) Mr. K. Uppi Sahib.
- (7) Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib.

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"I have further to announce that as the result of the election held on the same date, the following Members have been elected to serve on the Finance Committee :—

- (1) Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi.
- (2) Mr. P. N. Marthandam Pillai.
- (3) Mr. K. Prabhakarap Tampan.
- (4) Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib.
- (5) Mr. Muhammad Moosa Sait.
- (6) Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib."

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1925-1926—cont.

DEMAND VI—IRRIGATION—CIVIL OFFICERS.

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I have the honour to move
'that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 9.47 lakhs. under Demand VI. Irrigation—Civil Officers'."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Mr. President, most of the resolutions refer generally to minor irrigation works, and only some resolutions refer to the conditions in certain districts. I think it may be agreed that this motion may be moved by the hon. Member (Mr. Rama Rao) and the other Members may speak with reference to particular districts so that there may be one vote, if the hon. the Revenue Member has no objection."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I have no objection."

Motion No. 41.

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"I formally move the following motion standing in the name of my hon. Friend, Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao :

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,41,700 for minor irrigation by Re 1.'"

The motion was put and carried.

Motion No. 42.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, I have given notice of a motion—

'that the allotment of Rs. 2,08,600 for establishment be reduced by Rs. 1,111.'

"Sir, my object, as stated in the agenda, is to discuss the inadequacy of provision for minor irrigation works, especially in the Ceded districts, and to invite attention to the need of strengthening the bunds and improving the sources of supply by suitable means.

"Sir, we have been seeing in this House that speaker after speaker has been referring to the utterly inadequate provision the Government have been making for a series of years past for minor irrigation works. Speaking for my own district, I must complain that there is not enough staff, first of all, to keep themselves in touch with the actual condition of these works, secondly to prepare estimates for necessary repairs, and thirdly for carrying them out if estimates are sanctioned. If we just turn our attention to the

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neighbouring province of Mysore, the contrast is very striking. There are a large number of minor irrigation works there as here, but there the Government have taken the precaution to improve and keep in good repair the existing sources of supply by building dams across small streams and rivulets, and diverting the water from these to the several small tanks, and these tanks are joined, one with another, so that the surplus water from one escapes into the other and so the supply is assured in the case of a vast majority of them. My district is not one bereft of sources of supply. We have rivers, small streams and rivulets. Some of them are not perennial, but then during the rains we have always floods. If suitable facilities are provided, it is easy to take advantage of the rains and see that water is diverted to very many tanks. I had a talk the other day with the Collector of the district and complained to him of the neglect of these works. He says he is helpless. He wants money and more money. If money is given to him I am sure, Sir, he will do his very utmost to see that these minor irrigation works are properly kept in repairs. It is to invite attention to this aspect of the matter that I tabled this motion, and I move it."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I wish to add to those a few words that fell from my hon. Colleague Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, especially as the district which I have the honour to represent (North Arcot)—I had occasion to say it in the course of my remarks on the budget—entirely dependent on minor irrigation works. To give one instance, Tiruvannamalai alone has got 384 such irrigation sources and in spite of the allotment of about Rs. 60,000 for the year—which the hon. the Revenue Member pointed out the other day has very much strained their finances—the people are disappointed that the Government are not doing all they can and all they should for these sources of irrigation.

"The hon. the Revenue Member said the other day that the difficulty of restoring or renewing or improving these sources was chiefly due to the fact that there was water for the greater part of the year preventing work being done. At any rate, that difficulty does not exist very much in North Arcot. Most of these irrigation sources are dry for a greater part of the year. Of course, my hon. Friend, the Revenue Member, is led by the exaggerated reports of his Revenue subordinates, especially Revenue Divisional officers. Generally, these people see more water in these irrigation sources than others do, because I have known very recently, even five or six weeks back, a case where the divisional officer noted that the supply in the tank would last for three or four months, while it lasted for not more than thirty days, and a standing crop which was there for twenty-five or thirty days was reported by the officer to have been there for two or three months, so that the harvest time and the time up to which the water will hold according to their roseate calculation might tally and the harvest might be called a good harvest if not a bumper one. But that apart, I may say in most of the irrigation sources which have been neglected, in some cases, for fifty or sixty years, there is not that difficulty, viz., presence of water preventing repairs, etc. The only difficulty is that Government does not realize its serious obligation to the ryot, especially in districts like North Arcot. I was also told by one expert Collector that the difficulty as regards these minor irrigation sources was the officer above the overseer called supervisor—I forget the status had been abolished and that it was only after the abolition of that post that most of the minor irrigation sources were neglected. I do not know much

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about the duties of many of these officials. The complaint was made by a very experienced and sympathetic Collector. So I will request the hon. the Revenue Member to do whatever lies in his power to see that this defect is rectified and that the minor irrigation sources, which in many dry districts depend wholly and solely on rain water, are kept in good repair. Owing to scarcity of water in my district ryots are emigrating in alarmingly large numbers. I can mention even the names of several villages where about 60 or 70 per cent of the cottages are now completely deserted and shut up. It is a very serious problem, especially in North Arcot, which is supplying cheap labour for the Kolar Gold Fields and from which people are still emigrating in large numbers. Since the prosperity of the Government depends very much on a contented, if not happy, peasantry which now is hardly able to get one kanji meal a day, I would most earnestly enjoin on the hon. the Revenue Member to do whatever lies in his power for the renovation and improvement of the minor irrigation sources at a very early date."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—"Mr. President, Sir, I associate myself with the hon. Mover of this motion in pressing upon the Government the necessity for opening more irrigation sources. The hon. the Law Member has told us very often that he is very particular about taking up major projects as the more extensive the project the more profitable would be the return. At the same time I beg to remind him that he should not neglect the minor sources altogether. I am advised to refer to the Revenue Member also. I would request them to pay particular attention to the fact that we have according to the T.R.S. returns 1,000 schemes in Anantapur given up repairs not being undertaken by the Government for some reason or other. It is regrettable to note that before the British Government took charge of the administration of the Ceded districts there were as many as 1,000 sources in my own district for providing water to the fields and all of them are now useless, having been not properly repaired by the benign British Government. No doubt we are thankful to the British Government for all that they have done and all that they say they will be doing hereafter. The net result of their administration so far has been that we have got everything except food and water. Lack of water for the purpose of irrigation is keenly felt and therefore I request the hon. the Revenue Member to find his way to somehow see that the water-sources are renovated for the benefit of the ryots. The water-sources having fallen into disrepair, one immediate effect is the increase of crime on account of hunger and thirst and increase of drink also. I think, Sir, Anantapur comes in for a very large portion of the crime as is seen from the latest police statistics available, it being 1 for every 750 persons in Anantapur. In this respect, I suppose I am not having the unique position of being alone, because Kurnool and Cuddapah also share my position. Time and anon Mr. Koti Reddi has been complaining about crimes in his district. When the Presidency average in this respect is only 1 for 1,051 persons, the average in Cuddapah and Anantapur, viz., 1 for every 750 persons, is a very regrettable feature and the Government should see that it is reduced. If by some scheme of irrigation, labour can be employed, it would have the effect of reducing crime in our district and I hope that my hon. Friend would, in consultation with his hon. Colleagues, find out some solution for this. I would suggest with your permission, Sir, that one measure which can be properly taken for the redress that I ask for is to see that the economic

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resources of the district are put on a better basis and that, I think, would be better done by improving the irrigation sources which have fallen into disrepair and which remain uncared for during the last 150 years. Sir, I wish to point out in this connexion one gloomy feature of the tanks in the Godavari district. These received only partial supply and the ryots were anxious to repair the loss they suffered in the previous year by raising both crops this year. Instead of helping the ryots to reap a good harvest, or as good a harvest as possible, the Government interceded and long before the crops were ripe wanted to expedite the sales of fisheries. Against this action protests were sent up to the Taluk Board President, to the Government and to the Collector asking them to stop the sales of fisheries till the crops were ripe. The protests went in vain. By this action of the authorities wet crops over an area of 150 acres were spoiled and the grass had to be cut away. Therefore I say that the Government is both actively as well as passively causing us a good lot of harm, actively inasmuch as it proceeded with the fishery sales long before the crops were harvested and passively by not repairing the tanks and other water-sources. I would also remind the Treasury Bench that a resolution was passed by this House only last month to the effect that a committee must be constituted to go into the matter of improving the irrigation facilities in the Ceded districts and the resolution, I am thankful to say, was accepted by the hon. the Law Member. I would like to know to-day whether any steps have been taken in furtherance of that resolution and if so, what."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I am going to make a statement on that matter; but if all these motions are dealt with at the same time, both my hon. Friend, the Revenue Member and myself would say what we have to say."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"I am thankful to the hon. Member in expectation of hearing something useful and helpful from him and I hope that the much-needed relief would be had early."

"Now, taking the statistics relating to cultivation in Anantapur for the last five years, it will be seen that there is a very gradual fall in the area under cultivation. It is due to want of water and therefore if the irrigation facilities are improved, the district would be in a better economic position and it would tend to improve the well-being of the district. Therefore, I would suggest that, both for the sake of reducing crime and improving the irrigation facilities and the economic position in the district, better steps must be taken by the Government in the direction of improving the irrigation sources."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"It was a year ago that I complained in this House of the utter neglect of minor irrigation works by the Government, and I thought that my voice raised then along with others in this honourable House would have some effect on the Government. Sir, evidently it had no effect on the Government, because I see this year instead of making an increased provision for this purpose they have actually made less provision than last year. Sir, the conduct of the Government in not improving and repairing the irrigation sources almost amounts to criminal neglect. Big schemes of irrigation might certainly help the country, but by themselves they would not be so helpful as minor schemes. The improvement of minor irrigation works in many of the districts, of

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which my own district is one, would certainly go a long way towards giving the relief that is really necessary for the villagers. Instead of trying to improve the old works, the Government have practically neglected most of them. A number of small irrigation works in my district are in disrepair and the Government is really neglecting these works which are a source of help to the people. As my hon. Friend, Mr. Rameswara Rao, has stated, improvement of irrigation works would go a long way towards reducing crime in our districts although I have my own doubts about it. In most parts of the Ceded districts which have no water on account of the utter neglect of the Government to improve the irrigation sources, a number of people are deserting the district and migrating to Assam and other places. Therefore, unless the Government come to the rescue of the people from whom they are deriving revenue, the Government will have to answer for their future. Sir, the Government should be not only alive to the necessity of improving and maintaining the existing irrigation sources, but they should also construct new minor irrigation works. The sum provided for minor irrigation works is very small and I hope that better provision will be made in future. Now, therefore, in order to express our disapproval of the attitude of the Government for having made such paltry provision and for not properly maintaining the irrigation works already existing, I hope the House will pass this token motion."

Mr. K. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Sir, I am one of those who have tabled a similar resolution. I beg to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers. Looking at page 84 of the budget we find that a provision of Rs. 7,25,000 only has been provided for minor irrigation works for the next year as against Rs. 7,58,000 provided last year."

Mr. E. W. LEIGH:—"The figure Rs. 7,58,000 quoted by my hon. Friend is the revised estimate figure. The budget estimate for last year was only Rs. 7,00,000."

Mr. K. SITARAMA REDDI:—"That is true, but the expectation is to spend the whole of that amount this year. That being the case a similar provision might have been made for the year 1925-26. We were told last year at the time of the budget discussion that there were roughly 30,000 minor irrigation tanks in the Presidency; striking an average roughly it comes to Rs. 23 or 24 per tank. I leave it to the sense of the House to see whether this Rs. 23 or 24 would be sufficient to repair a tank."

"I suppose we can deal with major irrigation tanks also. I thought the hon. the Law Member suggested . . ."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"What I said was that since motion No. 298 on the agenda referred to the Kattalai dam which is a major irrigation work these things might be taken together. Now I see that if that is done other considerations may arise and therefore, I think, it is better not to combine the one with the other."

Mr. K. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I would then stop with suggesting that some more provision should be made for minor irrigation works."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I also beg to add my views to those which have been put forward by the previous speakers for the purpose of condemning the policy hitherto followed by the Government and for asking them to frame a more vigorous and more satisfactory policy in the

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future in regard to this matter. The position of my district is very difficult indeed. Most parts of the district get an average rainfall of about 20 inches in the year and even these 20 inches are not distributed evenly throughout the year. They fall in the course of a month or two with the inevitable result that for the rest of the year no water is available at all and in some cases it so happens that for two or three years together we do not get rain at all in some portions of the district with the result that the people do not get water enough even for drinking purposes. That is the position in several parts of my district. No doubt there are some small portions here and there, say for instance Pollachi where conditions are not so bad as in other places. Probably the hon. the Law Member might have seen those portions of the district and might be under the impression that the other parts of the district were similarly situated. But I may tell the hon. the Law Member that some parts of my district are probably in a worse condition than even the

2-45 p.m. Ceded districts. Some portions of the district are among the worst portions of the Presidency so far as water-supply is concerned. People there are living from hand to mouth and men getting a wage of five annas or six annas consider it as Godsend. In ancient days there were tanks in almost all these villages. Once upon a time tanks existed in those places which, by the neglect of the Government, are now known as tanks only in name. That shows the utter neglect of the minor irrigation works by the Government. Well, if these minor irrigation works are repaired and the water that falls as rain in our district, which is, as I said, at the most 20 inches, is collected in these tanks, then this water will be useful at least for drinking purposes of men and cattle. The purpose of these tanks is twofold; firstly, they serve as direct sources of irrigation and secondly as sources to wells in the adjacent fields. It is from these reservoirs that wells draw their water. So, the existence of these reservoirs will be Godsend for drinking purposes. All this is probably known very well to the hon. the Revenue Member. People have to go two miles and three miles to get their drinking water at the present moment. If these tanks had been repaired, the state of affairs in places lying near Kangayam, which had only four or five inches of rain last year, would not have been so bad. Probably if there is no rain for the next few weeks, the villagers will have to go elsewhere even for drinking water. That is the position which is brought about by the neglect of the minor irrigation works by the Government. Therefore I would request the hon. the Revenue Member to look into the question and not allow this state of things to continue any longer.

"I have to say a word about the way in which even the funds allotted are distributed. The cost of establishment is an old question. More than one-fourth of the amount allotted goes for establishment. One of these two things ought to be done. Either the Government should give a large amount of money and along with that establishment to carry out the work, or they should have these works done by other agencies like the local boards or by the Public Works Department that might be available in the district. I find that even the small amount that is allotted for minor irrigation works is being wasted in appointing Irrigation officers. For instance, an overseer is appointed for a whole district. What can we expect from a man like that? We cannot expect the man to go about, prepare estimates, and look

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after the works that have been done. It is not possible at all. I request the Government to do one of these two things if they really mean business. Either a large amount of money should be provided for minor irrigation works; or the other course open is to have the works done by other agencies. Instead of doing that, to have a very small amount for carrying on the works and to employ an agency for doing these works is wasteful and does not give us as much result as it possibly can give. With these few words I would again request the Government to deeply consider the condition of particular districts like Coimbatore, Salem and other districts similarly situated and see that the irrigation works are not allowed to be neglected as they have been in the past with the inevitable result of the ruin of the people and of the difficulty of getting even drinking water."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"It is gratifying to find that this Council devotes its attention with so much care and force to this question of minor irrigation works. For it looked to me that recently we have been thinking more of flooding the country with *aqua fortis* than *aqua pura*."

"People fancy that the districts of Kanara and Malabar have plenty of water; they have normal rainfall. But we must bear in mind that most of this water finds its way into the sea and we get very little of it for irrigation purposes. There is no part in this presidency where water can be locked up for irrigation purposes with greater facility and with less cost than in the West Coast districts. There are so many valleys, hills and rivers in these districts that it is very easy to put up bunds and store up water."

"Recently I asked a question whether certain tanks in South Kanara belonged to Government. The answer was there was none owned by Government. As a matter of fact, I might mention here that one tank in South Kanara is a Government property; and if Government wants to disclaim it, then the people will take it up. A large number of small reservoirs can very easily be constructed in South Kanara. Therefore I hope that both the hon. the Revenue Member and the hon. the Law Member will see that minor irrigation works are constructed, and if there are any Government irrigation works, they will see that they are deepened and equipped better for irrigation purposes."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—"Sir, every year we have been agitating for the improvement of the minor irrigation works. The importance of the minor irrigation works has been very well recognized by the Government long, long ago and from the irrigation reports also we find that they are of great benefit to the country. But we find the attention paid to these works is very little. Even the existing works are not properly put in order; they are very much neglected and even if the works are sanctioned they are very much delayed in execution. A large number of hon. Members have tabled motions to point out the inadequate attention paid to these works in several districts in all seasons of the year, especially in certain districts like Coimbatore where ryots are even willing to contribute to the cost of repairing. Even in those cases it is very difficult on the part of the ryots to move the Government to undertake the works and execute them at once. My hon. Colleague from my district expressed the grievances of the district with respect to scarcity of drinking water on account of poor rainfall and the natural conditions of the people. The work which is controlled by the Revenue Department is not properly done. Whenever

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any work of importance is to be constructed, it has to be inspected by the overseer. The overseer is very rarely seen in places where there are minor irrigation works. Although there may be a large number of minor irrigation works, I am told that only one overseer is appointed for a large area covering one district. The ryots pray that these minor irrigation works may be transferred to the Public Works Department. The question was raised last year. The Government expressed their difficulty in doing so. It was said that Public Works Department officers are officers drawing high salaries and that they could not look after minor irrigation works. We know what kind of attention has been paid to the major works. Complaints are not wanting that irrigation works, dams, anicuts, etc., have not been put in order. Even though the minor irrigation works are supposed to be done by the Minor Irrigation department, they have to be done by Public Works Department authorities. It is a costly department and there is enormous delay in carrying out works. We have examples of big and urgent works which were damaged by the last floods, not having been repaired yet. I refer to those works in areas where even drinking water itself is very scarce.

“It is also said that it is to the convenience of the ryot that Revenue officers are given control over the minor irrigation works; for it would be difficult for the ryots to approach the Public Works Department. It has also been said that the Revenue Department is doing the work satisfactorily from the point of view of the ryots. These Revenue officers come across the ryots very often and therefore the Government think that they have done well in leaving these works in their hands although the fact is that things are not going on satisfactorily. The ryots find it difficult to approach in a body and place their grievances before the responsible officers. It is only when the Revenue officers or the Divisional officers go on tour in those parts that they place their grievances before them. Because these Revenue officers are also connected with collection work and the collection work of water-rates and penalties is to be found mostly in those places where water distribution complaints are often heard. In reply to the representations made last year to the hon. the Member for Irrigation, he was pleased to inform us that there were great possibilities of hydro-electric schemes being successfully investigated in that part of the country.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“Yes, Sir. But will the hon. Member kindly reserve his remarks till that demand, Demand No. VII, comes up? Because that will be the proper place. I make this suggestion to the hon. Member.”

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—“I may not find time; therefore I thought I might say what I had got to say even now.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“Sir, it would be rather embarrassing if I were to answer the question raised by the hon. Member when another demand is being discussed. It is not in the portfolio of the hon. the Revenue Member. It is in my portfolio. I would therefore earnestly request him to reserve his remarks to Grant VII.”

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—“These schemes go to help well irrigation. Of course, the development of these hydro-electric schemes may be a part of the major irrigation schemes. But I am referring to them since they help the minor well irrigation. I may also refer here to the reply

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given by the hon. the Law Member last year with reference to developments of well irrigations in Anantapur district that large hydro-electric schemes such as those of the Punjab have been investigated and they would go to help the development of well irrigation in the area. I may mention here that of all the districts in the Presidency, Coimbatore is in a better position and offers greater facilities for inaugurating such schemes.”

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“Hear, hear.”

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—“It is a district which has developed well irrigation to a great extent. I am eagerly looking forward to the days to come when well irrigation will be developed with the help of those hydro-electric schemes. A few years back there was an inquiry by the Government regarding the Tiruvani scheme. I was one of those who then offered to take a large quantity of power from the scheme. However that was abandoned a few years ago though it had great possibilities of supplying electric energy both for the purposes of the ryot and the industrial factories.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“Sir, I am loath to interrupt the hon. Member. At present he is addressing the hon. the Revenue Member whose portfolio does not contain hydro-electric schemes. He has not got the materials to reply to the hon. Member's questions. I would therefore earnestly request him, if he wants any information, to reserve his energies for Demand VII.”

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—“Then, Sir, we have heard numerous complaints regarding the Tank Restoration Scheme. Tanks have been neglected and given on darkhast in some places. Even the existing tanks have not been attended to. I see from the Administration Report, a copy of which is given to us for 1923-24, a new method is adopted for showing the work of the Tank Restoration department. It is a curious and novel one. I am inclined to think that this is adopted to bewilder those people who are interested in its work by saying that so many thousands of miles have been covered and so many hundreds of miles entered into giving huge figures. Considering the importance of minor irrigation to the country and the public agitation all round, Government must not neglect minor irrigation works. The work done in the department at present is hardly worth the time and money spent in writing the administration report. I hope that our cry will be heard at least now. I tabled a motion the year before last with no effect. Government are now very keen in spending money on big irrigation schemes. Big irrigation works are very few in the country and if they are to be undertaken they may be done in the course of half a century or even a century. It is only the non-delta portions that require a great deal of development. It is only there that we have frequent failures of rain and consequent remissions of kist. They need the foremost attention on the part of the Government. We must make an emphatic protest against the meagre attention given by Government to minor irrigation works by passing this resolution and bring to the notice of the public and the Government the grave injustice that is done to minor irrigation works.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“Mr. President, Sir, if there is anything regarding which I have a right to complain against the Government, it is their neglect of minor irrigation works. During the last two years there is no subject that has been persistently brought to the attention of the Government as the question of the minor irrigation works.

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Yet the consistent and continuous reply of the Government has been that all that has been possible to do has been done and they have not been able to get money to do more. Sir, a specific question has been raised during the last two years whether the Government had undertaken any survey of the various minor irrigation works in this Presidency. I asked the hon. the Revenue Member to tell us how many minor irrigation works there are in this Presidency, how many of them are in order, how much of money would be required to repair those which are out of order, what time it would take to do them and how he proposed to remedy the defects. Sir, to our utter disappointment no definite reply was given for the last two years. Though I repeated my request for detailed information last year also, even now we are not in a position to say how many of these works there are and how many are in need of repair and at what cost they should be done and whether money can be found or not.

"With reference to the statement annexed to the Land Revenue Reports regarding the irrigation works in charge of the Revenue Department the information is unfortunately incomplete and defective. May I point out here, Sir, that ten years ago Government were willing to give us more correct information as to the nature of the irrigation works, how many spring channels there were, how many wells there were, how many tanks there were and how many of these were in order and how many needed repairs. We were then satisfied with the information given in Statement XIX. Even the total number of irrigation works repaired during the year and proposed to be repaired during the next year was given. The present statement does not really give us an idea of the requirements of each district with regard to the minor irrigation works. If really Government are earnest in doing what is necessary in the matter of the irrigation works they must have, during the last two years during which time complaints have been made persistently, conducted a thorough investigation of this question and come forward with elaborate proposals regarding the improvement of minor irrigation works. That has not been done. I am therefore justified in saying that Government have been utterly neglecting minor irrigation.

"In the course of the discussion to-day I have been hearing about the needs of this district or that district. Statement XIX shows the number of irrigation works in the various parts of the presidency. It does not show the number of irrigation works that need repair. It will be evident that we cannot repair an irrigation work which does not exist. The number of these works vary in different districts. For instance in Chingleput, we have 4,704 irrigation works, in the Ceded districts only 3,757 and only 73 in Coimbatore. Simply because there are fewer irrigation works in the Ceded districts we cannot say that something more can be done for that district."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"May I just tell the hon. Member that it is always dangerous to get into deep waters when people don't understand what exactly the matter is. We said that there were minor irrigation works which Government had not taken care to repair. The number of such works is not shown in the statement. To say that there are no irrigation works in the list which could be taken up and repaired is not correct. Our complaint is that Government have neglected these things and have not taken them up."

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Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"I take it that my hon. Friend has given his personal explanation. Let me therefore proceed."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I corrected a misstatement that has been made."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Corrections or no corrections, so far as the question of each district is concerned there is a limit to it. Let it not be supposed that all the twenty-five districts should come forward and say that this district is more important than the other. I am anxious as any one else for the irrigation works in all the districts in the Presidency. If my hon. Friend had only the patience to wait, he would have seen that I am as anxious for the Ceded districts or the Coimbatore district as for any other district of the Presidency. As he says statement XIX is incomplete and defective. He is perfectly right in saying that, and I say nothing against it. All I say is that the representatives of the various districts should not confine themselves to their own districts. It would be distinctly better if they speak on the whole problem of the improvement of minor irrigation works in the Presidency as a whole. If I lay emphasis on the general and wider question of the improvement of minor irrigation works in the whole Presidency, it must not be understood that there are no irrigation works in Nellore which require the attention of the Government. I do not want that impression to be created. The procedure adopted in calling upon the Collectors in the case of minor

3-15 p.m. irrigation works to prepare estimates, etc., is erroneous and is based upon a faulty principle. The hon. the Revenue Member enlightened us with reference to the instructions given to the Collectors before they sent their estimates for the improvement of the irrigation works. He stated that a certain formula was laid down in accordance with which they must work up estimates. This is what the Government say in their formula:

"The Government laid down a certain formula. Every Collector before budgeting for the amount of money required for minor irrigation works was to observe this formula. That formula was in the case of wet lands the expenditure should be at the rate of 12 annas per acre and in the case of the single crop land it should be 6 annas per acre. Although this formula was laid down the Collectors were at the same time authorized to budget for more or less indicating the reason for the departure from that formula."

"It is true in the last sentence some sort of discretion was given to the Collector, but the formula laid down was that they should so budget as to see that in the case of wet lands the expenditure should be 12 annas per acre and in the case of single crop lands 6 annas per acre. I would ask whether this would be a real criterion as to the needs which the existing irrigation works would require. There should be a more correct procedure laid down in the case of irrigation works which require urgent improvement and the Government must incur additional expenditure, and in that case is it not better that they should have a comprehensive survey made of all irrigation works and then ask the Collectors to come with elaborate proposals? If, on the other hand, you merely ask the Collectors to work as machines and give them some formula by which alone they must work, I think it would be quite useless. No doubt the last sentence gives some discretion to the Collectors, but it depends upon several contingencies. I suggest that however much the Government might limit the discretion of the District Collector, they must have proceeded on some definite lines within the last two years during which this problem had been put before this House. They should have made an elaborate survey of each minor irrigation work

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in the different districts of the Presidency and then come forward with deliberate proposals as to how many of them required immediate improvement and so on. I know that it has not been possible for them to carry out improvements of these minor irrigation works owing to financial stringency within one year. But are they in a position to tell us that they have a definite programme for carrying out these works in the course of years? I submit it is clearly a neglect on the part of the Government, a culpable neglect, that they have done nothing all these years. During the course of twelve years we are having the same reply, viz. 'we have not been able to do more; we have not been able to get more money'. Sir, I may say if it is not neglect it is probably incapacity or inability of the Revenue Member on account of which he has not pressed this question of the improvement of minor irrigation works; or else I cannot understand what other difficulties stand in his way of effecting improvements. If, as they express, the Government have real sympathy for minor irrigation works I should have expected much more than what they have done.

"Sir, last year we tabled a number of motions asking for reductions of hundred rupees and one rupee and so forth and I remember every hon. Member making his own representation and a statement concerning his district and afterwards withdrawing his motion. Now this year without following such a course I hope we will express our strong disapproval of the policy adopted by the Government by pressing this motion to a division thereby showing that we feel very strongly in the matter."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"I am putting the question myself as to what district I am going to speak about. It is not possible to make general remarks about districts with the defects of which we are not in intimate touch. I am going to refer specially to Guntur, but at the same time I am not going to exclude the other districts from my purview. It is hardly necessary for me to make any definite appeal to the hon. the Revenue Member whom for some time we had the good fortune of having as Collector. In our district more than half of the portion is fed by water from tanks and the peculiar characteristic of this portion of the district is that the water is used both for irrigation and drinking purposes. Most unfortunately there are 200 to 300 tanks in our district and I am quite sure there are as many tanks in other districts also. We were told last year that there were 30,000 minor irrigation works scattered all over the Presidency and because they were so minor in their very nature I think the larger problems engaging the attention of the Government did not allow sufficient attention to look to these small minor matters. But I wish to submit to you, Sir, and to this House that most of the people in my district have to get their water, especially in the dry weather, from tanks the water of which is useful both for the people and the cattle. All these tanks have been neglected for years and I very much wish to know how many tanks have been repaired. During the last twelve months since we last heard from the Treasury Benches, no serious attempts have been made for improving minor irrigation works. After all the money that is required is not so much when compared with the amount which is required for big irrigation schemes, so that the Government cannot say they have no funds. My only impression is that no sufficient attention is paid either because the larger interests which the Government have in their view have been taking away all their time or because these small matters have not been sufficiently brought before the notice of the Government. Last year the president of the district board of Guntur, a Member belonging to the Ministerial party

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—I mean my hon. Friend Mr. Ethirajulu Nayudu whom I am very sorry to miss here owing to some unfortunate domestic calamity—when he was pleading for this cause said that there were some other obstacles such as the laying of roads and construction of railways which prevented the free flow of water from these tanks to the irrigation fields. These small irrigation channels are so silted up for a number of years that it is not possible to get any water therefrom. Under the circumstances I join other hon. Members in pressing the extreme need of looking into the matter very carefully and giving early relief in the matter of minor irrigation works."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"There is one matter which I wish to refer to at once before we deal with the general question. In the course of the discussion initiated by one hon. Member who roamed over a very large field there was a question, not directly put but indicated, as to the steps the Government have taken. The Council carried a resolution regarding the appointment of a committee to improve the irrigation facilities in the Ceded districts. As to that this is what has been done: I am reading from an official report. With reference to the resolution accepted by the Government regarding a committee to be appointed in the Ceded districts, what has been done is that all the Members of the Legislative Council belonging to the Ceded districts have been constituted as members of the committee and in addition to that the services have been sought to be utilized of a person whose name carries great weight and influence with every member belonging to the Ceded districts and the general public, namely, Diwan Bahadur Arogyaswami Mudaliyar. He is a person who is not only well equipped for his work but has been generally known to be sympathetic towards the claims of the Ceded districts and has made a special study of the irrigation possibilities of those districts. That gentleman on account of efflux of time is due to retire on 18th April and he will be, I hope, put on special duty on terms which may be agreed upon between the Government and himself and there will be a steady and systematic exploration of the possibilities of the district. But in order to give the committee all official assistance an executive engineer with irrigation experience actually in service will be associated with that committee. That committee will be formed as soon as possible and a communiqué will issue on the subject."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I do not suppose that there is any Member in the House who requires to be convinced as to the necessity of keeping minor irrigation works in repair. Certainly I do not. But before I make a statement regarding the share in the maintenance of irrigation works that falls to the Revenue department I should like the House to have some understanding as to the scope, duty and responsibility of the Revenue department in regard to these works. The Revenue department is not equipped and does not undertake the investigation of fresh projects, even small projects. Their duties are to maintain and keep in good repair only the small works which irrigate less than 250 acres, and this is the scope of the grant which I have moved. Sir, these works are very numerous and are scattered over the country side. It is therefore almost inevitable that any staff that is employed to make estimates for repairs, to supervise the work and to checkmeasure them will cost a large proportion of the total allotment.

"It would not be in any way cheaper to hand these works over to the Public Works Department because it would be employing a highly paid staff who have other work to do in going from

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place to place to examine these small works. As regards management of these works by the Local Fund department the same objection may be raised. Many of these villages are in out of the way corners and I doubt whether the Local fund officers could give any appreciable portion of their time to these works. So that any such transfer will only result in less work being done than at present.

"Having said that, I may turn to the accusations brought against the Revenue department for not having made more progress. I readily admit that the work is one which is capable of expansion and requires most unremitting attention on the part of the district officers. Of course there is the question of funds. But we hope that better times are before us and I can assure the Council that so far as it lies in me I shall fight hard to get more money for this purpose. The Council must, I think, remember that the demands on the Government for rural needs are very many. For example there is the question of drinking water-supply, apart from irrigation works, there is the question of sanitation, and so on. And we have to hold the balance between all these demands. The Council may be sure that in so far as works can be expedited and the expenditure increased by the preparation of a regular programme, every effort will be made in the direction. One of the complaints was that we made no proper survey of what had to be done. The reason for that, so far as I can make out, is that it would take a very large staff, or very long time, if we employ a small staff to gather all the information regarding so many scattered items. The course adopted by the Government has been to employ a regularly organized party in the Public Works Department under the style of the Tank Restoration Party. They go over the districts, one at a time, inspect the works small and large to see whether they are in a state of repair, repair those that need attention and it is only after their labours in the area are finished and the works are handed over to the Revenue department, that the latter have to keep them in good order."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Do the Tank Restoration Party suggest new works also?"

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"They carry out new works also. The Tank Restoration Party are, I understand, now at work in Bellary and Chittoor. That is the reason why allotments for the minor irrigation works under the Revenue department in these districts are less than what they have been in past years, because until the Tank Restoration Party have finished their work, the Revenue department does not go in. An attempt might be made to make a general survey in this direction simultaneously all over the Presidency, but then, of course, the question would be whether the Tank Restoration Parties should be increased and strengthened. That is again a question of funds. In regard to the minor irrigation staff itself in these districts, the complaint was raised that it was proportionately expensive. I personally regret to say that a good many officers, supervisors, have been dispensed with. I cannot say that it is the considered decision of the Government because the matter has not yet been placed before them, but I personally would say that I think the position ought to be revised and although it may result in a somewhat large proportion of expenditure on staff, it should be restored to get through the work more quickly and in order to get more money spent.

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"There is just one other small point. It is not a fact that we have budgeted for less this year than the last, but the excess in the revised estimate of last year was due to the special expenditure of some Rs. 60,000 on repairing flood damages in certain districts. Our normal expenditure is a little larger than that budgeted for last year. All I can say is that so far as the Government are concerned, they will do their best to increase the expenditure on these works."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Apart from personal wishes in the matter?"

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Sir, I said the Government would do their best."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I wish to know, Sir, whether there is any scheme before the hon. the Revenue Member with a view to spend more money on the establishments and have additional establishments in this department."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I am sorry I have not yet had time to prepare any scheme on this or on any other subject. It is a matter on which the Government will take some time."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I am glad that the hon. the Revenue Member whose confirmation in his present office we are soon expecting to hear has made a very sympathetic speech and I only wish that in his regime it will be given to him to translate what he has said into action and that he will not leave it undone as so many of his predecessors in the past. I do not know, Sir, if the hon. the Revenue Member in his speech implied that the Revenue Department had nothing to do with the improvement of the various supply channels to the minor irrigation tanks. I take it that one of the duties of the Revenue Department is to see that the supply channels are not only in order but are improved wherever it is possible to do so. I should particularly urge that this part of the work will be kept specially in view because I find that if some attention is bestowed to this aspect of the question it will be possible to improve the supplies to the various tanks. I shall take up a concrete case. If for example in Chittahagiri at three places dams are put up it will result in the improvement of many tanks. One anicut for instance will give a better supply to the Arisikare tank, the second will improve the supply to the"

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Anicuts of that nature are beyond the scope of the Minor Irrigation staff. They fall to the Public Works Department."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I am afraid, Sir, that the Government are so much split up into parts that one hardly knows whom one should go to for the redress of any grievance. I say, Sir, here are the difficulties, and ask how are you going to manage. The hon. Member said just now that the Tank Restoration parties were at work in the districts. When their work is done, I should like that the hon. Member should issue a circular to all the Collectors that they must send up a list of all works requiring repairs without regard to the amount of cost that they will involve. I think the Collectors are now under a sort of impression that they should not submit to the Government a list of all the works requiring repairs. I find the hon. the Law Member reluctant to accept my statement. The Collectors seem to think that taking the allotments sanctioned year after year, there is no

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good in sending up a list of works which will cost more than the mamul allotment. The result is that as they are aware of the fact that the Government would turn down many of their schemes they confine themselves to very narrow limits. I would therefore like the hon. Member to issue a circular to all district officers that they need not concern themselves with the total cost of the works requiring repair but that they should simply send up a list of all works arranging them in the order of urgency. It is also essential that the staff necessary to look after these works must be sanctioned. I do not know how the hon. Member is going to manage it with his Colleagues, but if he does give the additional staff, I can assure him that he will get many possible schemes which will be of paramount benefit to the country. For example, I told the hon. Member of the Arisakere tank which will bring an additional ayacut of 2,000 acres at a cost of Rs. 60,000. A supply channel from Chikkahagari, north of Hagari Bommanahalle to feed Chintrapalli and Betahal tanks will bring in under irrigation another 2,000 acres and a similar channel could easily improve the supply of Hampapatnam, Narayanadevarakeri and other tanks. Some of them will also yield a very good return.

"With regard to what fell from the lips of the hon. the Law Member, I should say, Sir, that he has not told us the terms of reference he is going to give to the committee to be formed, what the time is within which he expects their report. For, so much depends upon the terms of reference. We have had some experience of the fact that the terms of reference in some instances are such as to nullify the object with which committees are appointed and I would like to have further information about that."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"With a view to set at rest the doubts expressed by my hon. Friend from Bellary, I may say, Sir, that the terms of reference will include the revenue possibilities and methods of financing in addition to exploration of possible schemes."

The motion of Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 43.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I beg to move the following motion:

'that the allotment of Rs. 9,41,700 for minor irrigation be reduced by Rs. 1,111.'

"My object in moving this reduction is to press on the Government that minor irrigation may be transferred to local bodies. In regard to public works, irrigation, roads and buildings, we have got three agencies if not more, one of them being the Public Works Department, the other, the District agents and the third the Minor Irrigation Department.

"Under this head of minor irrigation a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs and odd is every year spent on the employment of overseers, 3-45 p.m. lascars and others, that is, merely for the staff and establishment itself, and they are not able to cope with all the minor irrigation works. In former days, some years back, the district board engineers and their assistants had ample work because the Government were then giving ample grants to the local bodies for various purposes. Now the district board engineers have not got much work and therefore I submit that instead of wasting Rs. 2 lakhs every year, the principle of a separate staff may gradually be abandoned and the district board engineers

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be employed for the purpose. In fact there is now a greater reason why we should do so. Hitherto the district board engineers were merely the servants of the boards, but now they have been provincialized and so have become equally responsible to the Government for carrying out the orders of the Government. No doubt the Public Works Department have got the major works under them, but even they have got some buildings which can be handed over to the departmental agency of the district board. I think in this we can curtail a good deal of expenditure by employing one agency in the district not only to attend to communications but to minor irrigation works as well, as also small buildings. In this way much money will be saved and people who have not got much work will be given adequate work. The Revenue Department looks upon this proposal with a kind of contempt because they do not want to lose these persons now under them. They do not want to lose the power or prestige involved by these people being under themselves instead of under the Public Works Department. I think it is the fear of the loss of power or prestige that stands in the way of the Revenue Department not accepting this proposal. I submit this is a serious question which requires serious consideration, and my only object is to effect retrenchment. If this has been done already, we would have had Rs. 3 lakhs or Rs. 2 lakhs of saving under the Revenue head. I would respectfully put forward this suggestion for the consideration of Government."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Sir, if the object of this motion is that the control over the minor irrigation works should be transferred to the people and should not be placed in the hands of Government officers, I am in agreement with the hon. the Mover. If the hon. Mover really means to say that in the matter of that transfer the existing local bodies are to be given the right, I submit, I cannot agree with him, because the basis on which the local boards are constituted is quite different and the only bodies that can have anything to do with minor irrigation works are only the irrigation panchayats and irrigation boards. (Hear, hear). The Panchayats Act does provide for the formation of irrigation panchayats. If really the hon. Mover means that these powers would be intact, then all right. But if he says that the existing local boards should be given the power over minor irrigation works, I want to point out some anomalies. In my own district of Vizagapatam, most of the area is zamindari tract and there are only three taluks in the whole district which have got Government villages. Each taluk perhaps contains about 50 Government villages. If the representatives coming from the zamindari areas to the taluk boards are to control irrigation, will forty or fifty villages be willing to hand over their minor works to these boards? So these are all difficult questions, and complications may arise in their working. I do not think the local boards as they are at present constituted are the bodies that shall have anything to do in the matter of irrigation works. Really the irrigation works are to be controlled by persons who have got real interest in irrigation and not by persons who have no interest in the irrigation works concerned. And therefore the real local bodies that shall have control over the irrigation works shall only be the irrigation panchayats or boards which may be specially formed for any area or for special irrigation works as the case may be."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I am sorry that my hon. Friend has brought forward this question which is at present, I may

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say, beset with doubts and difficulties. The hon. Mover has proposed the local bodies may be entrusted with the minor irrigation works, and may I point out that it is inopportune to bring up that question now? We have just now expressed disapprobation of the policy of the Government in the matter of minor irrigation works and do you think we will be really serving the interests of minor irrigation if at the present moment we debate the other question also, that is, as to entrusting these minor irrigation works to local bodies? We have realized what the attitude of the Government has been during all these years, whenever any question turned up about our taking up works hitherto undertaken by Government. The moment we agreed to the provincialization of engineers what has been the result? The result has been that all possible powers of the local bodies have been taken away, and we can do nothing in regard to the work of engineers. The moment we yield to any such system, we will find there will be so many restrictions put on us which will really hamper the working of these bodies. Therefore in the interests of minor irrigation works themselves I would really appeal to my hon. Friend not to press his motion and not to make his proposal at this stage, because it will raise many complications. The question will have to be fully considered and argued.

"I may say, however, that I am not in entire agreement with what the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has said regarding the local boards not taking over these works. There is the Public Works Department staff, and it has been considered and suggested that they might do the work of minor irrigation. Therefore much can be said on either side and it is a debatable question. So, instead of forcing the issue to a definite decision at this moment, I would appeal to the hon. Mover not to press his motion, because much more has to be done to strengthen the local bodies to make them really useful and effective before we can ask that further functions may be assigned to them. At present I would suggest to the hon. the Mover not to press his motion."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I should like to know what the attitude of the Government is in this matter, Sir. They may also probably oppose it, and if so, I may have to withdraw."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Sir, already, when I spoke before, I adverted to this suggestion that the repair of minor irrigation works should be handed over to the local bodies' engineering staff, and I pointed out that as these minor irrigation works are scattered over the country side, it would not be an economical form of management, nor would it tend to the works being better looked after, and that ultimately it might lead to further deterioration. I have nothing more to add."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Now, I have no objection to withdraw it, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—"There is a motion (No. 298 on the agenda) on the agenda, Sir, and I wish to move it under Demand No. VII with which it is connected, because it comes under the Public Works Department."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"We shall consider that matter later on. I will now put the grant to the House."

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Demand No. VI—Irrigation—Civil Officers—for a sum of Rs. 9.47 lakhs less Re. 1 was then put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND VII—IRRIGATION—PUBLIC WORKS OFFICERS.

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move
'that Government be granted under Demand VII—Irrigation—Public Works officers—the sum of Rs. 79 17 lakhs.'"

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, may I move motions Nos. 305, 306 and 307 on the agenda together, as all of them relate to works in the Coimbatore district, if you have no objection? And probably the hon. the Law Member may consider it better to give one reply for all the three motions."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have no objection."

Motions Nos. 44, 45 and 46.

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I beg to move the following:—

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,94,500 for works by Rs. 100.'

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,92,000 for extensions and improvements by Rs. 100.'

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 14,38,000 for maintenance and repairs by Rs. 100.'

"Well, Sir, all these are matters which relate to Coimbatore district. I may at once say that I do not share the view expressed by the hon. Member for Nellore that we are not to give expression to the feelings of any district in considering questions coming up here, and that we are to talk only on general questions and about general interests. We are here representing several districts, and we are here to express the grievances of the particular districts and get these grievances redressed."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"May I make a personal explanation, Sir? My hon. Friend is not correctly reporting me. I stated that there was a limit to the subjects to be dealt with here. I am not raising any objections so far as the schemes of districts are concerned, nor am I saying that persons cannot speak on district topics. I raised my objection with reference to other matters."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Whatever that is, I do not know what he now means. We heard his former speech and putting it along with his present remark, we cannot say what he means. But all the same, I consider it is the duty of Members representing particular local areas to bring before the Government the needs and the grievances of such areas for their being rectified. In that view I have chosen to give notice of these three motions. They refer to three different matters. The first relates to the schemes in the Kollegal taluk. Last year I brought to the notice of the hon. the Irrigation Member the fact that there are available sources of irrigation which have not been investigated before, though the people here prepared even to subscribe a portion of the expenditure for those schemes. The hon. the Law Member then agreed that he would have these schemes

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investigated and a report made. Hitherto we have not known about the results of the investigations made and the inquiries set on foot. I should like to know from him what has been the result of the investigations and what he now proposes to do with reference to any proposals that may have been made with reference to them.

"Secondly, Sir, the question of the larger tanks which are of the same nature as minor irrigation tanks but which would come under the class 'irrigation works' for the simple reason that they irrigate more than 200 acres. There are a number of tanks like that which are neglected in my district and proper attention has not been paid to them. It was suggested that the Government might take up one or two tanks every year. For instance, there is one at Sarcar Periyapalaiyam about which several memorials have been sent by the people to the officers concerned. The people have been saying that in the old days these tanks were well looked after and were irrigating large areas. But now, on account of the neglect, they are not in an efficient condition at all. The acreage has diminished, and the supply also has become precarious with the result that people feel very anxious about the cultivation of their lands. There are also several other tanks like that. I should like to know from the hon. the Member for Irrigation what he is going to do with reference to these tanks. There are at least 20 or 25 big tanks like that in the district. Even last year we brought to the notice of the Government that a number of those tanks were being neglected.

"Now, Sir, I should like to know from my hon. Friend, the Irrigation Member, whether he has considered this matter and whether he has called for any report from the Executive Engineer or the Collector with reference to this and also what he is going to do with reference to the tank mentioned. I should also like to know, with special reference to this particular tank, as to what has been done; because as has been said, several memorials have been sent to the district officers.

"Thirdly, we have got some channels branching off from rivers. These channels have been maintained by Government. The repairs of these channels have not been attended to. But that is the general complaint we have almost all over the district. But the particular channel which we have referred to is the one at Oddarpalaiyam and Vallalur. These have been damaged by floods. These are channels which ought to be repaired by Government, but Government did not take prompt action, with the result that the ryots have lost one year's crop already. Even this year, Sir, they fear that they would not be able to get proper supply of water for their cultivation. With regard to the Oddarpalaiyam channel, Sir, some temporary repairs were made, which resulted in loss of money. Some mud works were made very near the river with the result that when the first flood of this year came up they were washed away. Nothing adequate was done for the purpose of ensuring proper supply of water to the people. Now, will the hon. the Irrigation Member say, what he is going to do in these matters? With reference to the flood damages in other districts there is a special officer to look after repairs. I also quite well understand the necessity for those districts which receive such special officers to investigate into the matter. In the Coimbatore district the works which are affected are neither many nor big ones. But at the same time they also do require some attention on the part of the Government. The Government have not paid any attention to these channels, with the result that the people are suffering. I should like

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to know from the hon. the Irrigation Member whether any provision has been made for the repair of these two channels, so that people at least from the next year may not suffer from want of sufficient water to carry on their cultivation. I should like to get a reply from the hon. the Irrigation Member."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I have got a similar motion, Sir, namely, 311, which includes all these things and there is another, 321, which is also a reference to the same. Shall I also deal with them now, Sir?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"May I suggest, Sir, the hon. Member for Coimbatore that he may deal with 308 and 311 now and stop with that."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"What about 319 on the agenda?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"That is quite a separate scheme."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I will have it separately as the next one. So far as 311 is concerned, my hon. Friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, has stated something. Of course, I know what the hon. the Law Member will say so far as some of these things are concerned. I do think that some further information has been given regarding schemes of Kollegal. I want to know whether any special attention has been drawn to the four schemes in Kollegal. The hon. Member has said that every one of the scheme will be taken up and that they are under investigation. We would rather be glad to know whether any of those schemes have been considered and whether money is going to be allotted for the Kollegal taluk, and if so, how much. So far as the other thing, Oddarpalaiyam and Vallalur are concerned, I had a talk with the Executive Engineer and with some other officers of the department concerned. It seems that so far as Oddarpalaiyam channel is concerned, arrangements have been made and money is to be sanctioned for it. The only thing I have to say is this, that the repairs are made in such unsatisfactory or dangerous way that before the repairs are completed, the rains come in, with the result that what is already done is washed away. Last year the ryots thus raised about Rs. 2,000 and put a dam to divert the water into the channel. But unfortunately a heavy rain came down and the dam was carried away. I think that it is desirable that orders should at once be issued to allot money and to begin the work at once, so that the whole work might be finished, and not a temporary dam, but a permanent one is constructed. As regards the Vallalur tank it is unfortunately a sad tale. In fact it has been repaired three times; but it so happens that the repairs are not satisfactory and time after time the dam is washed away in some place or other. The hon. the Law Member may remember that this matter came more than once by way of my interpellations and it is one of those cases where the damages were not due to the floods, or anything like that, directly. There was a likelihood of the tank getting over-flown with the result that the village of Podanur was expected to be washed away. A breach was made. It was the Revenue department that were responsible for the breach and they should have taken steps to close the breach. So far as the Coimbatore taluk is concerned the water-supply this year is very satisfactory; and the one crop in which we had full harvest is paddy. But unfortunately this particular village of thousand acres

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was under the feeding of this tank and channel. It so happened that no paddy can be grown on account of the repeated breaches. The peculiar difficulty was this. They expected the tank to be full. Therefore they sowed paddy. Then the channel breached; and there was no water in it. The paddy crop was a failure and so they removed it and sowed cotton. Sometime after, the channel was repaired and there was plenty of water in it. Cotton got much water which was injurious to its growth. So, they removed cotton and sowed paddy once again. The channel again breached and there was no water. Again the paddy crops failed. Therefore not only the people had to incur the expenses of two paddy crops and one cotton crop, but also, they got nothing out of any cultivation after all. I am sure that the hon. Member will say that nothing more can be done in this than to take steps to repair the channel completely.

"It is better that in this connexion we go into the whole question of irrigation, as many of the taluks would be benefitted by one or two new schemes that we have been asking for. As to the lower or the upper Bhavani project, the upper Bhavani project will benefit not only the dry tract where the water is most wanted, but also benefit the present ayacut under the Noyal river. That will certainly supply water to some of those dry tracts. That is why we want to know where we are as regards the Bhavani scheme. Are they going to have the upper Bhavani scheme taken up now? Of course they will say that the upper Bhavani scheme will cost more. In the conference which the representatives of the ryots had with the Chief Engineer, they told him that they might even bear a portion of the cost. Therefore, we want some definite action to be taken, and inasmuch as the matter has been fully investigated and some conclusion has been arrived at, we want to be clearly said as to whether we are going to have the upper Bhavani project in the near future or not. We want a definite reply and also that reply to be followed by action so that Government might take up the scheme as early as possible. We have investigated these things several years ago. But unfortunately the Kannambadi dam question came in the middle and the Mysore Government were delaying all these schemes in the Coimbatore district itself and the Government were saying that since their attention was mainly drawn in connexion with this scheme, they could not divert their attention to any other scheme until a definite arrangement had been arrived at. On account of the compromise with the Mysore Government which has already taken place, the Government are now in a position to take up these Bhavani schemes, as Coimbatore district is a very dry district and also one of those districts where we get plenty of water, not to be taken in by ourselves, but to be given to other districts. If the Bhavani scheme is completed, probably some water that is going into Malabar district, the water that is uselessly going into the sea, would be diverted to our district and we would be able to take some water. Now we have been looking for some kind of redress and the matter has come to some definite shape. We want definite action to be taken. We want to know what action has been taken till now and also the stage at which the whole scheme stands. That is the chief point I want to be answered by the Irrigation Member. Apart from other influences, we people of Coimbatore are very much interested and in spite of what Mr. Krishna Rao would say, we intend repeatedly to ask for it. I hope the hon. the Law Member would see that all these troubles are put an end to and give us some definite answer on that matter."

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Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO:—"I do not want to engage myself in a discussion where the Members of Coimbatore are taking part. But I want to know from the hon. the Irrigation Member whether any provision has been made regarding the Langulya river anicut."

* Mr. P. N. MATHANDAM PILLAI:—"I want to know whether it will be convenient to take motion No. 309 also now, or to discuss it separately."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"That is quite a distinct question. Let the hon. Members from Coimbatore say all that they have got to say. In the end I will deal with all these questions *seriatim*. As to Mr. Bhanoji Rao's question, I think it will be appropriate to answer it when I deal with the general demand. Now, I may mention that it is not my view to raise, what may be called, inter-district feeling, but merely to give out a record of the work that has been done with reference to the Coimbatore district alone. This is the list. In the first place, the Upper and Lower Bhavani projects have been under consideration, and I may say that the Chief Engineer and myself have consulted each other and I may also say that we have arrived at a certain conclusion. The only drawback to my mentioning that conclusion is that I have not yet had the advantage of placing that conclusion before my hon. Colleagues, so that Government have not made up their minds on the relative advantages and disadvantages of the two schemes. I may say that, as soon as a conclusion has been arrived at, we would be able to start the schemes. This involves a large amount of money which we have not got on hand; that is the disadvantage which we have at present. On the other hand a large amount of dry lands would be naturally brought under cultivation; that is the advantage. I may say that so far as the investigations of the Upper and Lower Bhavani projects are concerned, the preliminaries are practically over and the decision will soon be announced."

"The investigation in connexion with the following schemes is in progress."

4-15 p.m. The investigation in regard to the channel in the upper reaches of Noyal is going on. With regard to the Habba-halle project, the estimate is under preparation. As to Hampapuram also, the estimate is under preparation. A separate channel from the Gundal stream is taken and being utilized for water-supply; improvements to Doddaranganathan channel and Papankarai are also being made. There are nine schemes relating to Kollegal, out of which only four schemes are under investigation. The investigation will be completed and the estimates will be ready. That is so far as Kollegal alone is concerned."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Can we have any one of them this year?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"No, only next year. The administrative sanction alone will be had this year and unless we get money which could be diverted for the purpose of irrigation I do not think I shall be justified in giving any hopes. We can have the administrative sanction this year, so that it will go into the budget for next year."

"The hon. Member Mr. Veerian asked the question that the Superintending Engineer has said that the anicut would cost fifteen thousand rupees and the excavation would cost Rs. 2,500 which the ryots are prepared to take up and start the work. It has been recommended and the work will be taken up speedily."

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"So far as the scheme itself is concerned, I find the hon. Member Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar is disposed to say it is in a very neglected condition. If there is any specific information about any other channel similarly situated, I shall be very much pleased to consider the matters if they are brought to notice of Government. The Chief Engineer has taken a good deal of interest in Coimbatore and he has paid many visits."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Because, we invite him and we are helping him."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—"We are also prepared to contribute."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"All that I can say is that the Chief Engineer is paying a good deal of attention to the development of irrigation schemes. Now I will deal with Oddarpalaiyam channel."

"The temporary closing is now complete. The estimate for the permanent closing is not ready and when the estimates come up it will be proceeded with immediately. As regards Vallalur channel, it was closed in December 1924. And the reference by my hon. Friend will be borne in mind."

"Recapitulating what all has been done in Coimbatore, so far as Kollegal is concerned, four schemes have already been attended to and have attained maturity of investigation and as soon as the estimates are ready they will be proceeded with. With regard to the Lower and Upper Bhavani, it is a big matter and will be taken up as early as possible. Even for that in the present state of our finances, we have to resort to loan money."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—"May I know, Sir, what has become of the investigation that has been made with regard to the Arakakotai channel?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I am afraid I am ready only with regard to the channels which have been specifically referred to in the question. I am not a Coimbatore expert, nor am I a geographical expert."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I certainly thank the hon. the Law Member for the fact that at least some progress has been made in the investigation of these matters. But mere progress in this direction does not mean that we have got the schemes. It requires much more, and I do hope that his assurance that at least some of them will be started in this year will fructify. With this hope I beg leave to withdraw the motions."

The motions were then by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 47.

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I move

that the allotment of Rs. 22,71,700 for irrigation works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept be reduced by Rs. 1,001.

"Sir, I won't be long on this motion because there are other hon. Members who are apparently anxious to talk about their districts as I am anxious to say about Coimbatore. Also the hon. the Law Member in his profound liberality seems to have got a number of things investigated and which probably he will be able to tell us about. My only point is against the system of dyarchy that is prevailing in regard to these irrigation matters."

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* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, if you will allow me I only want to mention one matter for the information of the House. I may say that I deprecate being treated as a Coimbatore expert. I have been just now informed that the investigation of the Tadapalli Channel has been completed and that extends over a considerable area."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I was saying, Sir, that I was against the dyarchy in this matter of irrigation. It does not matter whether the Revenue Member or the Law Member tells me as to whether Government have any idea of investigating this point. The first point is the diarchy between the Revenue and the Public Works Department in the matter of irrigation. There are a number of channels in the Coimbatore district and I know there are also a number of them in the other districts also, where the control of water is in the Revenue Department and the repairs are in charge of the Public Works Department with the result that just as in the case of Vallalur even in case of petty repairs the Revenue Department have to write to the Public Works Department who have to spare money and the repairs are consequently delayed. One important thing is that several repairs have to be made in connexion with the annual repairs of all these channels. This, so far as the distribution is concerned, is in the hands of the Revenue Department, and so far as the repairs are concerned they are with the Public Works Department. It so happens that these channels are generally closed for about a month and whether repairs are made or not the channel is kept closed. If for some reason they are delayed, then for the whole month there is no water-supply allowed. This is not a matter concerning Coimbatore alone; but as a matter of fact there are many other districts where such dyarchy troubles the irrigation channels. I strongly want that either the whole thing may be given away to the Public Works Department or to the Revenue Department. In the Coimbatore district and in other districts there are a very large number of channels where the distribution of water and repairs are both in the hands of the Public Works Department. Therefore it is high time that Government go into the question and prepare a list of districts where all channels may be handed to the one department or the other."

"The other question is about the dyarchy of P.W.D. (Works) and P.W.D. (Irrigation). I am one of those who have been suffering very much, being interested in several repairs. The irrigation works get only a step-motherly treatment in this matter from the Public Works Department with the result that the repairs are not made well. Even when the repairs are made they are not made in time. I know a number of officers who are looking after some repairs of bungalows or roads somewhere with the result that irrigation suffers very much. What I suggest is whether generally speaking we cannot have separate irrigation officers in all important places. I know it may be said that it would involve additional cost. I do not know whether they cannot divide the work so that in districts where there is plenty of irrigation work as in the deltas or in Coimbatore which is a dry district as also in the Ceded districts, whether it will not be worth while creating some officers for irrigation so that their main consideration will be irrigation. Unless this is done further irrigation development may not fructify. The hon. the Law Member said that he would be pleased to remember what I said in connexion with the Vallalur channel. I want him to remember this thing also. I do not expect a definite reply now; but certainly I know

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also that the matter has probably been considered by Government and they have come to a negative decision. But I would request them to consider the matter again. For instance, in Coimbatore we have some 17 or 18 anicuts and some particular officer may be earmarked for the irrigation work. I only offer this suggestion and it may be taken up by the Chief Engineer also, so that the hon. the member may consider how far this dyarchy could be done away with. These two dyarchies, viz., the dyarchy between the Revenue and the Public Works Department and the dyarchy between the Public Works Department (Irrigation) and Public Works (Works) Department may be seriously taken into consideration."

* The hon Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am very much relieved to hear from the hon. Member for Coimbatore that he does not expect a final and definite categorical reply to the question that he has propounded. But I think it is my duty to place before the House certain considerations which will have to weigh with Government and the House before any final decision is arrived at with reference to either of the two dyarchies with which he was concerned. Firstly, with reference to the question of the transfer of certain channels or the whole of certain channels to the Revenue Department from the Public Works Department I think it will be readily granted that the mark of differentiation must be more or less on these lines, viz., those channels and their sources which require technical equipment should for the purpose of supervision and maintenance be controlled by the Public Works Department and others of a more or less routine character in which the Revenue Department take an interest, by the Revenue Department. So far as this matter is concerned it is a case that does not apply to Coimbatore alone. Some of my hon. Friends from Trichinopoly district who recently did me the honour of seeing me in regard to this matter have suggested in regard to certain channels and sources the Revenue Department may be an appropriate machinery for supervision work. It seemed to me somewhat difficult to get into the question of personal equation. Because a particular Public Works Department officer did not pay sufficiently sympathetic attitude or it was assumed that he did not do his work to the satisfaction of the ryots concerned the whole system should not be condemned. It seems to me that the method of solution would be for hon. Members who feel that in particular districts certain channels are appropriate subjects of supervision and maintenance by the Revenue Department to refer them to the Government. I may say that such matters will receive the consideration both of the hon. the Revenue Member and myself. And if, as a matter

4-30 p.m. of fact, the Public Works Department can be relieved of the necessity of looking after some of those channels, they would be in a better position—more continuously and strenuously as well—to look after the other channels and bigger works. Therefore it is a matter in which we require the goodwill and co-operation of the public and the hon. Members of this Council. But we cannot lay down any hard and fast rule that the Revenue Department should look after all channels of certain type and the Public Works Department of certain other type, and so on, because it seems to me that even small channels may involve a large amount of engineering supervision. The only answer I can furnish to the first portion of the enquiry started by the hon. Member from Coimbatore would be that Government are willing to explore the possibility of handing certain channels to the Revenue Department if they can control and supervise these channels with due regard to the efficiency and work of this department. The problem,

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however, does not end there. What is really pressed by my hon. Friend from Coimbatore is the question of Public Works supervision or Revenue supervision, contrasted one with the other. It is no doubt a fact that the staff is not sufficient in both the Public Works and the Revenue Departments. There is no doubt in whatever direction retrenchment might have had a wholesome and proper effect, as the hon. Member from the deltas has said over and over again and vigorously nodded his head in token of his assent, if the hon. Members of other districts help me to retrace our steps. I shall have no objection to provide the full complement necessary for carrying on the work efficiently and thoroughly. We have, therefore, to go into the question and realise that we may have to revise our opinions having regard to the efficiency, utility and expediency of that course so far as overseers, supervisors and that class of officers are concerned who will be on the spot to apply the remedy. During my inspections in Tanjore and Trichinopoly, I have heard it stated that very much more of remedial work would have been done if there was a vigorous staff on the spot to find out where the trouble arose and applied the remedy. The question is not so much of transfer from the Public Works to the Revenue Department; but the vastly larger and more comprehensive question of increase of the subordinate staff in the matter of irrigation where that staff is required and where it can usefully function. That is all I have to say on the first aspect of the matter. I may say for the information of my hon. Friend that that matter is engaging the attention of the Government and the Government will not be deterred from increasing the staff, if they find that the alternative is imperfect supervision during critical times, which really leads to much greater loss than would have been the case, if a little more money was spent by way of adequate supervision.

" With regard to the other aspect of the matter, namely, the other dyarchy—Public Works, Roads and Buildings and Irrigation works—, it may logically be more correct to divide these establishments altogether. But the expenditure is prohibitive, and the Government, after investigating the matter, have arrived at the conclusion that to have two separate staffs, namely, an irrigation staff and a staff for roads and buildings, in each district would cost so much that the advantages to be derived from that would not outweigh the financial and pecuniary embarrassments that would be the undoubted result of such a measure. But if the hon. Member can suggest that in any particular district or in any particular locality some such division of functions may for the purpose of convenience be attempted, that experiment may well be started and then we can see how we fare and that is all I have to say now."

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU :—" Sir, with reference to some of the observations made by the hon. the Law Member as regards the staff, I want to put one or two questions especially because the hon. the Law Member expressed his desire to investigate into this matter."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I suggest to my hon. Friend that so far as the deltaic tracts are concerned, there is another cut in the same demand? It really raises that particular matter. I think my hon. Friend may reserve his remarks till then."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, apart from further considerations of dyarchy, I simply want to say that in the case of some

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channels, under the dyarchical system, the repairs are carried out by one department and the supply of water is controlled by some other department. Many channels in Coimbatore are under this scheme. I have no predilection for this department or that. I have no prejudice against the one or the other. All I say is that a list of channels may be prepared and some channels may be handed over to Revenue Department completely and some others to the Public Works Department—both in respect of distribution of water and in respect of repairs. As for other things, I knew there would be difficulty with respect to finance, and I probably know that Government had considered over the matter and for the present decided not to separate the two departments. I specifically want that so far as Coimbatore is concerned, some places as Coimbatore town can be found out where separate irrigation officers may be asked to do this work. As we have got in all such dyarchical departments that special officers are appointed to each special work, I appeal to the hon. the Law Member to consider whether some separate officer could not be appointed to look after the irrigation works, especially in Coimbatore and in some places like Gobichettipalayam. Our friends in other districts may indicate their desire. But in view of what has been said by the hon. the Law Member, I withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 48.

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—" I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 22,71,700 for irrigation works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept be reduced by Rs. 100'.

"Sir, during the budget discussion last year, the attention of this House was drawn to the very deplorable condition in which tanks and channels in Tinnevely were kept, and the Vizianarayanam tank and Manur channel were singled out for particular attention. Sir, to this day, they stand where they were. Nothing has been done to improve the condition either of the tank or the channel which runs a course of about 40 miles. I put a number of questions and supplemental questions about the channel and the tank and I even got a letter from the Secretariat giving further information that the Vizianarayanam tank was full during the last seasonal rains. I was there during that time and I may say from personal knowledge that the tank was only half full. It was in such a bad state of repair that the people, fearing that the tank would breach, did not fill the tank to its full capacity, and yet I got a letter that the tank had been filled to its fullest capacity. I do not know who is at fault for giving this wrong information. We can verify from the village accounts and from the village munsif who was there from day to day the level at which the water stood. I do not know whether the hon. the Law Member will take action upon the officer who is responsible for reporting like that.

"Then, we have got too much of water in times of seasonal rains. In the Tambraparni now and then we hear of the river overflowing its banks. If, at the higher reaches, the Tambraparni river can be opened either to the south or to the north, profitably to the south, the southern parts which are at present dry will receive full quantity of water which they so sadly need, and there will be no overflowing the banks which every now and then occurs. I will suggest to the hon. the Law Member the possibility and the

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desirability of opening up Tambraparni either at its head or in the mountainous region itself, in which case both Nanguneri and Tiruchendur taluks will be profited immensely.

"Then, Sir, I only want to say one thing more. I echo the sentiment of my hon. Friend from Coimbatore that the revenue officers are more in touch with the people and are more likely to attend to the repairs than the Public Works Department, who do not seem to be in touch with the people and who go there once in a way and therefore are not in a position to ascertain the needs of the people and attend to the repairs properly."

* Mr. CHAVADI K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I would support the motion of my hon. Friend Mr. Marthandam Pillai. My object in supporting the motion is to invite the attention of the House to certain important works of irrigation which have gone into disrepair and for the repairs and improvement of which no provision has been made in the present budget.

"The main irrigation systems in the Tinnevely district are the Chittar, the Pachaiyar and the Tambraparni systems. The Chittar system is regulated by several anicuts . . ."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, not in a spirit of complaint do I rise, but because I am helpless in answering those various points which have been raised without notice to me. The hon. Members were asked if they raised token motions to state what was their object in doing so. I have got ready information on those materials. If hon. Members will confine themselves to them I shall be in a position, Sir, to give an answer. But if the hon. Member, as I gather from the beginning of his speech, is to refer to certain other matters of which I have not received any notice, all I can say is, while he has every right to make the complaint, I shall be put in such a position that I cannot answer effectively."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I would advise the hon. Member to content himself for the present with seconding Mr. Marthandam Pillai's motion."

* Mr. CHAVADI K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI :—" I shall confine myself to the Manur channel. As far as I am aware, no repairs to this channel were ever done by the Public Works Department, with the result that it is silted up with sand and clay throughout its course, overgrown with shrubs and plants and has given rise to the formation of many small and big mounds. The anicut and its channel were constructed by the ancient Rajas at enormous cost and the present aspect of the place would certainly invite the sympathy of a spectator. I cannot find out the real cause why the repairs to the channel are being postponed year after year in the face of the fact that the channel was investigated by the Tank Restoration Scheme party so early as in 1906 and an estimate for repairs for about Rs. 40,000 was sanctioned in 1914. The poor ryots who are entirely depending upon this channel for irrigation have in vain presented petitions to the revenue authorities year after year during the jamabandi. They cannot but do the customary kudimaramat work for the little yield which they have been getting for the past so many years. What I want to urge on the hon. Member for Irrigation is that he shall call for the statistics of cultivation under this channel and the tanks under it for the past thirty years and convince himself of the truth of my statement. It is a pity that the poor ryots are made to pay the enhanced rates of assessment imposed at the resettlement of the Tinnevely district, although no attempt

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has been made by the Government to restore the Manur channel to its original condition. I would request the hon. Member in charge of Irrigation to bestow all his attention in this direction to see that the Manur channel is put in proper order and thereby save thousands of poor people from their sufferings. I would also request the hon. the Revenue Member to see his way to allot a reasonable sum in the current year's budget for repairs to this channel by transfer of allotments pending renewal of the estimate which was sanctioned in 1914."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, with regard to the Manur channel I may say that my hon. Friend, Mr. Chavadi Subrahmanya Pillai, has put a question and with reference to that the Superintending Engineer has been asked to expedite the matter. The difficulty with regard to this is that the Uttumalai estate also stands to benefit by the channel and as such since there had been no possibility of an agreement or adjustment between the estate and the Government there had been some delay. As I stated in reply to a question by Mr. Marthandam Pillai about this matter, that difficulty has been overcome and the Superintending Engineer has been asked to expedite the matter.

"So far as the Vizianarayanam tank is concerned, I have already informed Mr. P. N. Marthandam Pillai that our information was that the tank was in a safe condition to hold sufficient supply. But since the hon. Member seems to think that the report made by the Superintending Engineer about this tank is open to serious question, I shall ask the Superintending Engineer to investigate the matter personally and see how far these allegations are justified. The report we have is to the effect that the tank only required certain repairs regarding rivetment, and we have directed that these repairs should be attended to during the next working season. If more than that is necessary on account of the circumstances indicated in the speech of Mr. Marthandam Pillai, the Chief Engineer will bestow his attention on that."

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—"In view of what the hon. the Law Member says I beg to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 49.

* Mr. V. MADHAVA RAJA :—"Sir, I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 19,38,600 for works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"Sir, I move this motion with the object of drawing the attention of Government to the fact that Malabar is the only district, perhaps South Kanara also included, where the Government have not spent a single pie on irrigation works. The Government cannot say that it is not possible to give them any facilities for irrigation; because the adjoining State of Cochin has provided the people of that State with adequate facilities. When that is the state of affairs in the adjoining State of Cochin, we find that absolutely no facilities are provided in Malabar. The condition of the lands in Malabar is very bad. The Member in charge of Irrigation was able to see it for himself in his tour in Malabar. My hon. Friend from Coimbatore, Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, asked that more irrigation works should be started in Coimbatore, but what I say is that some irrigation works at least may be started in Malabar. It will be observed from this

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that there is a good deal of difference between the demand made by my hon. Friend for Coimbatore and that made by me on behalf of Malabar. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar said that water was being wasted in Malabar and that the agriculturists do not utilise the water available."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I only referred to that to show that the Bhavani scheme includes a portion of Malabar water which is not used."

* Mr. V. MADHAVA RAJA :—"When the agriculturists requested the Government to start some irrigation works in Malabar, the hon. the Member in charge said that there were some difficulties in the way of doing so. Now that the Irrigation Bill has been passed, I do not think that that excuse can stand. I request the hon. Member for Irrigation to start at least some works wherever possible. With these few words I commend the resolution to the Government."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, I wish my friends in this House would take a little more seriously this question of irrigation in Malabar. I make that remark for the reason that I heard some laughter among some of my friends when the previous speaker was moving this motion. I hope my friends will take it seriously including my hon. Friend, the Law Member." (Laughter.)

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It may be a natural infirmity on my part to smile, but if that is construed to mean that I belittled Malabar, I warmly repudiate the suggestion."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"My hon. Friend's remark did not apply to the hon. the Law Member."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"It did not apply to anybody in particular. It applied generally to all those who laughed."

"Sir, there is an idea abroad and I have heard it given expression to on a former occasion that so far as Malabar including South Kanara is concerned there is no need for the construction of any irrigation work. But this statement of mine should not be taken to mean that we in Malabar and South Kanara are jealous of the other districts; on the other hand we are very glad indeed that the Government are bestowing serious attention on irrigation facilities in the Ceded districts, Coimbatore, etc. These districts have occupied practically the whole of the Council's attention during the past one hour when this demand was being discussed. I am very glad that they are receiving more attention than Malabar so far as irrigation facilities are concerned from the Government. (Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar : Hear, hear.) I wish at the same time that the Government bestowed some small attention on the construction of irrigation works in Malabar particularly in the Palghat taluk. I believe my Friend, the hon. Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar, who visited Palghat knows something of the conditions on the border of the taluk touching the Cochin boundary. There is a marked distinction observable between the fields in Cochin State and those in the Palghat taluk owing to the irrigation facilities afforded by the Cochin State to its people. It is a very depressing sight to the people of Malabar. So far as the facilities for the construction of irrigation channels are concerned, there is absolutely no difference between Cochin and Palghat. But the difference that one sees between the fertility of the lands in the Cochin State and those in the Palghat taluk is certainly so great that it causes great sorrows in the

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minds of the people of Malabar. Among the irrigation schemes proposed by Mr. Morgan there are two or three relating to Malabar. I do not want that irrigation works in Malabar should be commenced at once. I only want the hon. the Law Member to seriously consider whether it is not desirable to construct some irrigation works in Malabar and particularly in Palghat. Malabar, I believe, pays an annual land revenue of Rs. 35 lakhs and the Government have not spent a single pie upon the construction of irrigation sources. I brought this to the notice of my hon. Friend at the time of the discussion of the Irrigation Bill. This question was raised many years ago in this House and Mr. Bradley, who was then the Chief Secretary to the Government, raised the objection that the Government had no control over private waters. I believe his objection was well founded in law, but that does not exist now. I am glad that it no longer exists; for, in spite of the opposition of my friend Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan, the Irrigation Bill has been passed and I hope that Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan's lands would be the first to be benefited by that Bill by the construction of irrigation works in Malabar. But that is by the way. I hope the hon. the Law Member would seriously consider the necessity and desirability of beginning the construction of some irrigation works in Malabar, particularly in Palghat. I do not want him to commence the works at once. Let him seriously consider this question."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, the hon. Members from Malabar are thoroughly justified in demanding from Government earnest and serious consideration of the question of irrigation works in Malabar and South Kanara. Now, I do not propose to refer to the indignation aroused in the mind of my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, who, in spite of his jovial temperament, rather misunderstood what I might call my natural infirmity."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, a word of personal explanation. I repudiate the suggestion. I certainly did not include my hon. Friend in the list of gentlemen who laughed."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"In any case, Mr. President, these small things apart, the only reason why more continuous attention has not been paid to Malabar is the feeling or the consciousness justifiable or otherwise that Malabar is a relatively more prosperous part of the country than the others like the Ceded districts. It may be that it has been afflicted recently and it may also be that the reproach levelled against the Government by Messrs. Madhava Raja and Krishnan Nayar is a just one seeing that in the adjacent tract of Cochin much more strenuous efforts have been made to improve irrigation facilities. But in order to dispel the idea that Government have not done anything at all and never investigated schemes in Malabar, let me recall to the minds of my hon. Friends what exactly has been done during the last two or three years. Now, the following irrigation projects in Malabar were considered between the years 1920-23 and abandoned on financial and other grounds: the Meenamkara project, the Kilakkancheri project and the Malampuzha project. Other projects have not been finally rejected. They are under further consideration and gauges have been taken for the Meenamkara project and the forecast of revenue is being daily awaited from the Superintending Engineer. This is what we have done. Of course this resumé does not compare favourably with the list that I have been able to give in regard to Coimbatore or the

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Ceded districts. But let my hon. Friends remember that, apart from these estimates being ready, we have not been able to do much for either Coimbatore or the Ceded districts. We have not been able to do one-tenth of what we had been anxious to do. Of course on account of the difficult condition in those districts the attention of the Government has been concentrated more on those districts than on Malabar. Therefore the charge that we are oblivious to the claims of Malabar cannot stand. (Mr. Saldanha: South Kanara?) I must say that geographical omniscience is not part of my equipment. My hon. Friend did not give any notice regarding South Kanara. Therefore between this morning and now I cannot collect the necessary materials regarding what has been done for South Kanara. If my hon. Friend will table a resolution on that matter I shall at once get the necessary materials as to what is there which is worth investigating and whether it would pay to make investigations."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Sir, I had no idea of intervening in this debate at all, but certain remarks made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, make me do so. There was no necessity for him to refer to my attitude towards the Irrigation Bill. I still think that the rivers in Malabar belong to private individuals. The Government have done a distinct disservice to the people thereby passing the Irrigation Bill. I still hold that opinion whatever my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, or the hon. the Law Member might say."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I request my hon. Friend, Mr. Madhava Raja, if he is satisfied with the observations made by my hon. Friend the Law Member, to withdraw his motion?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I say this? If I understood my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, aright, he used that particular argument only as a kind of jocular illustration of the general position. Is it necessary therefore to raise the question of the Irrigation Bill and the manner in which that Bill was dealt with by representatives of janmis? It was used only for the purpose of calling attention to the urgent needs of the Malabar district. I appeal to my hon. Friend not to pursue the matter further."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"My hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, said that my lands would be the first to be benefited by the Irrigation Bill."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The question depends on the Superintending Engineer, the Chief Engineer and the Government."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"I shall be the last person to take advantage of any such opportunity. I do not expect the Government or any other body to help me and I have no faith in such help. I hope to be able to stand on my own legs."

"As regards the motion itself, I am glad the Government are doing their best to examine the scope of irrigation works in Malabar. What I have to say in connexion with this motion is this: the Malampuzha project or the irrigation work in the Kalpathy river is one which is capable of being vastly improved. The anicut which is a private property was completely washed away in the recent floods and the owner being in difficulties the whole thing is neglected. The Government will do well to acquire it and carry out

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the necessary repairs immediately. It irrigates large tracts of paddy lands and with a little more outlay it can be made more useful. I hope the Government will avail themselves of this opportunity and do the needful."

* Mr. V. MADHAVA RAJA :—" Before I withdraw my motion, I want to say just one or two words with regard to the remarks made by the hon. the Member for Irrigation. I think the Government are under the impression that Malabar is a very flourishing district and that there is no famine in Malabar. It is a fact that for all purposes of calculation we have average rainfall. It is then asked why do you complain of water? When we want rain, we do not get it. When we do not want it, we have it. The result is that the lands are spoiled both by excess of rain and for want of rain. If an irrigation project is at least started now, more than 100 thousand acres of waste lands can be cultivated. If the hon. the Member for Irrigation will do something as early as possible in this matter, I have no objection to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" If hon. Members wish to continue the debate on this Demand, we shall adjourn till to-morrow. So far as I can see, there is one motion about delta districts. The hon. the Law Member has already said that he was prepared for that. We can go on with it and finish."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I may say that there is one matter on which I propose to make a statement which will take some time. That is about the hydro-electric scheme. I shall probably take about five minutes for that particular statement."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am very keen to hear about the progress of the Irrigation Bill."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" That I shall refer to at once."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I wish to point out that motion No. 314 is not about the Cerem scheme but the Cocum scheme. Evidently it is a misprint."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I shall have to say something to the House about the hydro-electric scheme, the Mettur project, the Cocum scheme and the Irrigation Bill which will take some time, and also about the Kattalai dam."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The Council will now adjourn to meet again at 11 o'clock to-morrow."

The House accordingly adjourned.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

20th March 1925]

APPENDIX

[Vide item II Communication to the Council on page 407 supra.]

Proceedings of the eighteenth meeting of the Finance Committee, 1924-25, held on Friday the 6th March 1925 at 5 p.m. in the Cabinet Chamber, Fort St. George.

PRESENT :

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM, C.S.I., I.C.S. (Chairman).

M.R.Ry. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR Avargal, M.L.C.

" P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI Avargal, M.L.C.

" M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR Avargal, M.L.C.

R. W. DAVIES, Esq., I.C.S., M.L.C.

Mr. P. RANGANAYAKULU NAYUDU, Under Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, was also present.

Repairing and reforming the Pollachi-Vannanthorai road—

	RS.
Total cost	71,460
Demand for the current year	20,000

The committee were of the opinion that the proposed expenditure of Rs. 71,460 for reforming the Pollachi-Vannanthorai road should be accepted. In view, however, of the fact that the necessity for the expenditure of so large a sum of money was not reported at the time that the scheme for the transfer of the road from the District Board to the Public Works department was placed before them, they recommended that the cost of the scheme should be met by the postponement of scheme No. 138 in the Budget Memorandum, viz., Widening the Paralai-Castlecroft road in the Anamalais. The latter scheme, the cost of which is Rs. 45,350, is not in their opinion essential, and they recommended that the latter should be abandoned or postponed and the funds utilized for the reformation of the Pollachi-Vannanthorai road.

The expenditure that is to be incurred in the current year may, they recommended, be met from the maintenance grant and, to the additional extent necessary, by reappropriation.

FORT ST. GEORGE, }
9th March 1925.

R. A. GRAHAM.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 21st March 1925.

The House met at 11-5 a.m., Mr. President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI Avargal, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the chair.

I.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Court of Wards and Zamindars.

Management of the Zamorin Maharaja's Estates.

* 601 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a memorial signed by more than 60 members of the Zamorin Maharaja's family has been sent to His Excellency the Governor praying that the Government should continue to administer through the Court of Wards the estate of the Maharaja even after the 12 years period of agreement is over;

(b) whether the causes which induced the Government to take up the management still continue to operate;

(c) whether the Government have consulted the Collector of Malabar and the Maharaja on this matter; if so, what are their views;

(d) whether Government deem it necessary to continue the management in compliance with the memorial if the Maharaja also is anxious for it;

(e) whether the allegations stated in the memorial and particularly in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 7 are true and typical of many other *stanams* in the district; and

(f) if so, whether Government propose to undertake the necessary legislation to protect and preserve these ancient institution?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) to (f) The matter is under consideration and no statement of the views of the Government can be made at present.

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Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" May I ask whether the Government will be pleased to consider the cases of other *stanies* also before they dispose of this memorial ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I understand from the tenor of my hon. Friend's question that he is a supporter of the memorial and his present suggestion is that if Government should find it possible to accede to the request of the memorialists of the Zamorin's family to undertake legislation, then we should at the same time consider the cases of other families that might be brought under the legislation. The answer to that is that if the conditions in other *stanams* approximate to those in the Zamorin's family then the Government will also consider the desirability of extending any legislation undertaken with regard to the Zamorin's family to all the more important *stanams* of the district."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether the signatories to the memorial are friendly or unfriendly to the Zamorin ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not think there is any reason to think that they are unfriendly."

European Education.

The Breeks' Memorial School, Ootacamund.

* 602 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Breeks' Memorial School, Ootacamund, was founded wholly or partly with the aid of public subscriptions ;

(b) whether Indian boys were being admitted formerly in the school ; and

(c) whether Indians are not now admitted and if so, the reasons why ?

A.—(a) Yes ; partly.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. In pursuance of a scheme promulgated under the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890, the school has been reserved since 1905 for the children of Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask the reasons why the scheme was promulgated in 1905 under which Indian boys who were being previously admitted were refused admission into this school ? This is a school which was started by public subscriptions and I am sure part of them must have come from Indians also."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" As regards the question whether the original subscriptions were partly received from Indians also the answer is already contained in clause (a). The reason why the new scheme was promulgated in 1905 was that it was found that the school was unable to maintain itself and it was impossible to go on. The only alternative to closing the school altogether was the new scheme."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Did the Europeans and Anglo-Indians promise any support, if the new scheme was promulgated ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" That appears to be the result, Sir. All that we know is that since the new scheme was promulgated it has been maintaining itself with a certain amount of support from Government."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am not asking about the sequel. I am simply asking what were the circumstances which prompted the Government in the year 1905 to restrict admission to the school to boys only of two classes of His Majesty's subjects and to close it to a third class altogether."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I have here a note as to what actually happened. It is to the effect that the income of the Breeks' Memorial School having decreased, owing partly to the withdrawal of certain assistance which had been given from Church funds, the trustees found it impossible to administer and maintain the school. They decided to close it on the 1st July 1904. The Government considered it undesirable to close the school. It was decided that the trustees should make an application to the Government under the Charitable Endowments Act for the purpose of vesting the property in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments. They then started a fresh scheme. The fresh scheme was drawn up on the lines of my hon. Friend's question and it was decided to reserve the school for the children of Europeans and Anglo-Indians."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know what the trust referred to was composed of ? Did it consist of Indians and Europeans or Europeans alone ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" All that we are aware of is that originally the money was raised by public subscriptions part of which came from Indians."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know the reasons why Government entered into a policy of racial discrimination in the matter of admission to a public school which was opened and maintained by subscriptions collected both from Indians and Europeans ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The answer has already been given. The two alternatives were either to close the school or to continue it under the new scheme. At that time provision was made for Indian education by the opening of a new municipal school in Ootacamund."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" My hon. Friend says there were two alternatives. I am asking how the two alternatives arose. As an alternative to closing the school, it must be continued as a school reserved exclusively for Europeans and Anglo-Indians under the new scheme. May I ask whether by making it exclusive for Europeans and Anglo-Indians, any Europeans and Anglo-Indians promised increased support to the school ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" They were not assured of any support financially in the shape of contributions, but they had the prospect of support in the sense that more paying pupils were likely to join the school."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I know my hon. Friend is referring to the sequel. But all that I am asking is whether before the new scheme was started they were assured of more support from Europeans and Anglo-Indians, if it was reserved exclusively for them."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"As I said already, there were only two alternatives. The one was closing it down altogether. The other was to change the constitution in the expectation that they would get a larger income if the school was reserved for Europeans and Anglo-Indians alone."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"Is that the only school that is exclusively reserved for European and Anglo-Indian children?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"So far as I know, that is the only one, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"From the answers given by the hon. the Leader of the House does it follow that these two sections of His Majesty's subjects were saying that unless the school was reserved exclusively for them and Indian students refused admission, they would not join the school?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid I do not quite follow the hon. Member. This is the business of a Trust and Government have no control over the Trust. We can only act under the terms of the Trust. It was originally intended to be a school for the education of the children of poor Europeans and East Indians and the more respectable Indian inhabitants of the place. The Trust was afterwards modified. Government were bound down by the terms of the Trust."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"I follow that, Sir. But my trouble is this. May I ask for a plain statement of fact whether those Europeans and Anglo-Indians who promised to send their boys to this school and help it in other ways refused to do so if respectable Indian boys also were admitted?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"That was apparently the position, Sir. But we are speaking about matters which happened twenty years ago."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"By whom was the Trust modified, by the Court or by the Government?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"The application was made under the Charitable Endowments Act and I think the new scheme was sanctioned by Government."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Arising out of that answer, may I ask the hon. the Home Member whether it is the policy of the Government to encourage racial discrimination among His Majesty's subjects even in the public schools of this country?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I do not think that arises out of this question, Sir."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB:—"Did the poor Europeans object to the admission of respectable Indian boys?" (Laughter)

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I presume that must have been so."

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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"How much grant-in-aid is this institution receiving from the Government?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid I cannot give details. It receives grants just like other schools."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"If the poor Europeans raised such objections to the admission of respectable Indian pupils, why should not Government discontinue their connection with the institution and discourage such reprehensible sentiments? Why should not the Government stop the grant-in-aid that is being given?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"We are now discussing a matter which 11-15 a.m. happened twenty years ago. As matters now stand, we have a Trust over which Government have no control. I do not see why we should not give any grant to this school because it has been reserved for certain classes of pupils."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Now that 20 years have elapsed, I suppose the Government claim that the angle of vision of the Government has changed. But still if it is so, may I ask whether they will consider the scheme being altered, so that the school may be thrown open to all classes of His Majesty's subjects?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"If the Trustees make any application to that effect, I will consider it."

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—"Muhammadan students are excluded from the Pachaiyappa's College."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"The Pachaiyappa's College has too many reservations."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"The Pachaiyappa's College is maintained only by endowments made by Hindus for Hindus, and not made by Muhammadans and Hindus for both."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"For the matter of that, are there any Muhammadan institutions which do not make such reservations and which allow both Muhammadan and Hindu students?"

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB:—"Both in the Aligarh and Vaniyambadi Colleges, Muhammadans as well as Hindus are admitted."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"I asked the Government and I want an answer from the Government."

Criminal Justice.

Release of a French mechanic prisoner.

* 603 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether a French mechanic who was convicted and sentenced to a year's imprisonment for the killing of an Indian was recently released after serving only a few months of his sentence; and

(b) the circumstances under which the release took place?

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- A.—(a) The man was released after serving six months of his sentence.
 (b) He was released by the Government, after a careful consideration of all the facts of the case, in the exercise of their powers under section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

MR. S. SATYAMURTI:—"As a kind of policy, are any periodical returns submitted to the Government, so that the hon. Member may examine such cases and recommend the order of release or does he take action himself?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I may say at once that this is one branch of the subjects in my portfolio which gives very considerable difficulty and occupies much time. His Excellency the Governor in Council is vested under section 401 of the Criminal Procedure Code with the prerogative which is known sometimes as the prerogative of pardon or mercy and in exercising this, definite rules are observed. In order that there may be no misconception and with your leave, Mr. President, let me, as the implications of the question may otherwise give rise to misconception, explain the position. One of the items of policy which is ever present in the minds of Government may thus be described: that in cases which are in the continental jurisprudence known as crimes passionals—crimes on account of passion or provocation, the prerogative of pardon or mercy may often be justly exercised. Let me also explain to hon. Members that in this case in passing the sentence the hon. Mr. Justice Wallace said 'You have committed an offence which is in the opinion of the Jury culpable homicide not amounting to murder under grave and sudden provocation,' the provocation consisting in the deceased accusing the prisoner's wife of being a keeper of a brothel and a prostitute. In retaliation the man was stabbed. The hon. Mr. Justice Wallace went on to say 'I agree you had a great deal of provocation both in word and deed and I have taken these circumstances into account and although the offence is one that merits a severe punishment, I sentence you to rigorous imprisonment for one year'. The man was in prison for six months and at the end of that period the matter was brought to the notice of the Governor and having regard to the fact that this was one of the cases which fell under the category of offences committed under sudden passion or provocation where generally the Government act in the mitigation of punishment, they took this step and there is absolutely nothing racial about this. Week after week we deal with cases of this kind and it is not very long ago that in the case of an Odda who committed murder under more or less the same circumstances as stated above, the punishment of rigorous imprisonment for seven years was reduced."

MR. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—"In a recent case certain Muhammadans were sentenced to transportation by the Sessions Judge and were recommended for mercy to the local Government and although the High Court too recommended that the sentence may be commuted, it was not done."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I must look into the papers. I take it that there must have been special circumstances. If the hon. Member puts me the question even without the ordinary notice, I shall get it answered before the budget season is over."

MR. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I can understand the hon. Member asking for notice. I asked my question not on any racial grounds, but merely to see

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that the Government elucidates the policy behind it in regard to this matter. Sir, may I ask if in the course of the arduous duties which the Government have to attend to in connexion with these matters, the case of Mr. Narayana Menon has not been brought before their notice or whether they do not consider that it is a case which certainly deserves their sympathy, if they really have in their minds the principle of exercising the prerogative of pardon or mercy in such cases?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"May I ask if my hon. Friend thinks that he (Mr. Narayana Menon) is entitled to the prerogative of pardon or mercy as a matter of justice?"

MR. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Mercy or justice, whichever you like."

Electricity.

Starting of Hydro-electric schemes in the Presidency.

* 604 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to entrust the starting and working of Hydro-electric schemes in the Presidency to private companies or syndicates;

(b) if so, the reasons why such proposals are being entertained by the Government; and

(c) the reasons why the Government do not undertake the starting and working of these schemes themselves?

A.—(a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) The question is one of alternative methods of financing such projects.

(c) A decision on the matter has not yet been reached.

Police.

Police guard at the Guindy races.

* 605 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Policemen detailed to do duty in connexion with races on race days;

(b) the approximate cost thereof to the public exchequer; and

(c) the justification, if any, for the same?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) No extra expenditure is incurred on the police.

(c) It is the duty of the police to be present, wherever the public is expected in large numbers, for their protection and for the regulation of traffic.

MR. S. SATYAMURTI:—"With reference to the answer given in clause (a), will the Government be pleased to call for the information? Because I find—I do not go to the races—whenever I go that side on race days, a number of policemen stationed in the race-course and I think the charge of stationing these men must be a heavy burden to the State, although the Government say, whenever we ask for any money that their resources are crippled."

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I have got some papers in connexion with this matter but I have not got the answer quite ready. I may however remind the hon. Member that in the case of festivals or processions or even elaborately conducted marriages a large number of policemen are employed to preserve peace and order."

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—"Even for garden parties?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Even for garden parties and things of that kind. Wherever a large number of men congregate, policemen are stationed and no extra expenditure is incurred."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"As this is a commercial concern, and as the Racing Club are making a profit out of it, may I ask the hon. the Law Member if he has got power to levy some contribution and, if not, to take power to collect any charges that are likely to be incurred for stationing these men?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I think no extra charges are incurred. I shall investigate the question and if I find that extra charges are incurred, we shall see if possible that those charges are contributed by the bodies or the associations concerned."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member how he proposes to recover any extra charges that may be incurred in stationing men in connexion with large gatherings or audiences?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I laid emphasis on the fact that whenever large bodies of people congregate at any particular place, it is the duty of the police to take certain steps to maintain peace. In this case where a large number of foot passengers and carriages go, it is the duty of the police to regulate the traffic and therefore a large number of policemen is required. If any extra charge is incurred on account of this, it may legitimately be recovered by the Government. As a matter of fact in some cases, private parties do pay for the stationing of policemen. I do not, for one moment, seek to minimize or deny the responsibility of policemen for the maintenance of peace on these occasions."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"The only difference is that in the one case it is public meeting and things of that kind, whereas in the other case it is purely a commercial concern."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"It is a very difficult matter and I do not want to say anything more on the point. But it is quite conceivable, though not frequent, that in certain public meetings gate-money is charged. Such things take place in other countries and my hon. Friend is very well aware of them."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"As the matter of beach meetings has been referred to by my hon. Friend from Chingleput with much disgust and contempt, may I inform the hon. the Law Member that at the beach meetings no policemen attend except two or three reporters whom we do not want but whom the Government want?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I do not think it is quite correct. In addition to the gentlemen referred to by the hon. Member, there is a body of policemen present at public meetings. They may not be within the space set apart for speakers, but may be going about to see that no disturbance takes place."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I have addressed scores of meetings and I do not think that any policemen come there (unless they come in mufti,) except on occasions when persons like Mahatma Gandhi address such meetings."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I may retort by saying that in cases of largely attended meetings like those which my hon. Friend addresses, policemen do attend."

Finance.

Expenditure in connexion with the visit of Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught.

* 606 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state the amount of expenditure proposed to be incurred by the local Government in connexion with the ensuing visit of Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught?

A.—No expenditure was incurred by the local Government in connexion with Their Royal Highnesses' visit.

Excise duty on cotton piece-goods manufactured by power looms in Malabar.

* 607 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the year in which power looms were set up and worked in their factory by the late Basel Mission Weaving establishment at Cannanore;

(b) whether it is a fact that though cotton piecegoods were made in the power looms of the above factory from 1911-12 for the last about thirteen years excise duty on the cotton piecegoods had not been collected by the Government during all the past years prior to 1922-23;

(c) the outturn of cotton piecegoods of the power looms of the above factory with particulars of their tariff value and the amount of excise duty leviable thereon during each of the past official years from the year in which power looms were introduced and worked in the factory to the year 1921-22;

(d) the reasons why no excise duty was collected on the cotton piecegoods in the above factory and who is responsible for not collecting the duty during the years in which the duty was not collected;

(e) whether during the years in which excise duty though leviable was not collected from the owners of the above factory, the same duty had been collected from any other firm or firms in Malabar and, if so, what their names are; and

(f) whether any steps have been taken to recover all the duties due to the Government from all the persons against whom Government can still lay its claim and, if not, why not?

A.—(a) to (d) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 18th August 1924, to question No. 31.

(e) There was no other power mill in Malabar during the period.

(f) So far as the Government are aware, steps have been taken in all cases in which recovery was possible. If the hon. Member can specify any mill that has escaped assessment the Government will be obliged to him for the information.

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"With regard to the answer to clause (f), may I ask if the Government have satisfied themselves by a comprehensive enquiry that all the mills have been taxed?"

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"So far as we know, they have been taxed."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am referring to clause (f) which says 'So far as Government are aware, steps have been taken in all cases in which recovery was possible. If the hon. Member can specify any mill that has escaped assessment, the Government will be obliged to him for the information.' I am asking whether a comprehensive enquiry was instituted to find out if all the mills have been brought on the list?"

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"The Collectors were asked to find out what mills were taxed and so far as we know all the mills which allow taxation have been taxed."

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Licence for railway refreshment rooms

* 608 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the railway refreshment rooms within municipal limits are not liable to take out licence under section 249 of the District Municipalities Act, 1920; and

(b) at whose instance and under what circumstances Government issued G.O. Press No. 282, P.H., dated 5th February 1925, advising local bodies not to require Railway Administrations to take out licences in respect of railway refreshment rooms?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The order was issued on an examination of the representations made in the matter by the President, Guntakal Union Board, and the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, and after taking legal advice.

Pension of the late Chairman of the Ootacamund municipality.

* 609 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. E. F. Handcock, former Chairman of the Ootacamund municipality, is being paid a pension of Rs. 500 per mensem from municipal funds;

(b) whether his pay as Chairman was only Rs. 750 and whether he had put in only 21 years' service in the municipality; and

(c) the reasons for this exceptional treatment?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Mr. Handcock's salary was Rs. 1,000 and he served the Ootacamund Municipal Council for 23 years.

(c) The question does not arise.

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to the answer given to this question, is it not a fact that 25 years' service is required to make one eligible for half pension?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I understand that he has put in other services to his credit."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Was it under the Government or on the local fund side?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Local board service."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Was pensionary contribution system in force in respect of that appointment?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I think so."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"How many years' service had he put in there?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I cannot say exactly. It is more than 5 or 6 years."

Medical.

Expenditure on the Nilgiri Nursing Home.

* 610 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the number of patients on an average per day and the total number every year in the Nilgiri Nursing Home;

(b) the annual expenditure for its upkeep; and

(c) the duties, pay and the qualifications of the manager?

A.—The Government have no information. The institution is not under the control of the Government.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"With reference to the answer given to this question, do the Government make any contribution to this Nursing Home?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I do not think the Government make any contribution by way of money grants to this institution."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Is there any other grant?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I am not sure. I think probably they have been allowed to occupy one room."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Is there any other institution like this in the Presidency?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I think there is only one institution, but another institution, the parent institution, is located in Madras in the Government House for which this institution pays some sort of rent."

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Education.

Andhra Jateeya Kalasala, Masulipatam.

* 611 Q.—Mr. P. ANJANEYULU: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—
(a) whether the Andhra Jateeya Kalasala of Masulipatam is receiving any aid—

(i) from provincial funds, and

(ii) from local bodies; and

(b) if so, how much; if not, why not?

A.—The answer is in the negative. The institution is not one recognized by the Government.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—“May I know whether recognition was once given to this institution but afterwards withdrawn?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“They never conceded recognition.”

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—“Was there any time when this institution was receiving aid from Provincial funds?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“I do not recollect that provincial funds were contributed to this institution. The local bodies had been contributing some subsidies.”

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—“If the local bodies had been contributing some subsidies what is it that now prevents them from doing so?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“I agree with the views expressed by the hon. Member. But the thing is the Audit department objects to any payments being made to institutions which are not recognized.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—“Is it not a fact that the institution was once recognized and recognition was subsequently withdrawn?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“I do not know.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—“Is it not a fact that some of the local bodies were permitted to subsidise the Kalasala, for example the Vizagapatam District Board?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“Money paid with the previous sanction of the Government would be a valid payment.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—“Did not the Government afterwards issue instructions to district boards to withdraw their help to this institution?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“The Kalasala not being a recognized institution, perhaps the Government might have issued such instructions.”

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Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“As this Kalasala did not seek recognition and had been doing good work even before the days of non-co-operation, I now appeal to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to allow the local bodies that are now forbidden to contribute, to help this institution.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“The whole question depends upon an application for recognition from the Kalasala and the advice of our educational expert. I would be glad to consider the case when it comes up.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“The point I wish to emphasise is this. This Kalasala never applied for recognition and never received any. That is a well known fact. In spite of it on account of the very useful work it has been doing for a number of years, may I appeal to the hon. Minister to permit the local bodies if they chose to contribute to the maintenance of the institution and restore the *status quo*?”

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—“Is it not a fact, Sir, that some of the institutions, for example, Ayurvedic institutions, which are not recognized by the Government, are permitted to be given contribution by the local bodies and on the same analogy, will not the Government be pleased to permit this Kalasala also to receive contribution?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“In the case of Ayurvedic institutions, the case is different. It is one of the duties of the local bodies to give medical relief and these institutions are a legitimate charge upon the finances of the local bodies.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—“Are not educational institutions like this Kalasala a legitimate charge on the local bodies?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“Only recognized institutions.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“May I appeal to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to reconsider the order issued so that help might be given to this very desirable institution?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“As I said, Sir, the whole question depends upon the recommendation of the expert advisor to the Government. If the Director of Public Instruction recommends, the Government will be glad to consider the case.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“Is not this asking the Kalasala to go against its principle, the principle on which it was founded, namely, not to seek recognition? and if the policy was pursued even before the days of non-co-operation, as the hon. Minister knows very well, in the altered circumstances I would like that the hon. Minister take a generous view and remove the ban that is now imposed on the local bodies.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—“Is it not a fact that the hon. Minister for Education when Chairman of the Berhampur municipality was giving Rs. 100 or 200 to this institution at his own initiative?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“That was already referred to.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“May I ask if Ayurvedic institutions are required to be recognized to become eligible for contribution?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“Probably they are not.”

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I ask the hon. the Minister for Education whether there is any express or implied provision that the local bodies shall contribute to only recognized institutions, or whether it is left to instructions issued by Government?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"I believe recognition is one of the conditions for receiving aid."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"An indispensable condition?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"That is a rule in the Educational Rules and the Grant-in-Aid Rules."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"I wish to know whether there is any rule requiring recognition for Ayurvedic institutions."

Registration of private aided educational institutions under section 26 of the Indian Companies Act.

* 612 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether private aided educational institutions are required to register themselves under section 26 of the Indian Companies Act; and

(b) whether insistence on this condition has caused considerable inconvenience to charitable organizations which are maintaining educational institutions merely for the purpose of spreading education?

A.—(a) This is generally the case in schools applying newly for recognition.

(b) The Government have no information.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know what the reasons are for insisting upon its registration before an institution is recognized?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"It is for the purpose of recognizing an authorized correspondent of an institution; if the institution is registered, it will be a regular institution for distribution of grants, and grants are distributed only to recognized institutions. An institution which has not been registered does not possess an authorized agent who is to receive the grant on its behalf. So it is more for the purpose of recognizing a real authority on behalf of the institution than for anything else."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"The answer says that this is generally the case. May I know the special circumstances which are held to justify their being exempted from the rule?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"If the hon. Member refers to any particular institution, I shall be glad to say why there was an exemption."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, as the purpose is said to be to have a regularly authorized correspondent for these schools, are not these schools required to be registered under the provisions of the Charitable Endowments Act XXI of 1860?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"They may get registered. We do not insist. I only say that the institution should be a regularly constituted body."

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The elementary school maintained by the Adi-Dravidas of Kamalapuram.

* 613 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) why the District Educational Officer, Salem, did not recommend for recognition and aid the elementary school run by the Adi-Dravidas themselves of the village of Kamalapuram, Omalur taluk;

(b) the remarks of the Deputy Inspector of Schools as well as the District Educational Officer in the matter;

(c) whether the Kamalapuram Board Elementary school run by the Sankaridrug Taluk Board is in a thatched small rented building in the midst of a field;

(d) whether it is a fact that this thatched rented school house has not got sufficient light for want of more windows; and

(e) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a) to (d), whether they will call for the information?

A.—(a), (b), (d) & (e) The Government have no information but will call for a report.

(c) Yes; but a new building for the school near the Adi-Dravida quarters is under construction.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

European Education.

Expenditure on the Lawrence Asylum School, Lovedale.

614 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the annual net expenditure for the maintenance of the Lawrence Asylum School, Lovedale?

A.—The expenditure of the Local Government on the school in the last few years has been Rs. 32,000 per annum.

Bench Courts.

Trial of cases by the Bench Court of Ootacamund.

615 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Bench Court of Ootacamund pronounces judgment without hearing evidence in full and without hearing counsel?

A.—The Government have received no information to this effect.

Irrigation.

Cost of repairing the damages caused by the floods.

616 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member, the hon. the Member for Finance, the hon. the Member for Revenue, the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government of Madras applied to the Central Government only for an advance of Rs. 20 lakhs and a loan of Rs. 35 lakhs, and, if so, on what data those figures were arrived at;

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(b) what is the exact amount required to repair the damages in all the districts affected by the floods;

(c) whether the Government have any intention of making any permanent provision against the slow silting that the irrigation channels are susceptible to; and

(d) when the Government propose to start reclamation work?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative. The estimate forwarded to the Government of India was based on the information that was in the possession of Government on the 1st September last. The Government of India were informed that the estimates were incomplete.

(b) It is impossible to give exact figures. The estimates of the Public Works Department and the local authorities make the total 63.35 lakhs.

(c) No.

(d) The hon. Member is referred to G.Os. No. 1599, Revenue, dated 15th October 1924, and No. 1759, Revenue, dated 12th November 1924, which have been published. Government have appointed a Special Deputy Collector to examine in detail the question of disposal of sand.

Public Works.

Vacancies in the office of Superintending Engineer, Madras Circle.

617 Q.—RAO BAHADUR C. NATESA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 34 permanent vacancies of clerks' posts under the Superintending Engineer, Madras Circle, Public Works Department; and

(b) if so, whether G.O. No. 658, Public, dated 15th August 1922, will be duly given effect to in filling up these posts?

A.—(a) There is a proposal to bring on to the permanent establishment 34 temporary posts of clerks in the Madras Circle.

(b) The appointing authority will doubtless pay due regard to the orders on the subject of communal representation in Government service.

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Loan to Ootacamund Municipality.

618 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the amount of loans given to Ootacamund Municipality by the Madras Government?

A.—The amount of loans given to the Ootacamund Municipal Council by the Government up to 31st March 1924 was Rs. 4,61,000, of which Rs. 4,326-8-3 had been repaid before that date. In the current year the Government have lent Rs. 40,700 to the Council.

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Registration.

Inspection by the Inspector-General of Registration, etc.

619 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the aggregate number of registration offices the Inspector-General of Registration has inspected since his incumbency in the department and the amount of travelling allowance incurred thereby;

(b) the necessity for the inspections made by the Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General and the number of inspections made by him and the amount spent therefor;

(c) the number of inspections made by the Inspector-General in 1923 by travelling in vehicles other than train, for which travelling allowances were prepared as per the Civil Service Regulations; and

(d) the number of inspections of the sub-office of Acharapakkam made by the Inspector-General and the Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General in 1923; the nature of the journey made according to the Civil Service Regulations and the amount drawn by each?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the annual report on the working of the Registration Department which deals with the inspections made by the Inspector-General of Registration. Other information relating to the statistics is not available.

Appointment of probationary Sub-Registrars in 1923 from Nayudu community.

620 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of members of the Nayudu community to which the Inspector-General belongs appointed as probationary sub-registrars in 1923?

A.—The Government have no information.

Suspension, etc., of peons from the office of Inspector-General of Registration.

621 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of peons suspended or dismissed in the office of the Inspector-General of Registration?

A.—The information asked for is not available.

II

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

With reference to the answer given to question No. 124 at the meeting of the Council held on the 5th February 1925, the Secretary laid on the table a copy of the letter^a, dated 3rd February 1925, from the District Educational Officer, Malabar, regarding the elementary day school in Kalpathy agram, Palghat.

^a, Printed as Appendix at page 540 infra.

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III

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1925-1926.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the member.]

DEMAND VII—IRRIGATION—PUBLIC WORKS OFFICERS.

Motion No. 50.

* Mr. V. MADHAVA RAJA :—“ Sir, I beg to move

‘that the allotment of Rs. 10,98,900 for navigation, embankment and drainage works be reduced by Rs. 100’.

“ Mr. President, Sir, the object with which I have tabled this motion is to bring to the notice of the Government the immediate necessity for deepening and widening the Conolly's Canal. This canal is the only means of communication between the north and the south of the Ponnani taluk. Of all the taluks in Malabar the most important is the taluk of Ponnani where it is impossible to open roads for communication and the only line of communication is the backwater. I moved a resolution on the subject in this Council on the 31st March 1920 and the Government accepted the resolution. They said that they would take immediate steps to deepen the canal. But my submission is that ordinary deepening is not enough, for the canal gets silted again so much so that it is not possible for boats to pass through. Unless some locks are constructed and some permanent repairs are made, it will not be possible to use the canal for boat traffic. I request the Government to take immediate steps to provide the necessary amount for deepening this canal. It is a pity that the claims of Malabar should be ignored while lakhs and lakhs are spent on irrigation schemes in other parts of the Presidency.”

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ I rise to support the motion. As my hon. Friend stated, it is the main line of communication between the northern part of Ponnani and the southern part. This is the means of communication for travellers from the northern parts of Malabar to Cochin and Travancore. This is the main waterway and there is no road serving the purpose. It is therefore essential that this communication should be always kept in proper repair. On the 31st of March 1920 in connexion with a resolution which was moved in this Council, the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp stated that an estimate had been sanctioned for the clearing of silt for Rs. 21,000 and that the Government had under consideration an estimate for the construction of locks. So far as I am aware no lock has been constructed since then and I wish to know what has become of the scheme. In any case, I press upon the Government the extreme and urgent need for deepening this canal and for keeping it in a state of repair always. In fact very often boats are held up for want of water from about September to about the middle of June in several places along the canal. I wish therefore that the Government do take early steps in this matter.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, the hon. Member who spoke last referred to the proceedings in this Council in 1920. I must say that even much earlier than that the question had been discussed and, the unsatisfactory state of the canal has been brought to the notice of

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the Government even as early as April 1906 when the Council passed a resolution on the subject. I may mention that on the 13th of October 1924, the Government sanctioned an estimate amounting to Rs. 1,29,000 for clearing silt in the Ponnani canal. It has been forwarded by the Chief Engineer, with a note that the contribution towards the cost of the work referred to will be recovered if the work is executed. I may say also, Sir, that estimates amounting to Rs. 1.80 lakhs have been prepared for the construction of four locks to replace the existing mud dams put up across the canal to maintain water levels in the canal.

“ This was one of the matters in regard to which we pleaded for inclusion in the budget but on account of competing claims we could not get the provision made. That is the only reason. Everything is ready and if we get the necessary funds a beginning will be made. That is the exact position.”

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ Am I to understand that no money has been at all allotted for this purpose in this year's budget ? ”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ It was one of the schemes on which we concentrated our attention and we decided that it was necessary to execute it. But there were other claims on account of flood damages and other necessities and we had no funds to be allotted for this purpose.”

* Mr. V. MADHAVA RAJA :—“ May we expect this work to be taken up at least in the next year ? ”

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—“ May I point out, Sir, that every hon. Member in this House is asking for first preference for some scheme or another, and it is quite impossible to promise preference to all ? ”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 51.

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ Owing to the unavoidable and unfortunate absence of both of my hon. Friends, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu and Diwan Bahadur Ethirajulu Nayudu, I request permission of the House to move the motion standing in their names. The motion itself reads :—

‘That the allotment of Rs. 13,68,100 for works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept be reduced by Rs. 100.’

“ Sir, this motion is intended to raise the question of the Cooum canal. Well, Sir, the question of so improving the Cooum as to make it a tidal river so that the health of the City may be considerably improved and the other amenities of life may also be improved has been before this House and before the Government for a number of years. I remember that in the very first year of the reformed Council, apart from the period earlier than that, this question was raised by my honoured and revered leader Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar who, as President of the Madras Corporation, took a special interest in the matter because he knew that the Cooum, if made a tidal river, would certainly improve the general health of the City of Madras. And my hon. Friend, Sir, who is the only representative at the present moment in this Council of the Madras Corporation when this important question is being discussed, has said over and over again that Madras is a death-trap. If the health of the City is to be improved at all, I really feel that some such scheme as had been prepared some time ago to make the Cooum a tidal river should be

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brought into effect as early as possible. Unfortunately we have had a number of superannuated Chief Engineers who have not been able to make up their minds as to what is good to remedy the evil in this matter. (Laughter.) (A voice :—‘ You are very hard ’.) The hon. the Minister says that I am very hard ; probably he may feel it so, but it is also with some feeling that I am speaking about this matter. Year after year we have been trying to understand what the difficulty is that they feel. I know perfectly well that on these technical matters, as we have no knowledge, we cannot come to any conclusion, but it seems to me that this matter cannot be put off year after year because one Chief Engineer suggests one way and another Chief Engineer suggests another.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I may inform my hon. Friend that it is not on account of technical advice that the matter is delayed.”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ I am very glad to hear that, Sir. Up to six months ago I was under the impression that it was technical advice that delayed the matter. I discussed the matter with Mr. Hutton who was then the Chief Engineer, and he said that the scheme was simple and that there was no difficulty to proceed with it if the requisite grants were provided. Another Chief Engineer said that there might be a great many difficulties in carrying out that scheme or suggestion. Anyhow, the matter was afterwards referred to a committee and we have one gentleman in that committee who from all accounts was recognized as an expert in the matter ; I refer to the Chief Engineer for the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. That gentleman had his own opinions regarding the matter ; he knew of similar schemes elsewhere, on the continent of Europe, in England and other places. And I believe that the committee unanimously recommended the scheme which was suggested by him. I may at once say that I am not interested in any particular scheme ; they may dig a canal from the harbour into the Cooum, or they may cut off one of the branches of the Cooum at the Island or they may set up pumping installations by means of which water can be pumped into the river. All these schemes have been suggested, I know, but what I say is that it is high time that an effort is made to concentrate on some particular scheme and carry it out. Whichever scheme may be promulgated, there will be people who will say that it is either difficult or non-workable. So, I would appeal to the hon. the Irrigation Member that he should make up his mind, though there is so much diversity or difference of opinion, to take up one scheme and remedy the evil. He should make up his mind to undertake one scheme and carry it out. Only the other day in the Madras Corporation, which I may say is very much interested in having some scheme instituted and carried into effect as early as possible, on an adjournment motion—I am glad to see that adjournment motions are becoming common even in the Madras Corporation—to discuss this Cooum scheme, it was suggested that if the Provincial contribution is going to be reduced to any extent, this scheme should be given the prior claim. I am not particular about the question as to what particular scheme should be taken up, but I say that some effort should be made to bring into existence some scheme.

“ I believe hon. Members of the Government would be putting forward further demands for grants, and I hope, now that there is some hope of

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getting the Provincial contribution remitted at least to some extent, that some provision will be made this year by way of further demand for a grant for the purpose of carrying out a scheme for improving the Cooum. With these words I strongly commend this motion for the acceptance of the House.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I think, Sir, it is necessary for me to refer to one or two fundamental facts before the difficulty of the problem can be realized. The real difficulty of the Cooum problem is due to a scientific phenomenon which has been described as littoral drift. To those who may not be well acquainted with these scientific theories—I may confess I am not, but I took some trouble to learn this may not be so easy to realize. The fact of the matter is that the land situate on the coast of Madras has been brought into existence by sand being thrown on to the shore by the sea. For the information of hon. Members I may mention that what are called cretaceous rocks which are found 50 miles west of Madras, 50 miles west of Cuddalore, and 70 miles west of Negapatam, have been brought into existence by the littoral drift and this is proved by the organic remains. So much as one million tons of sand are brought to the coast of Madras, and whatever work in connexion with any scheme may be carried on, it must proceed on the basis that sand is brought down by virtue of the littoral drift, and so the coast of Madras is silted up. In addition to this, there is the problem of the land invading the sea, and the sea is receding in some parts. The trouble therefore is that in any solution that we attempt, we are faced with that littoral drift, and we have to keep up a constant dredging operation by means of dredgers, and thereby keep the sand from going into the mouth of the Cooum ; the Cooum river is to be trained so as to keep off the sand on one side. That is the fundamental point of the problem, and it is a problem therefore which is not by any means simple of solution. But I may mention at once the result of the activities of the Government in this matter. As the hon. Mover has already explained to the House, a committee sat on this question. In pursuance of a resolution moved by Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar as early as the 17th August 1921 recommending that the Government might be pleased to take very early steps to improve the condition of the Cooum and to make it a tidal river, a committee was appointed. The committee have given two alternative schemes, one which costs Rs. 14 lakhs and the other Rs. 6½ lakhs. Now the Government considered those schemes and came to a tentative conclusion that what was required was that first of all the Cooum river should be trained with a view to the elimination of the tidal flats and sand. Secondly, a dredging plant has to be installed to keep the mouth of the Cooum open and in order to counteract the effect of the littoral drift which I have spoken of, and in order to effect the reclamation as proposed by the committee. Now, the plans and estimates for that dredger have been called for, and they are being prepared. We wanted that the Madras Corporation should, if possible, contribute towards the scheme. The Madras Corporation was not so enthusiastic ; it was enthusiastic about the work but not equally enthusiastic about the contribution. At all events, it has not evinced its enthusiasm in any particularly marked manner. All that we have resolved upon with regard to these experimental schemes is that attempts should be made to proceed with the work after canalising the river to see that the bar should be kept open pending the installation of a scientific apparatus at the mouth of

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the river so as to counteract the effect of the action of the sea and to keep its mouth open. Then there is the question of training the river from the Napier Bridge to the coast, which is estimated to cost about Rs. 2·83 lakhs. That is a matter which is under consideration just now, and I mention that an experimental method of using manual labour for the purpose of solving the problem will be started as soon as possible. To that extent the Government have arrived at a tentative conclusion, but it has not yet arrived at any conclusion regarding the question of the dredger and the bigger aspects of the problem which will cost a considerable amount, and which cannot very well be solved solely with the resources of the Government and without the co-operation of the Madras Corporation. But this I can say that so far as the employment of manual labour for canalising the river, reclamation and getting rid of or eliminating the tidal flats is concerned, the work can be started; and we have no money available for the other purposes."

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I do not know why the Corporation should meet this demand, for Madras belongs to the whole Presidency (laughter). Madras is the essence of the Presidency. All the mufassal people come to Madras and enjoy the amenities of this city, and so I do not think that Madras alone should be made to pay and I do not know why the Corporation should be made to pay. For it is the Government that should take the work on hand and see that it is done. But anyhow, I am very glad that the hon. Member from Chingleput took the lead in moving the resolution. Our request that the Cooum should be improved has been before the Council for years and yet nothing has been done. Of course, it was said that something would be done, but nothing came out in deeds. And I am very glad even now that the hon. the Law Member says that he is going to do something. He is not going to do anything complete, but only a portion of it, and not that which we require. We want the dredger; we want that the river Cooum should be made navigable and there is no use of training the Cooum but leaving it as it is to-day. So, Sir, I hope the Government will come to our rescue and see that the Cooum is made navigable. Of course our finances are very bad in the Madras Corporation and I do not think we would be able to meet any demand from the Government. I request the Government to meet the whole cost themselves.

"Moreover, speaking about the Cooum they forget the Buckingham canal which is as bad as the Cooum itself. I hope efforts will be made by the Government to improve the Buckingham canal itself. If the improvements are made within the city at least it would be very well."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, what I want to say is this, that as between the Buckingham canal and the Cooum river, those who are responsible for keeping either of these two or both in a sanitary condition, either the Madras Corporation or the Government, should not put us who come to Madras on business from the mufassal, to inconvenience. Now, as soon as we come to Madras, the first thing that attracts our attention is what we call 'Madras smell'. Those living in the mufassal—I beg pardon of the permanent residents of Madras—are under much happier conditions than those living in the city. So let us not be compelled to sojourn in a city which seethes with disease; let the city be made healthier."

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Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" I also come from Malabar, Sir, but I am prepared to put up with a little inconvenience here unlike my hon. friend. I would certainly protest if the Cooum is given preference to any of the schemes connected with Malabar (laughter)."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I wish to say only a very few words. I can quite understand the feelings of my hon. Friend coming from the happy farm land of Malabar. I wish that Madras is happier, and that Madras is made as sanitary as Malabar. Now, the hon. the Law Member said that he has got a small scheme and he proposes to go forward with it as early as possible. I am thankful to him for small mercies, but may I ask him what sort of contribution he expects from the Madras Corporation, whether it is for the construction of the works or whether it is only for the maintenance of the plant after it is installed, because, I believe in the present state of the Corporation's finances with its tendencies of hard and stringent finance and equally good tendencies of reducing taxes, I think there is very little hope of the Corporation contributing anything?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I want to say that we have 12 noon not been so fortunate as to bring the Corporation to see eye to eye with us. If we have to start with fourteen lakhs, of course, a small amount may be paid to the Corporation. But in any case it seems to us that it is very legitimate on the part of the Corporation to help us in the work."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" The Corporation was not asked till now."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am hitherto under the impression that the Corporation has been asked about it. If it is not so, it may be that I am misinformed."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" My only point, Sir, is that the scheme should not be postponed in view of any particular attitude taken up by the members of the Corporation. So far as the health of the city is concerned, especially at this time of the season, when we find big notices hung on posts after posts, in thick red letters, such as 'Beware of Smallpox', 'Beware of Plague' and so on, how am I to 'beware of these things'? Then my hon. Friend pointed out the inconvenience that would be caused if the Buckingham canal was not repaired. I may here mention that I have forgotten the Buckingham canal. I was always under the impression that the improvement of the river Cooum carried with it the improvement of the Buckingham canal also. That stagnation of water from the Basin Bridge right down the Presidency College is really disgusting to me. Along with the improvement of the Cooum river, certainly that stagnation would be removed. However, I only hope that the Madras Government at least will have due consideration given to this matter; and whether the Madras Corporation is right in not giving the contribution or not or whether it is the duty of the Government and this duty is properly carried out or not, at least in the larger interests of public health of the city I hope that the Government would undertake to repair the same. If the public health in the city is affected, naturally enough the public health of the whole Presidency will be affected, because if there is a particular disease prevalent in the city it naturally gets into the mufassal also. The breaking out of a disease in the

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City of Madras means the prevalence of that disease in the whole of the Presidency. It is, therefore, in the larger interests of the whole of the Madras Presidency, that the Madras Government is bound to take up the work in their hands, and as I am assured by the Member for Irrigation that he will try to make at least a beginning in the matter, I do not wish to press the motion."

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Now, Sir, the Madras Corporation knows its duty. The only thing which I would like to say is this, that Madras does not belong only to the Madrasis but also to the mufassalites."

The motion was then, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"There is a suggestion that I would like to make. I promised yesterday to make a statement about the hydro-electric schemes. May I suggest that this topic may be taken up first and then these other matters be spoken to at the end of the general motion for the reduction of the total grant. I shall be able to answer each one of them. I am prepared to answer all of them. But as the discussion which I have already promised is bound up with policy, and as it will take some time I suggest the course if hon. Members have no objection to it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Is the House willing to pass over all the intermediary items till we come to motion No. 326, on the agenda, on the understanding that after the Law Member has made his statement, the motion for reduction of total grant may be made, and one reply may be given to the whole discussion."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"May I know, Sir, whether this arrangement will in any way affect the time limit? If in the end when we begin to speak on those motions the time limit is enforced upon us, we cannot consent to it, Sir. If the time limit will not stand in our way and if we are assured that we would be given sufficient time to speak on those motions, then this motion may be taken up."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The time limit will stand in the way in the sense that this debate can go on only till 1 o'clock, because we began it about 5 minutes to 4 p.m. yesterday, that is, one hour was devoted to it yesterday and one hour and a half can be given to it to-day. To-day we have begun it at 11-30 and we have to finish by 1 o'clock."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I have got one very important matter. I consider the Irrigation Bill and its future as very important, as the House is very much interested in it. I should like to have a statement made on it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"May I suggest that the hon. the Law Member, after making his statement about the hydro-electric schemes, should make further statements about these other matters?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"If there is any objection raised in any quarter, I do not want to say anything which would inconvenience the hon. Members. They may have their own way. Let them go on with all their motions as they like. All that I am saying to hon. Members is that they must see that I am given some time to make that statement."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"We do promise, Sir, that we would not take more than a few minutes."

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Motion No. 52.

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU:—"Sir, I beg to move the following:—

'that the allotment of Rs. 30,42,019 for other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenues be reduced by Rs. 1,000.'

"This motion, Sir, is for a reduction of Rs. 1,000. I want to discuss all the questions concerned with the Kistna and the Godavari deltas and of course I shall be brief. The first point that I wanted to refer to is the question of the higher shutters over the Godavari anicut. Last year the hon. the Law Member said that the proposals were before the Chief Engineer and the matter would be expedited. Recently the administration report says that simply the data are called for and it appears, if you read from the administration report, that a long time will elapse before the shutter question is taken up. I want to have an assurance from the hon. Member that the matter will be taken up at once and also to know at what stage the proposal is.

"The second question that I wanted to raise is the question of the construction of the Ellore and Bandara canals in the Kistna eastern delta. Sir, so far as the two canals are concerned, the necessity was thought of some forty years ago and proposals were made. But it seems that the estimates and other things have become ready this year and it was expected in the delta that the construction would commence next year, that is, in April next. I understand that they are not sanctioned as yet by Government. For they are not found in the budget estimates which we have in our hands. We do not find any provision made in the budget. The Government as well as the Chief Engineer and the Public Works department realize that without those two regulators the irrigation in the Kistna eastern delta has become almost impossible and they must find their way to provide for those two regulators. I see from the administration report that the estimates are ready for about three lakhs of rupees. But I do not see any provision having been made in this budget.

"Then, Sir, as regards the remodelling of channels and the removal of the 4-inch pipes in the district, last year the hon. the Law Member was pleased to make a statement that the pipes would be removed and fresh pipes would be substituted. But unfortunately no action has been taken till now. So, we are sorry that sometimes the promises made in this Council by hon. Members are not carried out."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Those promises are dependent for their fruition upon the co-operation of this House and my success in getting money."

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU:—"But no proposals came before this Council so far as I know. I can say this much that if the Government is willing to substitute 4-inch pipes by pipes having larger dimensions, the ryots themselves will pay for the substitution. I do not know why the help of the Government is necessary. I can undertake so far as the whole district is concerned that all ryots will pay for it and put these pipes at their own cost. Again so far as the question of remodelling is concerned, this is a promise which has been given to us ever since 1907 and up till now nothing has been done. With regard to the channels in the Godavari eastern and western deltas, I understand from the reports of the Government, that the remodelling is not yet complete. But this much must be said. For the last ten or

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fifteen years every time we have been having special estimates prepared and I am sorry to say that this is a waste of money without any outturn. I would advise the Government and the hon. the Law Member to see that this special establishment is disbanded and the officials prepare plans and estimates for the works for which money has already been granted.

"Then, Sir, as regards the silt clearance and the improvement of drainage, last year we raised a discussion about the improvement of the drains and the hon. the Law Member said that the programme would be put forward and the work would be taken up. And then in pursuance of an answer to a question of mine, the then Engineer had the kindness to send me a list of works for which estimates had been prepared and the works for which the estimates were being prepared. But now when I turn to the budget, I find none of them here. There are two very important drains; in connexion with one of them, the work is being done and in regard to the other the Government have taken no steps for over twelve years. The people have paid a contribution of Rs. 3,500 this year. Unfortunately for the next year the Government will provide only Rs. 1,600. The people's money for the drain has been spent for that which cannot be drained. So, I call upon the hon. the Law Member to investigate into the matter.

"Then another question which was also promised to be looked into last year is the clearance of silt in the irrigation channels. Now, I am surprised to hear, Sir, that no silt has been removed for the last twenty years and the hon. the Law Member has said that he will ask the Chief Engineer to prepare a programme and call for a report and see that the silt clearance is effected very soon. So far as I can see, not a single thing has been given effect to this year. In this connexion, I want to refer to Ellore canal which has been closed just at the time when we used to have our second crop in January and nothing has been done up till now. I understand a sum of Rs. 85,000 has been sanctioned for works that are to be turned out, but nothing has been done as yet. I am told that only Rs. 16,000 is going to be spent and if this is the intention of the Government, it will be nothing but a waste.

"And one word about the staff. The hon. the Law Member has said and also realized that the staff is too short for the efficient administration of the deltas and promised that he would ask for a demand for more staff. Always we hear complaints from the local officials that there is no staff to work out the thing. I see that the Finance department have sanctioned some schemes but I do not find them here in the budget. There was also no demand made in this Council. I do not understand why it was not done. I do not find any of these things in the budget."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I wish to associate myself with all that has been said by my hon. Friend."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"There are three motions which I think raise the same matter and with your leave may I deal with all of them at the same time, namely, 315, 333 and 340? Now, Sir, there are two statements in my hon. Friend Mr. Peddiraju's speech which I find it difficult to reconcile. If I have heard him aright, in the earlier portion of his speech he rather discountenanced the increase of staff or establishment. Later on he put forward a proposition with which I heartily agree and with regard to which I think there could be very little difference of opinion."

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Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU:—"I would like to say, Sir, one word by way of personal explanation. I never discountenanced any increase, although I said that the special staff for the remodelling was useless."

12-15 p.m.

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Now with regard to that, Sir, it is realized that it is necessary to reorganize the subordinate staff and a real programme of strenuous work has to be initiated from the point of view of the deltas. But with regard to that matter, the Government have under consideration a scheme for the creation of a new division, and whether that new division is going to be sanctioned or whether the staff of the existing Kistna and Godavari deltas is going to be increased, is a matter which is not yet decided and it is because at the time of the budget the matter was not decided, it was not included in the budget."

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU:—"But I understand the Finance Committee have sanctioned it in September last."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The Finance Committee suggested the increase of the staff to a certain point. But the demand was for a constitution of a new division. Whether it is necessary to do so or not is a matter which is being considered. That is, whether we actually want all the staff beginning from the Executive Engineer down to the very end is a matter which is under consideration. As a matter of fact, a tentative decision has been arrived at on that subject; and as I have already said, it is because that matter was not decided at the time when the budget was prepared it did not find a place in the budget. However, when the decision is finally reached, whatever the decision be, I shall come before hon. Members because there is sure to be increase in the cost of subordinates and unless that amount can otherwise be found I will be coming before the House.

"With regard to the 4" pipes, there is no doubt at all about the policy; we are taking away the smaller pipes and all that is wanted is extra staff to go on with the work. Proposals for an increase of staff in the Kistna district as the existing staff is altogether inadequate for the work, have been under the consideration of Government since March 1924. With regard to the higher shutters over the Godavari anicut, the necessary data have been called for from the Superintending Engineer and are awaited. As regards construction of locks and regulators in Ellore and Bandar canals in the Kistna delta, the estimates have been prepared and are ready for sanction. Funds were applied for for 1925-26 but were not allotted. The works are designed to improve the supply and to permit of extension of second crop. As to the remodelling and removal of 4" pipes, a small staff is sanctioned for remodelling work in the Kistna Eastern division. As the number of channels is very large, it will take some year to complete the work. That is all I have to say on the questions raised by the hon. Member."

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU:—"Only one word, Sir. The hon. Member promised last year that he would lose no time in constituting a committee to enquire into the drains. I think there was no reply made yet to that aspect of the question. It is now one year past and the hon. the Law Member has not constituted any committee."

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* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ So far as the drainage is concerned, we expect the local committees that are at present functioning to make proposals and when the proposals come up there is no objection on our part to constitute the committee. If hon. Members want it, I have no objection to have this done before the end of the month. But what I am anxious about is that when the committee makes its report we must have staff to work up the recommendations. That is the difficulty that handicaps us. Otherwise with regard to the constitution of the committee, there is no difficulty and that can be done at any time.”

The resolution was then by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 53.

* Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ Sir, I beg to move the following :—
‘ That the allotment of Rs. 25,14,281 for Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works for which capital accounts are kept be reduced by Rs 100.’

“ Sir, I have got a lot to say in regard to this matter ; but I shall be very much obliged to the hon. the Law Member if he will say that he has no objection to consider the grievances of the Periyar ryots when a petition is put in to the Government with regard to this matter. If I now enter into the matter, it may take sufficiently long time and therefore I suggest this method.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Sir, I am deeply obliged to the hon. Member for his suggestion to raise the question separately. But I may at once say this just to clear the air in the matter, so that he will bear in mind all those factors when he makes the representation. As already stated, the Periyar system is expected to afford supply to an extent of 142,750 acres of which irrigation to an area of about 130,000 acres has already been started. Prohibition of further extension of irrigation was found necessary on account of the difficulty in sending adequate supply to the registered ayacut. The tunnel has since been enlarged and the question of the tract where further extension may safely be allowed is under the consideration of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and the local officers. Moreover, several zamin, inam and proprietary villages and tanks are interspersed in the tract served by the system. A special establishment has been sanctioned and results are watched. The Suruliyar channels taken over by the Public Works Department are also to be remodelled and resluiced so as not to give scope for any wastage of water. It is only then that extension of irrigation can be definitely settled.”

* Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ The fact is that under the existing system there is a lot of difficulties with regard to applications of water for dry lands. The applications are to be made under the Government Order before the 1st June every year. But the order on the application is not communicated to the ryots until very late in the year. The difficulty is that the ryot finds it impossible to wait until the order is received and then go on with the cultivation. So he goes on with the cultivation. He gets the order that he is not allowed to cultivate the land when the crop is standing in the field. Consequently he is penalized. That is what is going on. In these circumstances, I would ask the hon. the Law Member to give some consideration to this matter.”

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* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I am perfectly prepared to do so. What I thought was that he raised the question of irrigation.”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ That also, Sir.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Thinking that it was so, I made the statement that I made. As regards the suggestion, that is really an administrative matter which it is my duty to look into. I shall be very pleased to meet him with reference to the petition which he is contemplating.”

The motion was then by leave withdrawn.

Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—“ Sir, before proceeding to the general question of irrigation, I wish to bring it to your notice that yesterday motion No. 298 was passed over to be taken up to-day. In view of the urgency of the matter with regard to the affected Trichinopoly and Tanjore ryots, I request the hon. Member to go on with it.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Was any understanding arrived at as regards motion No. 298 ? It was passed over and there was no understanding that it was to be taken up to-day.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ There was this understanding and I stated that there were specific questions regarding the Kattalai dam coming up in the Irrigation budget and they might be brought up after the general demand. I am prepared to make a statement on that matter. Before this demand is over, I expect to be able to do so.”

Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—“ My only fear is that we may not be able to reach it at all. That is why I mention it now.”

Motion No. 54.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Mr. President, I move.

‘ that the allotment of Rs. 1,04,000 for Irrigation works be reduced by Rs. 100.’

“ I do not like to repeat the ‘superstition’ that the moment the Irrigation Bill is passed the country would begin to flow with milk and honey. But looking at the great hurry with which the hon. the Law Member persuaded this House to go on with the Bill and the way in which the Bill had progressed in this House, I thought we were going to have it on the Statute Book immediately. But I must say that though three and a half months to a day have elapsed since the Bill was passed by this House, we do not know where the matter stands. To a question asked, I believe, by my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, the hon. the Law Member said that this Bill has been circulated to the District Collectors for further information. It seems to me, Sir, that it is putting the cart before the horse. It seems to me that the Collectors are administrative people and their opinion ought to have been got before the Bill was brought to the House. But to make the Collectors a sort of revising chamber over this Chamber is a process on which I cannot congratulate the hon. the Law Member. If after the prolonged discussions we had on the Bill we have to go back to the district officers, it is certainly a matter affecting the dignity of this House.

[Mr. S. Satyamurti]

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"One last point, Sir. It is impossible to contemplate with equanimity that these Bills when they have been passed by this House in such a hurry, as we have done in the case of the Religious Endowments Bill as also in the case of this Irrigation Bill, should be waiting in His Excellency's ante-chamber for such a long time. That is why I make this motion, Sir."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, I am very glad to have the opportunity of dispelling some of the doubts which seem to assail my hon. Friend. In the first place, let me assure him that I am not guilty of the disrespect to this House which is involved in the position or the proposition that the Government is countenancing the idea that district officers are supervising or revisional authorities over this House. This House is, subject to the assent of His Excellency the Governor and the Viceroy, the final legislative authority in this Presidency. I realize that fact as much as any one else can. But the position with regard to the Irrigation Bill is shortly this. Various questions and points of view were considered and debated upon before the Bill was brought into this House and no doubt the hon. Member is perfectly right in saying that I was very anxious and the Government indeed as a whole were very anxious to get this Bill through inasmuch as the passing of it was fundamentally important and a condition precedent to certain large departures in irrigation. It must be freely conceded that in the progress of this Bill through this House various amendments were made some of which were expected and some were unexpected. I shall give one instance out of many that have arisen.

"We took it for granted in regard to the whole application of one of the chapters of the Irrigation Act that it was not likely that the Government had really taken control of and exercised jurisdiction over the private areas in Periyar. Apparently there were private lands which in the old days Government took control of and on which they began to build irrigation works, and having regard to the promised advantages to the proprietor no objection was taken. The Bill as drafted has given rise to certain problems, in connexion with this aspect of the matter, and I may at once say that it is not the Government's purpose to do anything else than to see that the Bill comes into force as soon as possible. It may be that Government may bring in an amending Bill; it may be that with regard to some such problems I may have to ask the Council to face those problems and ask them to co-operate with me in solving those problems. It is because various authorities such as the Collector of Madura, brought to our notice, many such difficulties that we are deliberating on them. Some delay has occurred by reason of the need to collect opinions, and I may assure the hon. House that I will take them completely into confidence before I take any other step. If by chance His Excellency does not give his assent at once, I may have to come to this House and say: Here are the difficulties, will you solve the difficulties forthwith or shall I bring an amending Bill. These are matters which will be placed before the House."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I shall have to thank the hon. the Law Member for saying that he will take the House into confidence and bring forward resolutions to take the opinion of this House again on some of the features of the Irrigation Bill. I have already complained to

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the hon. the Law Member that it is not fair to do so, and I may be permitted to refresh his memory regarding the administrative difficulties in the Periyar area. Sir, during the deliberations of the Select Committee, this difficulty regarding Periyar area was presented."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"One branch of the difficulty was no doubt presented; this is another, namely, that the area itself is zamindari."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"That was exactly the difficulty that was presented to the Members of the Select Committee if I remember right, and the report of the Select Committee itself makes special reference to this problem; a special section was provided in the last stages of the Select Committee's report having reference to the administrative difficulty of the Periyar area, with reference to which it was specifically stated that all the powers the Government are exercising regarding irrigation works shall hereafter be exercised by them irrespective of the other provisions of the Act. Such wide and unrestricted powers were vested in the Government in order to avoid unnecessary delay. I do not think the Law Member is fair to the Members of the Select Committee when he says that the problems will be submitted once more before the House.

"As regards the changes that were made in the Bill, they were not new things. They were brought to the notice of the Government since 1923 and even before the informal committee which was constituted to advise the Government on the various questions that were raised namely, almost every one of the problems that are now under the consideration of the Government, the matter regarding percolation and other aspects. The matter was fully under the consideration of the Government and I do not think the hon. the Law Member is justified in asking us to go into the whole matter once again.

"Now, Sir, the Bill was passed about the first week of December 1924, nearly three months ago, and the Council is to adjourn about the 1st of April and the Council cannot meet again for three months or so. What is the Government going to do in the interval? When we passed the Bill, I think the hon. the Law Member distinctly knew that he could not wait till the budget for 1926-27." (Laughter)

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Incidentally I must remark that it was because we passed this Bill that the Secretary of State granted sanction for the Mettur project. Shortly I will place on the table of the House the report of the Government of India and the orders of the Secretary of State. Now there is no further difficulty in the sanction of the Mettur project, the foundation stone of which is to be laid in June next."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I cannot really understand the challenge of the hon. the Law Member. We know that he wanted an Irrigation Bill for the projects and for overhauling the machinery. So far as the provisions of the Bill that affect the projects are concerned, there was no controversy between the official and non-official side of the House, and they did not agree to separate Bills as some of us advised Government to do, one for projects and one for overhauling the machinery. But unfortunately upon both of them he now wants to gain time, under the colour of having sufficient power in his hands for new projects. He wants power to affect the interests of the people in various directions. For that, he wants the

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advice of the Collectors; for that he wants to bring a resolution or a reference to the Council. He may induce or advise His Excellency to return the Bill to this Council for consideration. But even there I want to make a request to him. The Muddiman Report clearly says that whenever Bills are to be referred to Councils they should be given the power of sending their own amendments. Under the colour of rulings—we know what happened in the case of the Endowments Bill—let him not bring up a part for consideration of the House. If he wants to strengthen his hands with one amendment or another, let him come with a properly prepared amendment and see whether the House is going to vote upon it. I think he will take a liberal view of the whole matter even after the Muddiman Report and try to give us another opportunity to overhaul the whole machinery according to the standpoint of the popular view."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I cannot allow this discussion without having my own say in the matter. During the course of the debate on this Bill I had repeatedly pointed out that by a sort of combination between the Opposition on the one side and a certain section of the Ministerialists on the other (Mr. Satyamurti: 'Sections of the opposition')—I accept the amendment—a certain section of the Opposition combined with certain sections of the Ministerialists managed to get certain powers, certain rights which they did not possess before. Certain rights which belonged to the Government were taken away from them. I hope the Government, in reviewing and revising the decisions, will take care to see that the *status quo* is maintained and that people or estates do not secure rights which they did not possess before."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, I am surprised at my hon. Friend, Sir K. Venkatareddi, asking the Government to revise the decisions of this House. I was thinking of him as one of the most distinguished men who gave evidence before the Muddiman Committee. If this is his idea of the powers of the House, I must part company with him. If really we make mistakes, let us trust to ourselves or our successors to mend those mistakes. Let us not shove to executive shoulders the burden of correcting those mistakes. The hon. the Law Member must be congratulated on his very pleasant manner of stating the most unpleasant things. He comes and tells us that he is really going to get the Collectors to revise the Bill. He began by saying that he would take this House into his confidence and ended by saying that the Collector of Madura was saying something, and therefore the Council must wait until Government made up their mind on the opinions of the Collector of Madura. If he wants us to wait, it will not be fair to this Council. He referred to an amending Bill to be brought before this House. The only way he can expect to bring an amending Bill is to recommend to His Excellency the Governor to assent to this Bill, to get this Bill sent to His Excellency the Viceroy and make it an Act of the legislature. If really he wants an amending Bill, I do not see why he should wait. It seems to me that he has really taken advantage of the reactionary powers of the Act vested in the Governor in order to delay it and do something behind the back of this House. It is not fair to this House. For he has made up his mind that the Governor should use his reserved powers."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The amending Bill if any, will be for the purpose of reconsidering certain questions, and it will have to be voted upon in this House. There is no question of anything being done behind the back of the House."

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* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"My hon. Friend has forgotten the rudiments of the Government of India Act. If the amending Bill now comes in a recommended form and if the House throws it out, the Governor can certify."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"If I am so minded I can advise the Governor to bring in an amending Bill in a recommended form. I say I do want to take the House into confidence. If I really have recourse to the drastic provisions of the Government of India Act and say that certain provisions of the Bill are certified against the wishes of the House, that will be going behind the back of the House."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Then the hon. Member gives away his case. If really he can get an amending Bill, why not get a certified Bill? Why has he allowed 3½ months to elapse? I do not think, Sir, I shall follow the precedent of other hon. Members. A principle is involved here, and I won't withdraw my motion, but will press it."

* Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"The hon. the Law Member said that the Collector of Madura felt great difficulty in applying the Act to the Periyar irrigation system."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Nothing of the kind."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"He expressed the difficulty, Sir?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"No; powers and rights which were never contemplated either by the owners or by persons who had anything to do with the Periyar irrigation when the original Periyar works were taken control of may have to be conceded for no purpose."

* Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"It was on account of this difficulty that the Collector of Madura had withdrawn many permits for water with regard to non-Government villages."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Obviously not."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"I want to do away with the superstition for such extraordinary procedure. The Law Member asks us to go back on the particular Bill we have passed . . ."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"This is not a question of superstition. Here is a Bill which has either to be assented to or sent back with the statement that such and such matters are recommended by Government and that their policy is so and so. The House may accept it or not."

"If there are no precedents, such precedents should be created."

The motion was put and lost.

Motion No. 55.

12-45 p.m. Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I have given notice of this motion

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for Irrigation Works—Godavari Eastern—by Rs. 100'

for the purpose of obtaining information regarding two schemes. One is the well-known Polavaram scheme which came up before the House a number of times and the hon. the Law Member was pleased to say that he would take it up and commence work this year. However, for some mysterious reason, Sir, it did not come up before the Finance Committee.

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I do not know what became of it. I was told that estimates were ready and all that, and so I expected that some provision would be made in the budget this year. Not only is there no provision for it made in the budget, but what is more surprising is that it has not even reached the stage of appearing before the Finance Committee. I should like to know whether there is any possibility of the scheme being taken up immediately. And, Sir, I expect the hon. the Law Member to make a statement on that and so I do not wish to take up the time of the Council any more by speaking on this scheme.

"As regards the Seethapalleru scheme I brought to the notice of the hon. the Law Member this time last year that there were two streams known as Seethapalleru and Pamaleru which have been causing damage to the fields during floods. This scheme is intimately connected with what is known as the Thorrigedda, a breach in the bend of the Godavari a little above Rajahmundry. The waters of these two streams flow through this Thorrigedda into the Godavari. But when the Godavari is in floods it sends forth huge volumes of water to these areas with the result that on occasions when both these streams get simultaneously flooded the consequence is that more than 2 or 3 acres of lands get flooded and the crops thereon destroyed. The purpose of this scheme is to see that these two streams Seethapalleru and Pamaleru are turned to use by the construction of a reservoir and by providing sluices with a view to irrigate this area and block up this Thorrigedda. This scheme is intimately connected with the drainage scheme of the town of Rajahmundry which is in a bad condition. So that if this scheme is realized and the Thorrigedda closed, the result would be that the drainage scheme of Rajahmundry would be combined with this and the drainage waters of Rajahmundry could be diverted to what is known as the Ava. I had mentioned this last year and I expected that the Irrigation department would investigate it. So far nothing is heard. I therefore tabled this motion to obtain information and to know whether there is any possibility of the Government investigating it."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"With regard to the Polavaram scheme an estimate amounting to Rs. 18.55 lakhs to irrigate 16,316 acres in Polavaram island in the Godavari district, estimated to pay 8.2 per cent on the capital expenditure, has been recommended by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation to the Government for sanction. This estimate was subjected to scrutiny in the Finance Department. They wanted to know whether the water-rate recommended in that scheme was likely to be realized. It is because of that there has been some delay. I think my hon. Colleagues know that I have made a promise on this matter in the Council last year. As soon as the department can be satisfied that these rates can be got in that locality, this scheme will be proceeded with though I do not say that the scheme can be started at once. All that I say is that a beginning can be made in the course of the financial year."

"So far as the Seethapalleru scheme is concerned, I take it the hon. Member was referring to the scheme for constructing a reservoir across the Sitapalli vagu, one of the tributaries of the Godavari. There has been some interpellation on this scheme and it was ordered that the investigation of the scheme for the construction of a reservoir just above Ramanayapeta might be looked into if there is the necessary staff. For want of the necessary staff this has not been done."

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Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"So far as the Polavaram scheme is concerned, I wish to say that if anything lies in the representatives of the people to help Government in realizing what they want to realize by way of rates and if that is the only thing which stands in the way of the Government constructing the scheme we the Members from Godavari and Kistna would promise to help the Government when they come forward with proposals relating to that scheme."

Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO:—"The hon. the Law Member stated yesterday that he would make a statement on the Gumsoor project. May I remind him of it?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I at the risk of trespassing on the time of the House say that one of my hon. Colleagues is from Ganjam and I know that he is very keen about it. I am sure I shall not be given much peace of mind before that is done."

Diwan Bahadur K. SURYANARAYANAMURTI NAYUDU:—"Sir, in regard to the Polavaram scheme the ryots have undertaken to pay the 10 per cent rate fixed by the Government."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I may say at once that if the Government feel fairly satisfied that the scheme would pay they will go on with it. I do not think hon. Members need be in any doubt on that matter. The mind of the Government is not divided on that matter at present."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 56.

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I formally move the motion standing against my name, viz.—

'that the allotment of Rs. 3,83,000 for Cauvery-Mettur reservoir project be reduced by Rs. 1,001.'

"Sir, I request that both this motion as well as Motion No. 324 may be dealt with together as both of them are in a way connected. There seems to be a misapprehension in the minds of my Colleagues that this Mettur project would give the people of Coimbatore plenty of water. To that I may say that the people of Coimbatore are much against the scheme for the reason that if the scheme is carried out as it is approved, about 20,000 acres of land will be submerged including three villages and it is only from a national point of view we have been consistently supporting it; only we have been requesting, if possible, that some portion of Coimbatore might be included in the irrigation scheme. The Chief Engineer was there recently. I had the privilege of accompanying him to the place. Mr. Vernon, now a Member of the Board of Revenue, also visited the place when he was travelling along the Cauvery. I hope Mr. Vernon would do something for us. Sir, we are also very much interested in Motion No. 324 than in this which deals with hydro-electric surveys and so these may be considered together. Sir, I understand that a committee is to be appointed to consider whether the power from the Meghadadi should be taken to Mettur for putting up the dam easily. I hope that the hon. the Law Member would make the

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long-promised statement about the hydro-electric scheme in connexion with the Mettur scheme, how it is going to be worked and whether any power is going to be brought from Meghadadi for manufacturing purposes."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, do you allow me to speak on Motions Nos. 321 and 324 on the agenda?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Since 322 and 323 are not going to be moved, these two may be dealt with together."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, with your permission and if the House consents I may trespass for about 15 minutes into lunch time in regard to this matter. I intend to recount matters which might take a pretty long time, but I shall be very brief."

"With regard to the Mettur scheme, as I said in Council the other day the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State has given his permission. I may also say that one of the grounds on which that permission was granted without the usual delay in technical scrutiny is because of the circumstance adverted to in the speech of the hon. Member from Coimbatore which was emphasised in a telegram by this Government to the Government of India which the Government of India in turn forwarded to the Secretary of State, viz., that persons who have suffered in the recent floods would be greatly relieved if their lands were acquired as a preliminary to the Mettur project. That was one of the considerations which enabled the sanction to be granted early. So far as Coimbatore is concerned, as my hon. Friend knows, there is a committee sitting for the purpose of the allocation of the distribution of these channels. Last evening a deputation consisting of persons from a place called Omalur in the Mettur locality itself interviewed me and put forward their claims. I cannot give an answer as to the exact area which will be covered by the construction of the channels. All I can say is that there is a committee sitting on the whole subject and that the Government would be largely guided by the decisions of that committee which consists of members from Coimbatore, Salem, Trichinopoly and Tanjore."

"Now, Sir, let me thank you for permitting me to make a statement on the hydro-electric scheme. In the first place let me briefly refer to two criticisms which have appeared, one in the newspaper 'Hindu' which took it for granted that we are going to hand over these schemes to a private syndicate to be dealt with as private property by private persons and that the Government were going to abdicate control. It will be very easily seen what truth there is in that allegation when I finish my statement. There is another comment in the newspaper 'Justice' which referred very sarcastically and to a certain extent unfairly to a visit that I paid to Delhi and said that it was with a view to hatch my own schemes that I went there, not really the Pykara scheme and that I went to canvas for a Membership of the Governor-General's Executive Council. At the risk of trespassing on the time of the House with a personal affair let me say this: that I have held and do hold very strongly that such appointments ought to be denied to people who try for it; and in the departments which I have the honour to administer I have always proceeded on that footing and I am strongly against the man who is anxious or rather too anxious to get a job. I would also say that I would think very poorly indeed of any Governor or any Viceroy or Governor-General who gives such appointments

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to a man who makes journeys for the purpose of applying for them. Now having said that I may add that if I have a chance of working out a great scheme, like the one I shall refer to, it is enough reward for any worthy ambition. The House would forgive my saying so. I could not enter into journalistic controversy with people in regard to such statements. This is my only chance of being vindicated or condemned by the House."

"Now let me go to the scheme. The Right Hon'ble David Lloyd George was the president of a committee which investigated the same subject with reference to England. England has got absolutely no facilities as we have got in the Madras Presidency in the way of hydro-electric development and yet what did that committee presided over by the Right Hon'ble David Lloyd George say?"

'The Commissioners should have the powers of compulsory acquisition necessary to give effect to our proposals and to remove vested electricity interests where they stand in the way of the public interest, and, in particular, to acquire all necessary water rights.'

'The national system should be so designed and developed as to encourage the conservation of fuel resources, the utilisation of by-products, and the development of new industries.'

"These were the sort of recommendations made by Mr. Lloyd George to the British Cabinet in regard to the development of power which he holds is one of the main functions of the State in the coming years having regard to the difficulty of getting coal and the increasing cost of getting it. Not only that; the people of Bombay—not the Government of Bombay, because Bombay is a very rich place where there are great capitalists—have started a hydro-electric scheme at a total cost of 16 crores of rupees and these schemes are fetching an interest of not less than 10 per cent."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I am afraid not all of them. They give only 7 per cent. I am a shareholder in one of them."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"At least one scheme is paying 12 per cent. Apart from that, the Punjab Government have embarked upon a bold hydro-electric policy, notwithstanding the difficulty that in Punjab practically all the sources of water power are situated in Native States. They entered into negotiations with those Native States for proceeding with their projects. In spite of the fact that those sources of water power are hundreds of miles distant from the commercial and industrial centres they have started a big scheme and provided for 30 lakhs of rupees. With reference to our own surveys, the possibilities of these hydro-electric schemes in this Presidency are second to none in India. We have requisitioned the services of the best expert we could get in India in this matter. The Government of India had an electrical expert but owing to the Inchcape Committee's report, he was sent home and that was Mr. Mears. Therefore we obtained the assistance of Mr. Forbes who is in charge of the Mysore scheme. The Mysore Government have spent about 4 crores of rupees and the scheme is paying 7½ per cent interest and is bringing in a handsome revenue to the State. Mr. Forbes in his report—it will be placed on the table of the House—has stated that he has hardly come across any place equal to the Madras Presidency for the purpose of undertaking hydro-electric enterprises and his conclusions are these. Take for instance the Pykara scheme. The total cost of the Pykara scheme in its first stage will be about 3 crores of rupees and in its final shape

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9 crores, yet out of that 3 crores of rupees not more than 40 lakhs is necessary for masonry work. The natural formation of the country is of such a type and character that you have not to spend a great deal of money for masonry work such as putting up dams, reservoirs, etc. Indeed the land round the reservoir is like a cup and if a bund is constructed on one side, it will easily constitute a natural reservoir so that the cost would be comparatively trifling, practically less than 50 lakhs out of a total of 3 crores. Mr. Forbes and the Chief Engineer, who is also personally trained in hydro-electric surveys, are both of opinion that there are possibilities in this presidency of linking up a number of electric centres. The Periyar river may be utilized for a hydro-electric scheme. We have got also Papanasam and Banathirham in Tinnevely and Kollimalai in Trichinopoly and Pingikavi and Berijam. After discussion with Mr. Sim of the Railway Board, Sir Basil Blackett and His Excellency the Viceroy, I say deliberately that this Government are convinced that there is a tremendous future for hydro-electric schemes and that this Government feel that in that direction lies the industrial salvation of this country without duplicating the difficulties of factory life and of aggregation of labour as elsewhere but by making it possible for a tremendous expansion of cottage industries on the lines best suited to the genius and traditions of this country. Not only are they convinced of this, but this Government are also convinced that there is power enough for electrifying the whole of the South Indian railways and it is a matter on which this Government have had consultation with those persons responsible for Railway administration and it is not a mere expression of hope when I say that the Government have a fairly clear programme before it of Railway electrification. With regard to all these matters, the question arises as to how these projects are to be started. There are two or three points which have to be borne in mind before any decision is taken. The first point is that the first project that is to be started must pay its way and should be a good advertisement because unless you are able to supply power at a cheap rate, the people in this country will not come forward and co-operate in the scheme. If electricity can be supplied at a cheap rate, then there is encouragement to go on with electrical development. Otherwise small factory owners will not come forward and take power. The first condition to start a scheme is that we must see whether power can be supplied at a cheap rate. It will be a sort of advertisement in regard to the future of the industry and will serve to solve this problem.

"The second point is the mode of financing these projects. I may at once say that initially I was strongly in favour of a modified form of State socialism, but the State cannot possibly undertake a nine-crore scheme with a light heart having regard to the financial commitments of this Government and to the commitments of the Government of India. We desire to take the benefit of what is called the Trade Facilities Act of England. What does that Act provide? It provides that if the Local Government in any part of His Majesty's dominions is satisfied that a project is such that in the normal course of the development of its own activities, it will itself embark upon it, then that Local Government can stand guarantee to a private company or corporation formed for the purpose of this undertaking. What I propose to do is to suggest that a company should be formed for which the capital of the South Indian merchants and industrialists will be welcomed. That company

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should be formed with a total capital, to start with, of one crore or two crores with liberty to raise debentures. In that company both English and Indian capitalists should have an opportunity to come in with their capital. The Government should have residual rights of fixing the maximum rates, should be represented on the Board of Directors and should also have rights of control which will be secured by Government representation on the directorate of the company and in other ways. Also the Government will have rights of ultimate purchase."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"If I am not interrupting the hon. the Law Member, may I have an idea of the proportion of Indian and European capital?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The shares will be on the market and they will be open to all."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Why should they be on the English market?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"If hon. Members will assure me that in India we can raise two or three crores of rupees within a convenient period, I have no objection to make it an entirely Indian concern and if, as a matter of fact, the Indian capitalists and industrialists are willing to put up their money—I shall very soon issue a communication to explore such possibilities—no one will be more glad than the Madras Government and myself particularly. If each Member of this House will be a centre of propaganda in this matter and raise three crores of rupees, we can make a beginning with the Pykara scheme. In that case we can get much better terms."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER:—"The hon. the Law Member has probably forgotten the agriculturists. Irrigational facilities should be improved with the aid of these hydro-electric schemes."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Will the hon. the Law Member consider the advisability of having the share list open in India or a fixed time and then if it is not filled up, then to go to foreign markets?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I have not finished with what I was saying about the Trade Facilities Act and after I finish hon. Members will see exactly what the point is. The Trade Facilities Act enables the British Cabinet to guarantee 75 per cent interest at the rate of 5 per cent or thereabouts for the first five years, on condition that, to the extent to which you get the British Cabinet's assistance, this Government spend money by purchasing machinery in the British Isles."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Can we not go to other markets for cheap machinery?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The question is one of two alternatives, which this House has to decide. One is to raise a three-crore company with a guarantee of 75 per cent interest for five years at a low rate on condition that, so far as the machinery is concerned, you place your order for machinery—on the basis of competitive orders—in England. The House has to decide whether that is a good offer or not. The other alternative is that you raise the whole capital here and you can get the machinery where you like. It is easy to say that we can raise the money ourselves.

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It is a question of practical politics. The hon. Members of this House have to see whether we shall be able to take a step forward in order to raise a sum of three crores in a short time. It is difficult to expect the Government of Madras or the Government of India to finance a nine-crore scheme by themselves."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Why not raise money under the borrowing scheme?"

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya:—"What is taking place in the Punjab?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I may be allowed to say that I am not forgetting the Punjab. One of the reasons for my visit to Delhi was to acquaint myself with the policy of the Government of India and with the details of the Punjab scheme. The alternative which this House has to consider is whether a scheme whereby a company can be almost immediately floated first of all with the British Cabinet guarantee of 75 per cent interest for the first five years and this Government's guarantee of the remaining 25 per cent will not result in the speedy if not immediate formation of the company. That is a matter which the House has to consider and I shall be very glad to get opinions from the hon. Members.

"As I said, there are two or three things which are absolutely certain with regard to this hydro-electric enterprise. In the first place, the Madras Presidency affords unrivalled facilities for the starting of these projects. In the second place the co-operation of the Railway Companies would be not only useful but essential and that co-operation would be forthcoming provided we get into communication with them and come to an agreement with regard to the rate at which power can be supplied.

"The third and the most important matter in regard to the conditions of this presidency is the mode of financing. I make bold to think that the most practicable way of financing is to start the company with the aid of the Trade Facilities Act."

SOME VOICES:—"No, no."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Hon. Members may take a different view. But hon. Members when they come to a conclusion in this matter will also bear in mind that the alternative to which they are committed is that they will make it possible for a successful scheme of raising three crores of rupees without the aid of the Trade Facilities Act and the guarantee under the Trade Facilities Act. If hon. Members can persuade themselves and this honourable House and the Government that they will be able to raise this sum without any guarantee of interest under the Trade Facilities Act, then that is a conclusion to which Government will pay great heed."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I ask whether the hon. the Law Member will consult the House by means of a motion before the Government make up their mind?"

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I request the hon. Member to see whether it is not possible to have a discussion on this matter on the 31st March? I leave it to the Leaders on both sides of the House and the hon. the Law Member to settle it. Because that will facilitate the

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clearing up of some matters connected with this. We have to ask what has become of the company which was specifically formed after the failure of the Tata's."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Nothing was done."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"There was a company."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Sir, an important statement has been made on behalf of the Government with regard to the hydro-electric schemes in this Presidency, and the desirability of financing them with the aid of the Trade Facilities Act of the British Empire. I hope no hon. Member of this House will have any objection to devote the 31st of March, the first non-official day that we reach, for the discussion of the various important points that have been raised. This is a matter for which the hon. the Law Member went to Delhi in person. It is said that the matter is very urgent. Some whisperings are heard that great and powerful interests in England are likely to grasp the whole thing into their hands. I think the hon. the Law Member in fairness to this House will concede the necessity of giving an opportunity to this House on the 31st of March to express its opinion as to the policy that should be pursued in the matter. Of course Government can have their own way; but we may raise our feeble voice regarding the way in which the policy of the Government is to be directed in this particular matter. No hon. Member can come to any definite conclusion one way or the other at the present moment. Since there are also suspicions in the minds of some hon. Members that great interests in England are trying to take possession of this important scheme of Southern India, the hon. the Law Member, as an Indian, will see his way to give an opportunity to this House to express its opinion (hear, hear)."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Has the hon. the Law Member finished his statement, Sir?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I shall take a little more time in making my statement. Now the point that arises firstly is this. I was asked a question by the hon. Member from Coimbatore as to what had become of a particular company. The fate of that company and other companies is also an object lesson to us. Government, when it had no hydro-electric policy of its own, had been giving a large number of concessions and licences to various persons, because Government at that time did not think of embarking upon any hydro-electric scheme of their own. But it has so fortunately happened, mainly because many of those companies could not be floated, that all these concessions and licences have practically lapsed or are bound to lapse. Therefore Government have a freer hand in this matter than they had ever before. Speaking personally my view is that such concessions and licences for matters of this kind ought never to be given away by Government without a definite policy. I go further and say that they should hold them in their own hands. The opinion of the Government in this matter is fairly clear. In regard to the Syndicate to which reference was made by the hon. Member for Coimbatore it would be a good thing if the Government try to regain control over that at once if they can possibly do it, in order to see that they do not have us at their mercy and make it impossible for the vast schemes that are possible in this Presidency to be started.

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* Mr. V. C. VELLINGURI GOUNDER:—"For how long was the licence granted to this company; when does the time limit expire?"

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Did not Government give hopes to an English company in this matter?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I have given no hopes, Sir, and so far as the Madras Government is concerned, they will give no hopes to any English Syndicate if it wants to monopolise a public utility concern of this kind. The policy of the Madras Government is to keep the control over this public utility undertaking as far as possible in their own hands. The Madras Government will be represented on the Directorate; they will make their own terms as to the maximum rates to be prescribed by the company; they will control their profits so that the company may not try to profiteer and thus exploit the possibilities of the public utility undertaking. That being the policy of the Madras Government—and I say so unreservedly—the question resolves itself practically into one of ways and means. I realize that an opinion has been expressed on the other side of the House that the whole capital should be raised if possible in this Presidency. No one would be more glad than I if that consummation could be effected. We know the difficulties of raising money in this Presidency. Hon. Members who have had some experience with the promotion and management of companies know the difficulties of raising capital for such large concerns. As a matter of fact, even in Bombay we know the difficulties that are now being experienced in regard to the loan promoted by the Tata's. I believe yesterday a statement by the Tata's reached the hands of some hon. Members in which they say that without one crore of rupees they could not make further progress. If a company like the Tata's with English connexions are not able to make progress with regard to their hydro-electric enterprise without appealing to the public while they have raised their rate from seven per cent to twelve per cent, the question is whether we ought not to make a departure of the kind I have suggested. In Calcutta the Corporation has taken advantage of the Trade Facilities Act. Should we not get some kind of guarantee from the British Cabinet which will enable the Madras Government to have a company started? I am sure hon. Members of this House will feel sure that if we can get a company started with the British Government guaranteeing 75 per cent of the interest for the first five years under the Trade Facilities Act, we shall be able to raise the capital very soon. Does not the House think that this is a proper *modus operandi*? I fervently hope that the House would agree with me."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, how the 75 per cent interest and the 25 per cent interest work out? Is it like this, Sir? Suppose the sum is to earn an interest of Rs. 100. The concern earns only Rs. 70. Then is the British Government to pay the five rupees more and the Provincial Government the remaining Rs. 25 and so on?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The loss will have to be shared by the two Governments in proportion. The British Government will bear 75 per cent of the loss. If the work is started with the aid of the Trade Facilities Act, the British Government guarantees 75 per cent of the interest for the first five years of the undertaking. Even without the Madras Government guaranteeing a single pie, we can get much better

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chances of raising capital and starting the company. If hon. Members are anxious that an attempt must be made in the matter, then, from the practical point of view this is the only feasible method of making a beginning. This particular point has been emphasized more than once. It seems to be that the whole question has to be decided at once."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Let us have the whole thing discussed on the 31st March."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya:—"If the hon. the Law Member wants the House to express its opinion with regard to availing ourselves of the Trade Facilities Act, I should like that more facts in regard to this matter may be placed at the disposal of the House. We want to know the amount of machinery that will be required, what will be the probable cost if the machinery is ordered from England, and what will be the reduction in cost if orders are placed with German or American firms. These are matters which we have to consider before we commit ourselves to take advantage of the Trade Facilities Act and order our machineries from England only. How much of machinery we should purchase from England if the whole capital is not raised in England and if only a part of it is raised in England, how much of interest would they guarantee in that case. All these matters should be gone into deeply."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I humbly suggest that we may hear the hon. the Law Member fully before we discuss the details?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, the question raised by my hon. Friend does not really arise, because they will guarantee 75 per cent of the interest only to the extent of the materials ordered from England. If all the materials are ordered from other countries, then they will not guarantee any interest."

A VOICE:—"Do they guarantee capital?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"No, they do not guarantee capital at all. A company is started in Madras or in London for the purpose of a hydro-electric enterprise. And to the extent to which the company orders its materials from England it relieves the unemployment in England. In return, the British Cabinet guarantees 75 per cent of the interest to the extent of the cost of the materials ordered there by the company for the first five years under the Trade Facilities Act. If, on the other hand, you finally resolve to buy all your materials in any other country, the question of the guarantee of interest by the British Government does not arise."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I suppose that some guarantees will be offered even if this Government were to start the scheme."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Yes. But I may at once say that there is no possibility of this Government starting the scheme by financing the whole capital."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Why not?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Because it will be ruled out by the Government of India and because we cannot get such loans along with our other necessary commitments."

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Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya:—"What about the Punjab?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I am sure Punjab will have the same problem."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya:—"So far as we learn from the proceedings of the Legislative Council of that province, we understand there is a possibility for that."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I am speaking with special first-hand knowledge of the matter, and hon. Members will realize that the Government of India think it impossible, in view of their financial commitments, for the Local Government to start a nine crore project purely as Government concern. In the first place, it is not a question open to controversy whether the Government of India have made up their minds in favour of such utility schemes or not. But, so far as the actual finance of the work is concerned, they have not made up their minds whether it is the function of the State to have commercial concerns like the hydro-electric scheme run as a Government department. Even in this House questions of a similar nature have been raised with regard to the contracts of the Public Works Department

"It will be remembered by hon. Members of this House that if the Government runs the concern, the department will really be a huge company with many ramifications of Government agencies and Government servants stationed in the various parts of the Presidency, such as Coimbatore, Nilgiris, etc. All that will be run as a Government department, and this is what is wanted? All that I can say in conclusion is that the Tata Company, in spite of their past efforts, were not able to get their capital in India and they raised their capital of over two millions in England and that is a fact which hon. Members should bear in mind. It is all very well to say that this Government can raise three crores of rupees in the Madras Presidency. With full encouragement of all leading capitalists in Bombay the Tata Company have not been able to start their enterprise with the necessary capital raised in India, but they borrowed their capital at 9 per cent or more and also took advantage of the Trade Facilities Act passed in England. These are matters which will have to be borne in mind by hon. Members of this House. Do they not want that a beginning should be made in this way? Do they expect that the concern should be run only as a Government concern? It may be that Government may give support to the scheme, it may be that the Government may reserve the right to prescribe the maximum or the minimum rate to be charged. It may be that they reserve the power of direction and residual control. But they simply cannot finance the whole scheme. Therefore, if we cannot launch the scheme ourselves owing to financial and other considerations, the only alternative is that, with the aid of public opinion here and outside this House, we should all combine to see that success is made of a company the share capital of which will be called for in India and the whole of which will, if practicable, be subscribed in India. The question is are we going to take advantage of the offer of the British Cabinet who guarantee 75 per cent of the interest for the first five years and also of the Trade Facilities Act? That is a matter on which the decision of the House will be of the utmost value."

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Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—"The hon. the Law Member said that it was necessary that the House should pronounce an opinion on this matter. Before we can say anything, we must have secured information."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Has the hon. the Law Member finished?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I think, on the whole, it will be wise to know when we are on this matter what the further course of the discussion will be. There are certain other matters of minor importance with which also I will have to deal."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"I have already submitted that an opportunity should be given to this House to express its opinion on the various points raised by the hon. the Law Member on the 31st March. I do not know if other hon. Members are willing to forego the other non-official work in preference to this work. If they are not willing, we have to resort to the ordinary way of moving an adjournment motion to-morrow or the day after. But I think the hon. the Law Member will in fairness give us an opportunity to discuss it on the 31st March."

Rao Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"If it is the object of the Government to take the consent of this House, the proper course for the Government will be to allow us to come forward with resolutions on this matter. There are numerous difficulties in the way. We are all very glad to take advantage of the Trade Facilities Act in England, but the trouble always arises this way. It may be that the advantage gained by the guaranteed interest is more than counter-balanced by the heavy price we have to pay in England if we purchase the materials there, whereas similar materials equally strong may be obtained either from America or from some other country at a cheaper price and the difference between these two prices may very well cover the interest and also leave some margin of profit. It is not possible for us at this stage . . ."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I now see exactly what are the ideas passing in the minds of hon. Members of this House. One hon. Member, viz., the Member from Tanjore, said that he would like to have certain materials placed before the House in print so that they may discuss the question on the basis of those materials. Now it seems to me that my main object in raising this question is that hon. Members may know exactly what is passing in the minds of Government with regard to this matter. Between now and July no final decisions will be arrived at by the Government as to the mode of financing the projects and I am perfectly prepared to print all the necessary papers and probably a memorandum on the subject and send them to hon. Members in the course of May or June. They will have the safeguards before them and all the arguments pros and cons so that they may have a complete and a full-dress debate in July or August." Voices: 'Yes, yes.'

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"If the Government is not prepared to give us any information regarding any commitment which they might have made but in the meantime place before us only various other aspects of the case and ask us to commit ourselves one way or the other, it would be a very unpleasant thing."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I may say at once that I purposely refrain from referring to certain negotiations which have taken

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place in regard to this scheme, because at the initial stage we may have to acquire certain rights and keep control of the schemes in our hands. I may say that the object of the Government is to keep control over the projects in our hands. Whether this control is to be exercised in the way of actual development by the Government or by the aid of others is a matter in which this House is vitally interested. But the Government of Madras will not be prevented from entering into negotiations which will serve to keep intact any supervision which they may have to exercise. Any final steps to be taken in the direction of a decision as to whether the enterprise should be a State enterprise, that is, such as the one which is conducted by the Mysore Government, viz., the Sivasamudram falls or whether it should be a company enterprise floated in India or in England or partly in India or partly in England, and the method of financing all these are matters on which this House is entitled to have its say before a decision is taken. I wish to give the assurance that on what may be called the outstanding matters, viz., with regard to the ultimate policy with which the Government will approach this problem, the Government of Madras will not take definite and irrevocable steps before this House expresses its view."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member to give us some idea of the Punjab scheme?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I may say that that scheme is only one of many. For the matter of that we can say there is the New Zealand scheme, the Ontario scheme and so on."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER:—"It is only in relation to the development of agriculture that I want to know how far the Punjab scheme has been useful."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The question of agricultural development has some, but very little, bearing on this matter."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER:—"Whether an enterprise will be productive or not does not matter unless it should serve and help the needs of agricultural interests of the country so. Nitrates, which may be made from Pykara scheme, are said to be useful to agriculture. I might submit the country is not in urgent need of nitrates. Something in the direction of improving irrigation facilities with the help of the hydro-electric schemes is the most proper and necessary thing to be done to suit the present condition of our country. I wanted to know something about the Punjab scheme because the hon. the Law Member quoted certain instances with regard to agricultural improvement which was effected by such hydro-electric scheme."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Hon. Members will remember that Mysore hydro-electric scheme supplies electricity at 8 pias per unit. When electricity is supplied at the rate of 8 to 9 pias per unit, a person, whether an agriculturist or a small cottage industrialist or anybody, can take advantage of it if he prefers to do so. There is no contrast between agriculture and electrical enterprise. The question is the supply of power."

Mr. P. C. MUTHU CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, இந்த விஷயத்தில் நான் அதிகமாகச் சொல்லவேண்டிய தில்லை யென்றாலும் சில வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல வாம் என்று நினைக்கிறேன். ஏனென்றால் இந்த மாதிரியான பெரிய ஸ்கீம்கள்

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வரவில்லை யென்ற ஏக்கம் இந்தியா முழுவதும் வியாபித்திருக்கிறது. இந்த ஸ்கீமை ஆரம்பிப்பதற்கு சுமார் மூன்று கோடி ரூபாய்க்கு அருகதையில்லை யென்று வேற்றுமையாய் மதிப்பது தகுதியில்லையென்று எண்ணுகிறேன். இந்தியாவில் அநேக ஸ்டேட்டுகளும், எஸ்டேட்டுகளும், லோகல்போர்டுகளும், முனிசிபாலிட்டிகளும் இருக்கின்றன. இதைத் தவிர பல கம்பனிகளும் வியாபாரிகளும், தனிகர்களும் இருக்கின்றார்கள். இந்த ஸ்கீம்க்கு 5 பெர்சென்டுக்கு கவர்ன்மெண்டு டியாரண்டி கொடுக்கிறதாக அனுமதிக்க வேண்டியது அவசியம். நாம் பரதிசனமும் ஸ்பென்சரினும், டெஹ்லிஸனிலும் துட்டுகொடுத்து புசித்து வருவோமானால் நம்முடைய ஸ்திதியும் தேக்கமும் எவ்வாறு காணப் படும். நம்முடைய வீட்டில் சலபமாகவும், லாபமாகவும், சரீரத்திற்கு ஆரோக்கியமாகவும் புசித்து வாழ வேண்டுமெல்லவா? ஆதலால் உலகத்தார் விரும்பிவந்த காரியங்களில் ஒன்றை அவர்கள் பொருமையாக சுமத்தி கவர்ன்மெண்டு ஓர் டியாரண்டி கொடுத்து இந்தியாவிற்கு கேஷமத்தையும் லாபத்தையும் உண்டெண்ண வேண்டியது யிகவும் அவசியம். இது சாத்தியமென்றும் நடைபெறக்கூடிய தென்றும் நம்புவாம்."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, I may say that I cordially share the sentiments expressed in that picturesque and forcible speech of my friend Mr. P. C. Muthu Chettiyar. He says that there are so many Indian States, so many local boards and so many rich men, not excluding hon. Members of this House, who can finance this scheme. This Government will not be behind hand in their co-operation if there is any possibility of raising the capital in the Madras Presidency or in India even. The Government will give such guarantees as the British Cabinet is willing to give in the matter. If hon. Members feel confident and are satisfied with the guarantee which will be given by the Madras Government, I may say for myself and for my Colleagues the Government are anxious and willing that the money should be raised in the Madras Presidency. I may say it will be extremely desirable if we could raise the whole capital in the Madras Presidency. It was merely because—it may be that I am pessimistic—that I thought that the necessary capital could not be raised in this Presidency that I put forward the proposal of raising of capital in England and of availing ourselves of the English Act. If hon. Members think that the raising of capital should be facilitated by Government assistance, the Government will consider such a proposal most favourably."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"What about setting apart a day in July?"

The Motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

Then Demand No. VII, viz., that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 79.17 lakhs for Irrigation—Public Works Officers was put to vote and carried.

The House then adjourned for lunch at 1-45 p.m.

After Lunch (2-35 p.m.).

TELEGRAM TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON THE ADJOURNMENT MOTION REGARDING PROVINCIAL CONTRIBUTION.

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I wish to refer to the recent telegram of the Associated Press of India which says that the hon. Mr. MacWatters made a statement in the Council of State that he had that morning a telegram to the effect that the Madras Council had unanimously carried a motion for adjournment against the reduction of the

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salt tax by the Assembly. Sir, you know that the reduction of the salt tax was not within the scope of the motion as passed, for, while the motion was under discussion, in order to arrive at a unanimity of opinion the hon. Member, Sir James Simpson, had to amend his motion and it was a matter of distinct understanding that the vote of this House should not be understood as a vote that the House was not in favour of the reduction of the salt duty. I wonder how the message reached the Government of India contrary to the intentions, contrary to the understanding and the assurance given in this House. Who has furnished the wrong information and misled the Council of State is a matter which you, Sir have to enquire into. The matter is very serious as it is likely to mislead the Council of State."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"Sir, I cannot take the responsibility for what has been said or done by anybody else. But I may say that this Government telegraphed to the Government of India yesterday afternoon the motion as finally passed by the House on Thursday. That telegram through some oversight was not sent till yesterday afternoon and cannot possibly have been the telegram referred to. Supposing the Associated Press has correctly reported what the hon. Mr. MacWatters said, I do not know who, if anybody, has misled either the hon. Mr. MacWatters or the Council of State. I would suggest that until we have some authoritative information that they have been misled, it is hardly worth while discussing the matter."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask the hon. the Finance Member what the telegram was which he sent to the Government of India?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I cannot give the exact wording of the telegram. My instructions were that the resolution as amended should be telegraphed. I know that it was not telegraphed before yesterday afternoon and therefore that telegram cannot possibly have been referred to in the Council of State."

DEMAND VIII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—HEADS OF PROVINCES

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Sir, I beg to move

'that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 6.52 lakhs under Demand VIII—General Administration—Heads of Provinces.'

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I presume that the hon. Member, Mr. Biswanath Das, has been informed of the fact that his motion to reduce the allotment of Rs. 18,300 for Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor by Rs. 10 in order to discuss the desirability of appointing Members of the Legislative Council as paid officers under the Crown has been disallowed for the reason that the object of the motion had nothing to do with the allotment affected by it. I have no objection to admit it in some more appropriate place. The House will now pass on to the next motion of the hon. Member Mr. Rama Rao."

Motion No. 57.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"Sir, I move

'that the allotment of Rs. 18,300 for Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor be reduced by Re. 1.'

"The object of this motion is to suggest to His Excellency the Governor whether it is not possible to appoint an Indian as his Private Secretary. Sir, when Governors come to this or for the matter of that to any other

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province here, they are quite strangers to the customs, habits and manners of the people. An Indian Private Secretary will be able to inform the Governor of the customs and ways of the people of the Presidency. Again, we are raising the cry of Indianization of the services. This also comes in for being Indianized. There is also a third reason why I press the matter. That is that an Indian Private Secretary will be cheaper and not so costly as the European Private Secretary, for we will have no such thing as overseas allowance and all that. Moreover, the Private Secretary has a good deal to do more with Indians than with Europeans. An Indian will know more about the status and conditions of the people who seek interviews, for instance, with His Excellency the Governor. In these circumstances, I want to know why the proposal could not be accepted."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya :—"I rise to support the motion. In this connexion, I put a series of questions sometime back for which the answers were not quite satisfactory. Looking into the administration report I find that the post of Private Secretary is not one that is reserved for a member of the Indian Civil Service. I therefore think that in moving that the appointment should be held by an Indian the Indian Civil Service cadre will not be affected. Of course an Indian Civil Service Officer is being appointed for a long time. But the time is come that there should be a change in the incumbent of the place. Even if Indian Civil Service men were necessary, there are Indians in the service. I am told, I speak subject to correction, Sir, that some time back an Indian Civil Service officer was offered the appointment, but that he declined to accept the place. Whatever the fact may be, the time is come that an Indian should fill the place. An Indian Private Secretary would be of very valuable assistance in the administration of the affairs of the Presidency inasmuch as he would keep His Excellency apprised of Indian conditions. As therefore the place is not reserved for an Indian Civil Service officer, I press the matter for consideration and even if an Indian Civil Service gentleman should fill the place, let an Indian be chosen."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Sir, as the House is of course aware, the selection of a gentleman to hold the office of Private Secretary is a matter entirely within His Excellency's discretion. And I imagine the House will not expect me therefore to make any specific comment on the remarks made. The hon. Mover has said that his object was to bring the suggestion to the notice of His Excellency. He has achieved that by making his speech which in due course will appear in the records of this House. And I take it that having done that, I may expect him now to withdraw his motion."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, I have also given notice of a motion (No. 348), one of the purposes of which is to raise this question of the appointment of an Indian Private Secretary. I am

afraid the hon. the Home Member is relying too much on our credulity, if he thinks that because we make a motion and deliver speeches which are going to be reported in the official reports, the matter will come to the notice of His Excellency the Governor inasmuch as the reports will go to him. I may say that we are not such simpletons as he thinks. We know exactly how our speeches are thought of at headquarters. Here even if we pass votes of reduction, they are not effective, and in such a case, certainly we

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are not going to withdraw the motions on the assurance that as we have made some speeches, our object is served thereby. I may say that such assurances will deceive none here.

"I wish to raise another point, Sir. I want to know what are the functions that are officially discharged by the Private Secretary. I am told by a very high authority in another province that the Private Secretary there does not discharge any public functions excepting ceremonial functions, but I am afraid in Madras the Private Secretary does exercise an amount of influence on public affairs which is not quite healthy for the proper administration of the Presidency, in so far as His Excellency the Governor is responsible for them. We know that under the Government of India Act, His Excellency the Governor is vested with very considerable and important powers not only in regard to public affairs but even with regard to the conduct of business in this Council, and one feels that in such matters the Private Secretary may exercise an amount of influence on the Governor, if the Private Secretary is a strong man and the Governor is a weak man. I do not know what the present circumstances are, but I can assume that it is just possible. We do not know what are the functions discharged by this official and the amount of influence he may bring to bear on the disposal, sometimes final disposal, of very important public questions, and I should like to ask the hon. the Home Member to make a statement, if he can, as to what are the important official or public duties or functions that are discharged by the Private Secretary.

"Then, Sir, as regards the Indian Civil Service, my hon. Friend has already stated that there are many Indians in the Indian Civil Service who can be selected for this office. The selection is of course within the discretion of His Excellency the Governor. But I am sure if we pass this motion in this House, His Excellency would at least take some time before he turns down our vote, or decides the matter adversely.

"I have only one word more to say, Sir. I am not enamoured of an Indian as an Indian. There are Indians and Indians, and we have examples in this House of Indians in high positions of power who are no more responsible than Europeans. Therefore I am not making much of this aspect, but it seems to me that it is a matter which makes for the gradual Indianization of the Public Services. And more than that, as the hon. the Mover said, the appointment is within His Excellency's discretion, and we are anxious that he should have an opportunity of getting first-hand information and advice from an Indian who knows his country. Why should His Excellency the Governor coming fresh from England to this country be surrounded by a number of European officials who form a wall around him, standing between him and the natural channels of information and advice which come from various quarters? I know he cannot get true information from the people who go to him. The hon. the Law Member speaking incidentally on another matter, referred to the general attitude of the Governors and others towards the people that go to them for favours. Therefore it seems to me that we shall be consulting the highest interests of the Province if we press this motion that an Indian should be appointed as Private Secretary."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I am afraid the hon. the Home Member has not done justice to this question. Evidently he

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is not satisfied with the first two speeches made in support of the motion and he wanted to provoke discussion. Otherwise, I think he would have taken us into his confidence a little more and given us some idea. . . ."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"May I make a personal explanation, Sir? Surely when I mentioned that the subject was entirely within the discretion of His Excellency the Governor, it would not have been thought right that I would make any communication of my personal views as to the way in which His Excellency the Governor should exercise his discretion in the selection."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Every one is aware that this is a matter which is within the discretion of His Excellency Governor, but when on the floor of this House opinions are expressed about the desirability of having an Indian appointed to this particular post, is it or is it not reasonable to expect that the hon. Members on the Treasury Bench would give expression to the difficulties which exist in the way of giving effect to those intentions or say that it is a welcome change which may be inaugurated and so forth? I do not really understand why there is any difficulty for a Member of the Government expressing his views on any question that may come before this House unless the hon. the Home Member says that there is some convention by which in such matters no view ought to be expressed and nothing can be said. All that I suggest is when once the opinion has been clearly expressed that it is desirable to associate an Indian in this important branch of work, I should think that the hon. the Home Member would take a more reasonable view of this question and see that such instructions as are necessary are given for that purpose. This is not a new question, but has been before the public for some time past, and we expect His Excellency the Governor to take notice of it and see how far he can meet our wishes. I would therefore ask that the Home Member may take us a little more into his confidence instead of leaving this as an open question and saying 'You please make your speeches; they are published and His Excellency will read them, and will do whatever he thinks best.' That is not the attitude which we expect from the hon. the Home Member."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, Sir, the hon. the Home Member said that this is a matter entirely in the discretion of the Governor. We know that so many acts ought to be done by His Excellency the Governor by using his discretion, but I think it will be conceded by the hon. the Home Member that the Cabinet will have to advise on various matters. When we discuss this matter on this Budget motion, I think we expect that even in the case of the Reserved half, our intentions may be given effect to. Suppose we cut out the establishment of the Private Secretary; we have got a right to do it, and His Excellency the Governor has got a right to restore it. But the thing is this: Let us say that the Governor, though he would be unwilling to restore it, would yet restore it. On what ground? Not on the ground that an Indian Private Secretary would not do. The main issue that is raised here is whether an Indian can be appointed as Private Secretary. Can that be a ground for certification? No doubt the post is to be maintained if the establishment is cut out and then the main principle that can possibly be discussed is whether an Indian has to be appointed or not. I think the Cabinet cannot shirk its responsibility of proving or disproving the suggestion that is made on the floor of this House."

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* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, I gather from the reprobation with which my attitude has been viewed, that the chief cause of offence in the eyes of Mr. Krishna Rao and others is that I did not oppose this motion. They seem to have expected me to oppose the motion because my hon. Friend Mr. Krishna Rao himself suggested that it was up to me to point out the difficulties in the way of accepting it."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" I may say at once, Sir, that we would like to know frankly what the position of the Government is in regard to this motion. The hon. the Home Member may say what it is and I do not know why he should fight shy of it."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am perfectly frank in saying, as I have said already, that the selection for the post of Private Secretary rests with His Excellency the Governor. And I do not think that the Members of the Government either individually or collectively have anything to do with it. I may mention the fact that when His Excellency the present Governor came here, his Private Secretary had already been appointed before he came to this country. It is not a case of Cabinet selection or consultation."

" The question is put by the hon. Member for the University as to what the public functions of the Private Secretary are. The answer to it is contained in the very words ' Private Secretary ; he is Private Secretary and has no public functions at all. He is placed at the disposal of His Excellency the Governor to assist the Governor generally in the work he has to do. High officials in England, whether political or departmental, have Private Secretaries provided for them to facilitate their work. So also in this Presidency the Governor is given a Private Secretary. Just as in England the selection is left to the discretion of the Minister or the departmental head, and naturally so when we consider the intimate relations between him and his chief, so also in this Presidency the selection is left not to the Government but to the Governor. I can see nothing wrong in my suggestion that once this motion was moved its object was achieved because it would come to His Excellency's notice. I do not see how the object would be any better achieved if the Council in order to enforce their view persist in taking off Re. 1 from the pay of one of Mr. Conran Smith's clerks. I may say that I have not the least doubt that His Excellency will consider this matter even without the Council resorting to that expedient."

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—" Mr. President, Sir, may I say a few words in support of this resolution now before the House ? His Excellency the Governor is a gentleman new to this province and therefore he will be greatly benefited by the advice of an Indian Private Secretary. I very well understand that the discretion in choosing his Private Secretary vests in His Excellency the Governor, but we know in all these matters he is necessarily guided by the advice of the responsible officials of the Government. I am in favour not only of an Indian but a non-official Indian, because I lay some stress upon the attitude of a non-official as distinct from an official. The attitude of the non-official is necessarily towards enlarging the outlook of responsible Government in this country and he will be a safe guide to express to His Excellency the views of the people and therefore it will be a welcome move in the proper direction, and if the views of this Council are placed before His Excellency the Governor in the form of a resolution

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supported by a large number of Members of this House, it will be more acceptable to His Excellency than if it goes out as that of a single Member as this. In that view, I should like that the motion be passed."

* Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have been listening to the speeches made by hon. Members, but I have one difficulty. If, as has been stated, the nearness of the Private Secretary to the person of His Excellency the Governor is going to influence the latter's policy, even to the extent of exceeding the influence exercised by the members of the cabinet, an amount of influence which is not quite healthy, I should think the safest course would be to have a European (' Hear, hear '). Otherwise, if a member of any one particular community is appointed as Private Secretary (laughter), it might give rise to the suspicion that the interests of the other communities would be placed in jeopardy."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know if the European belongs to no community at all ?"

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" He belongs to a community which is above party and communal rivalries and jealousies. Anyhow, Sir, there is no fear of communal jealousies being aroused in the Councils or elsewhere. I have been listening to the speeches made by several hon. Members emphasizing the fact that the interests of certain communities have been neglected and constantly neglected, and I know there is a feeling among considerable sections of the people in this Presidency that there is no possibility, not even a remote chance of certain communities being represented in the Executive Council or the Ministry or the higher services."

" Such being the state of things I think it is wrong to say in the first place that a Private Secretary exercises a very great influence. In the second place, even if it is supposed that he exercises great influence, it is I think very desirable that the present system of appointing a European Private Secretary should not be interfered with."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I rise only to emphasize the necessity of an Indian being appointed as Private Secretary. The Private Secretary may well be regarded as representing the conscience of His Excellency and from the Indian standpoint he may be regarded in the light of a proper medium for transmitting to His Excellency the Indian public opinion, Indian habits, superstition, customs and manners and all such things which will be very important to His Excellency. It should be very much regretted that up till now we have had no Indian as appointed as Private Secretary. As has been pointed out by one of the hon. Members of this House, it is better to have an Indian, non-official, who will feel himself untrammelled by office or predilections. If His Excellency the Governor really wants to understand the situation or if he is required to envisage the situation in its true perspective, I think that the correct medium will be an Indian element. By that let me not be understood as saying that we must do away with the European Private Secretary. As was pointed out by my hon. Friend, Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao, the Member from Nellore, I quite well agree with him in stating that it is better to have an Indian also associated with the European Private Secretary, so that His Excellency may have an opportunity to study both sides of the question and at the same time give prominence

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to the Indian feelings in the country. It is only to carry out the wishes of this House, so that it may enable His Excellency ultimately to come to a decision in the near future, that I also press for this motion."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Sir, while supporting the proposal that an Indian Private Secretary should be appointed to His Excellency, I wish to say at the same time that there are Indians and Indians. There are Indians who are very capable and very willing workers, sometimes, even to misconstrue the Indian point of view. We have got several Indians of that sort everywhere, especially in this Presidency. I do not refer to any particular person. But we have got experience of the Indian mind being misinterpreted to the Government, to the Secretary of State and to higher authorities. Therefore the choice of an Indian or a non-official Indian would not be a very easy one, and if an Indian were to be appointed I would urge that he should be one who is not officially inclined and one who should be an impartial and level-headed nationalist Indian. So far as the influence which a Private Secretary might exercise on a Governor is concerned, it is to be borne in mind, that possibly as a general rule which I understand to be in existence in this Presidency, as well as in the Bombay Presidency the most capable of the Indian Civil Service men have been selected. In almost all the cases, Private Secretaries have risen to higher posts in life because they are the most capital of the men."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I am not very much interested in the question whether a true Indian or a fictitious Indian is to be appointed as Private Secretary. I only wish to point out to hon. Members to the possible effect of a decision on the question. I do not see the purpose of putting this motion to vote, unless it is intended to censure some one; that is always understood to be the result of a token motion being carried by this House. The Members of Government have repudiated responsibility and there is no one else that can be reached by a censure. If hon. Members merely wish that their debate should be taken to the notice of His Excellency the Governor, the hon. the Home Member has given the necessary assurance. Therefore I cannot understand why hon. Members are so very particular about pressing this motion to a division."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, the interpretation which we put upon the Budget is that for every item of the Budget the Reserved half is responsible and therefore when we press a token motion, it is the Members who have got the responsibility to answer for it. That is why we urge this question."

Mr C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Let me just explain this to the hon. the Leader of the House. It is perfectly true that the trend of the debate would be reported to His Excellency. But His Excellency would not be in a position to know what exactly is the attitude of the Council, whether he has the approval of the majority or not, unless a division is taken. We are not anxious to carry it. I do not look upon this as the effect of a censure, for this reason. I hold that in the present circumstances the Reserved half is not responsible to the House technically and that therefore a vote of confidence or a vote of censure in the technical sense cannot lie. But we have to reflect the public opinion and an accurate account of the public opinion should be taken to His Excellency."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think we should, if possible, arrive at some clear understanding. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition said that this token motion was meant to reprimand the Reserved half or to censure or to disapprove of their action."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Disapproval of the policy of the Reserved half, so far as the Budget is concerned."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"There may be disapproval of the policy of the Government in providing a certain amount of money for the Private Secretary's office. We cannot censure the policy of the Government in making the selection, because that is entirely in the hands of the Governor."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"As long as the wishes of this House are not responded to in the Budget preparation then we have to press these things, to make the Reserved half respond to our demands. As long as His Excellency the Governor does not conform to the wishes of this House, in the selection of a Private Secretary from a particular race, then we claim the right to censure Government, because His Excellency has not made such a selection."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"We know the rules do provide that this House has no right to express its opinion regarding the conduct of His Excellency the Governor in the ruling of this province, but this House has got every right to express its views upon the Budget as prepared and submitted for the approval of this House. I do not for a moment say that this House has got in any way the power of expressing its view against any act done by the Governor in his individual capacity. But as long as we express our views regarding the Budget arrangements whatever effect it will have upon His Excellency such considerations shall not deter us from expressing our views. We are not here to express any view regarding the way in which His Excellency is using his discretion. We do admit that the Governor has got the discretion. But we say that it is the duty of the Cabinet to make His Excellency accept the views of this House."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"May I draw your attention, Sir, to one circumstance. The hon. the Home Member himself has said on a former occasion, if it was the opinion of this House to carry out this motion that an Indian should be appointed as Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, then it was open for it to do so. We strongly feel that His Excellency should appoint an Indian as his Private Secretary. We want to convey that feeling so that he may come to a decision in the matter."

Rao Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"President, Sir. The motion before the House assumes such proportions that I do not expect that it would stop without touching the constitutional question. We ask whether it would mean any censure upon anybody and if it is not so what shall be the attitude that we have to take up. Now, Sir, I may begin with the constitutional question. I may respectfully submit to you that when reductions are moved here it always and necessarily involves censure upon somebody. It is the case both when we want more money and also when we ask for a reduction. If the House means simply to convey its request to the Governor that we would like to have as His Private Secretary an Indian, then it is a

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matter of representation or petition to be made or submitted to His Excellency. But before we come to that question let me just say this: that this House, judging from the different speeches that have been made, is possessed of a misconception that is prevalent. Some section of the House seems to be of opinion that the Private Secretary keeps the conscience of His Excellency the Governor. Well, Sir, as one who knows something of it, I do not think that it is correct. In another section, if I have understood them aright, they seem to be of opinion that he wields such a great influence over His Excellency that he can make or mar a man's prospects, if he has a mind. Well, I can say that I have got some idea about it and I can assure the House that the poor Private Secretary does not exercise any influence. If a man's fortunes have to be marred or made, they are perhaps done by the Colleagues of His Excellency, who are his advisers. The Private Secretary is not his adviser in all these public affairs. The term itself very well denotes that he is an adviser to His Excellency only so far as the private affairs are concerned. His Excellency himself consults the Private Secretary only in connexion with his private affairs. If you want to thrust upon him a person who does not attend only to his private affairs, but interferes with all his public duties, it would practically mean that that man ceases to be a Private Secretary. The Private Secretary is one for private affairs, for those things that are confidential. The Governor by himself cannot attend to so many things, because he has got so many affairs connected with his office. That is how I understand the position there. Then, Sir, it is not clear from the motion whether they have to do away with the present European Private Secretary, or whether they will have an Indian in addition to the present Private Secretary. It makes the difference in this way. Apart from his affairs of State, a Governor requires the assistance of one in the position of a Private Secretary who it is supposed would know his manners, his customs, and his way of living. And so I believe that a European Private Secretary will be necessary for him. If, on the other hand, an additional Indian Secretary should be given to him with a view, if an occasion should arise, that Indian opinion may be expressed to him, such occasions do not arise in his private affairs.

“But if it is meant that the present European Secretary should be entirely displaced, that is a proposition for which there are obvious objections which the Council can very well see.

3-15 p.m. Having said that, I may say that the speech which the hon. Member Mr. Arpudawami Udayar made provoked a great deal of laughter and I wondered if the hon. Member realised what he meant. Assuming for a moment that he exercises all that he is assumed to be capable of exercising, I ask this question. What would happen if any one from this side of the House is appointed to the place and what will the Members of the other side say? May I ask also how my hon. Friend, Mr. Marthandam Pillai, will take it if he is appointed to that place? Supposing the appointment is given to some one of my hon. Brahman friends on this side, what will the non-Brahmans say; and if a non-Brahman is appointed then what will the Brahmins say? (Cries of ‘No no.’) It is all very well to say that now. But when it comes to practical politics then we can know how we stand. Once having made a proposition, the desire is to stick to it and find arguments in support of it. I think, Sir, having gone so far, we can now drop the matter at this.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“I take it that it is the desire of the hon. Member who is responsible for this motion to press it.”

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Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—“May I point out, Sir, that the object of the motion is clearly mentioned in the motion itself. It is stated ‘to consider the desirability of appointing an Indian as Private Secretary’.”

The motion was then put to the House and declared lost. A poll was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Mr. P. N. Marthandam Pillai. | 14. Mr. A. Chidambaram Nadar. |
| 2. „ K. Prabhakaran Tampan. | 15. „ C. Gopala Menon. |
| 3. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 16. „ K. Koti Reddi. |
| 4. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 17. „ S. Muttayya Mudaliyar. |
| 5. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 18. „ P. Peddiraju. |
| 6. „ T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 19. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 7. Mr. P. Siya Rao. | 20. Mr. G. Rameswara Rao. |
| 8. „ K. Uppi Sahib Bahadur. | 21. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasay. |
| 9. Dr. P. Subbarayan. | 22. Mr. M. Seetayya. |
| 10. Mr. S. Satyamurti. | 23. „ J. A. Saldanha. |
| 11. „ T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. | 24. „ R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 12. „ P. Anjaneyulu. | 25. „ C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 13. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasay. | 26. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhaachari. |

Noes.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 21. Mr. P. C. Muthu Chettiyar. |
| 2. „ Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 22. Honorary Lieutenant Madurai. |
| 3. „ the Raja of Panagal. | 23. Mr. C. Ponnuswami Nayudu. |
| 4. „ Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Petro. | 24. „ K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai. |
| 5. „ Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 25. „ P. T. Rajan. |
| 6. „ Mr. R. A. Graham. | 26. „ B. Ramachandra Reddi. |
| 7. „ Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks. | 27. „ B. Obalesappa. |
| 8. Mr. R. W. Davies. | 28. Rao Bahadur P. Raman. |
| 9. „ E. W. Legh. | 29. Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. |
| 10. Dr. John Mathai. | 30. Mr. K. Sitarama Reddi. |
| 11. Mr. Abdulla Ghatala Sahib. | 31. „ R. Srinivasan. |
| 12. „ S. Arpudawami Udayar. | 32. Rao Sahib K. V. Ramachari. |
| 13. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 33. Mr. K. Venkatachala Padayachi. |
| 14. Mr. A. V. Bhanoji Rao. | 34. Diwan Bahadur W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 15. „ N. Dayendrudu. | 35. Mr. Abbas Ali Khan. |
| 16. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar. | 36. Khan Bahadur Haji Abdulla Haji Kasim Sahib. |
| 17. Rao Bahadur A. M. Murugappa Chettiyar. | 37. Mr. T. M. Moida Sahib. |
| 18. Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan. | 38. Munshi Abdul Wahab Sahib. |
| 19. Mr. J. Kuppuswami. | |
| 20. „ A. Ramaswami Mutaliyar. | |

Neutral.

1. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
2. Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib.
3. Janab Muhammad Qadir Muhi-ud-din Sahib.

26 voted for, 38 against it, 3 remaining neutral.

The motion was lost.

Motion No. 58.

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“I move

‘that the allotment of Rs. 17,100 for pay of officers be reduced by Rs. 5,000.’

“I make this motion, Sir, knowing that so far as motions regarding His Excellency are concerned, the only hope lies in His Excellency agreeing to some cuts. Sir, some two or three years ago there was a

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vehement opposition to a similar motion; but by some chance the motion was adjourned and taken up the next day. Then we got the information that His Excellency himself after carefully considering the matter thought that some cut could be made and the resolution with some reduction was passed by the House. Therefore, Sir, it would be extremely desirable if some hon. Member on the Treasury Bench will talk to His Excellency and see if some curtailment could not be made. So far as this particular point is concerned, there is, I believe, no question of racial discrimination. We see in page 94 that there was only one Aide-de-Camp in the beginning of last year; that number has now become three. Now we see from the budget estimate there was a provision for Rs. 4,000 for 1924-25 and the revised estimate has gone up to Rs. 12,300—more than 300 per cent. But unfortunately things do not stop there. While the revised estimate has gone up to 300 per cent over the budget estimate for the current year, we have got a provision in the budget estimate for Rs. 17,100 again. We are certainly not against having a fair and sufficient number of A.D.C.'s, but there should be some limit and even His Excellency should, I think, be prepared to have a little sacrifice if it is a sacrifice at all in view of the poor finances of the country. We are told that the nation-building departments are already very much starved. Therefore I have every hope that if by a motion in this House or on the advice of the hon. Member in charge of the department, His Excellency himself would see the feeling of the House in the matter and the way in which the estimate has gone up from year to year, he would himself considerably reduce the number and thereby effect a retrenchment. So far as my proposal goes, all that we now want is that the expenditure, high as it has been during the current year, viz., more than 300 per cent—an increase from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 12,000 to quote in round figures—cannot be further increased next year."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Sir, let me in the first place point out to my hon. Friend that the information which he has obtained, 3-30 p.m. that the expenditure for the current year shows a substantial increase over that of last year, is due to a misapprehension, probably based on the fact that the figures are re-arranged this year by the Finance Department. The particular points to which he called attention are quite capable of explanation and I should like to take this opportunity of explaining them. In the first place, although it is true that under voted services the number has apparently risen from 1 to 3, that does not represent any increase whatever in the number of officers employed. The fact is that one officer who is now to be voted appears in the current year's budget as non-voted."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I am against 3; one may be reduced."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"It is 5 on the one side and 6 on the other. I shall first of all explain what the excess does represent. The excess is represented by the item which my hon. Friend will see against Pay of officers—Voted—1 (225), the second item under that head. That Rs. 225 a month represents the allowance given to an extra Indian Aide-de-Camp. In the last year's budget it appeared under the head of Allowances. The officer has been employed for many years past. Up to last year the emoluments which he received were shown under Allowances, and they now disappear from that head as it is more convenient and suitable that it should

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be debited under Pay. The result, therefore, is that the numbers in the second and third columns do not represent any actual increase at all in the number of officers employed. On the other hand, taking the second item alone, one of these voted officers is the Honorary Aide-de-Camp to whom I have referred; the other is a regular Aide-de-Camp who comes on to the non-voted list because he does not happen to be on the active list of the army. If he were on the active list, he would appear under non-voted. It is quite true that the provision for voted officers has gone up, but the provision for non-voted officers has gone down.

"With reference to my hon. Friend's general suggestion that the money expended on this head is rising, I call his attention to the figures at page 91 of the budget. There he will find the following:—Under Private Secretary the total voted and non-voted is Rs. 37,000 next year as against Rs. 39,000 this year. Under Military Secretary, it falls to Rs. 57,000 from Rs. 68,000 this year. Under Personal Staff there is a reduction of Rs. 1,000 next year. Under Bodyguard it falls from Rs. 1,54,000 to Rs. 1,40,000. Under Governor's Band it falls by a small amount, Rs. 640. As to Furniture, I do not propose to discuss it now. Under Medical Establishment the expenditure remains practically stationary. Therefore the general tendency is not, as my hon. Friend is inclined to suggest, towards increase but towards decrease. I trust my hon. Friend will give His Excellency all the credit for that reduction. If you look at the final figures, you will see that the budget estimate for 1925-26 at page 89 amounts to Rs. 3,83,000 as against Rs. 4,78,000 in the current year. In order to be frank to the House, I may tell them that Rs. 63,000 of that is represented by the disappearance of the special furniture allowance. Even taking that, the actual reduction is Rs. 23,000 in the next year's estimate. As last year, I have no doubt His Excellency will consider the desire expressed in this House that every effort should be made at retrenchment. I think that so far as we are charged with allowing the expenditure under these heads to be increased, the figures given point the other way."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I do not know if the hon. Member considers that our memories are short. He should compare the next year's budget with the budget for 1923-24. Because for 1924-25, we were really told that the large expenditure, as has been hinted at by the Home Member so far as furniture was concerned, was incurred as new Governor had to come and we were clearly told at the time of budget discussion last year that it would not be a recurring expenditure and that it would not be an expenditure which would be incurred in years to come. Therefore I am surprised to see, unless he thought that we have short memories, that he compared the coming year's budget with the current year's budget. The proper year to be taken is 1923-24. I would say that the expenditure has been increasing.

"So far as the officers are concerned, I think the explanation of the hon. Member is fairly satisfactory to some extent. If there was an honorary Indian Aide-de-Camp, there is no reason why it should not be stated so. And the pay is not the pay but the allowances. If it had been clearly stated that it was an honorary Aide-de-Camp, then we could have understood the whole thing. But anyhow all I hope is that, as this particular grant lies in the hands of His Excellency, he will do his best to make retrenchments as far as possible. With these words, I withdraw the motion."

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The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ About the particular point raised by my hon. Friend regarding the wording in the budget entries, I have already said that the entries are puzzling. Next year the position will be clearly indicated and I hope my Friend will be saved the difficulty pointed out by him on this occasion.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 59.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—I move

‘that the allotment of Rs. 17,100 for pay of officers be reduced by Re. 1.’

“ I just want to say a word. Out of three extra Aides-de-Camp I should like at least two must be Indians. With that suggestion I move the motion.”

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ The present number as shown at column 2 on page 24 is actually six, of whom two are Indians.”

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“ All of them are not Indians but only half of them.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 60.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ I move

‘that the allotment of Rs. 1,03,300 for His Excellency the Governor’s Bodyguard be omitted.’

“ There is an element of unreality about our budget votes ; especially on the reserved half, the unreality becomes more unreal, if I may say so. But still as we are here, we want to express our opinion. We consider the Governor’s bodyguard a relic of ancient days when the European in this country thought that the Orientals could be governed only by the exhibition of splendour, that we are all primitive-minded people who would be impressed by the Governor going over the roads with bodyguards in front and behind him. Probably it is a relic. I know of the time when life here was not very secure, when the East India Company founded its possessions in this country and the Governor’s person had to be protected against possible attacks. Neither of these conditions can be said to exist to-day. Whatever the Europeans in those days might have thought, I do not think there is any right-minded European to-day who thinks that in matters of political consciousness the Indian differs fundamentally from the European, and that we are likely to be impressed by this class of bodyguards. Secondly, I do not think it can be contended seriously that there is any danger to the Governor’s person and that he has got to be protected in Madras from possible desperadoes by the intervention of the bodyguard. In fact, the bodyguard is maintained only for going with the Governor on select occasions and State drives. I know the argument on the other side will be that if we must have a Governor we must have the paraphernalia, but, after all, we must not forget that the Governor is presiding over the destinies of one of the poorest countries in the world, and if he can do without luxuries, nothing should prevent him. We are not able to fix his pay, but we are asked to vote for his bodyguard. It is unnecessary, it is costly, and if we can really spare this one lakh and odd, there are many

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directions in which it can be used for the real benefit of the people of this Presidency. I do not know what the Government is going to say, but I do suggest that if they are really serious about their ideas of retrenchment and economy in expenditure, they ought to accept my motion and dispense with this anachronism and incidentally save some money for the public treasury. With these words, I beg leave to make my motion.”

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN :—“ May I know whether the bodyguard is on special duty or is a part of the regular army.”

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ It is actually paid for and administered by the Civil department, but there is no doubt that it is recognized by the Army department. I may mention that it has been used for military purposes on more than one occasion.”

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“ These bodyguards serve no useful purpose except display and show, and most probably when His Excellency goes to the race course in Guindy in pomp and State, they might create an impression on the people that go there and nothing more. Governors are respected in this country, not for the pomp and show they make but for the good they do to the country. So when that stage has passed, the stage of pomp and show, I think there is no use wasting money on these things. With these words, I support the motion.”

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ Sir, I confess that if I adopted the severely utilitarian attitude of my hon. Friend I should have nothing to say for the bodyguard. But fortunately for myself and unfortunately for my hon. Friend, it is not in any department of life possible to regard solely the utilitarian aspect of things. I may point out that in this very Chamber if we were purely utilitarian we should be sitting on hard wooden benches, not on cushioned seats and I think, Sir, that whatever may be the attitude of my hon. Friends towards the bodyguard the view to which he has given expression does not represent the opinion of the vast majority of people, not only in Madras, but also in other places, when they see the bodyguard. I do not think there is any doubt whatever that they regard it as a suitable appanage to the Governor, representing in some way the position which he holds as the King’s representative. The bodyguard has a distinct value which cannot be measured in terms of money value. I think the House will agree with me that we should regret very much any retrenchment which made it necessary to dispense with what may be an archaism, but which distinctly has a value and which represents what may properly be called a very popular feature in His Excellency’s appearances in Madras.”

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I partly appreciate the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House, that perhaps, as far as the masses are concerned (hear, hear), the paraphernalia is not altogether to be dispensed with, just as we see some sort of accommodation suitable to our status in life in this very House. But at the same time, when I see the number of persons forming this bodyguard and the amount spent on them, I very respectfully ask whether it is not desirable that His Excellency should take into some sort of consideration the fact whether without sacrificing the so-called pomp and the dignity which his high office requires, it is not possible at least to reduce the number of this bodyguard.”

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, I am very glad indeed that the hon. the Home Member gave away his whole case when he said ' I have nothing to say for the bodyguard '."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" From the utilitarian standpoint."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I do not think the Government have got anything, except the utilitarian point of view to consider. I am sure if my hon. Friend rides to this House accompanied by a bodyguard, we shall be much impressed. But I do not think we can afford that pomp and splendour even to the Governor. If pomp and splendour were to correspond to the power of the individual concerned, the hon. Member should have very much more pomp and splendour and I do not see why my hon. Friend should not ride to this Chamber attended by a bodyguard and all that. My hon. Friend says that the masses are impressed by this splendour. I do not think my hon. Friend would quarrel with me when I say that I claim to be more in touch with the masses than he. I may say that although they are impressed by the bodyguard, they are also impressed by the moving trains as seen at the level-crossings. When a train passes by, there are scores of people gazing at it, for human nature being what it is, their curiosity is aroused."

" My hon. Friend used a very common expression ' King's representative '. I join issue with him here. There is nobody in this country except the Viceroy who is the King's representative. We are being told constitutional inexactitudes. There is only one representative of the King and that is the Viceroy. I recognize nobody else as the King's representative. It seems to me that at that rate we can go down to the village and call the talaiyari a King's representative. There is no use going on with these anachronisms and styling everybody as the King's representative."

" As for the question of the masses being impressed does the Governor's bodyguard go out of Madras? I do not think."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" They remain in Madras only."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Therefore, for the sake of impressing a few thousands or hundreds of people . . ."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Half a million people."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Is it suggested that half a million people turn up to see the bodyguard? I must say that the number of people who see these things cannot be more than 4,000 or 5,000, and even that number do so only because the police obstruct the traffic and make them stand at street corners and they join the crowd. Is it suggested that we should spend a lakh and odd on it for this purpose every year? It seems to me that no case has been made out for it. If my hon. Friend suggests any measure of retrenchment in this Council by reducing the comforts of hon. Members, I will certainly support him. He will certainly have my support in any such measure of retrenchment. I certainly can sit on hard benches and I can certainly do without some of these fans if he thinks that they are too many. But it seems to me that we do not cost so much as this bodyguard. I would like to put the motion to the vote in order to ascertain the sense of the House in a matter like this."

(Seeing Mr. Arpudawami Udayar rising to speak Mr. S. Satyamurti remarked : ' Sermon on the Mount ')

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* Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" I am not going to preach the Sermon on the Mount ' as my Friend the Member for the University suggests, but I think if the Sermon on the Mount is preached everyday the world would be the wiser for it."

" I take objection to some of the expressions used by my hon. Friend, referring to the Governor's bodyguard he said that it was a relic of the old days and that it was an anachronism. My impression is that even in the more advanced democratic countries the Presidents of republics have their bodyguards."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Have they? "

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" Yes, Sir. It is an emblem of the dignity attached to the office."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask if the President of the United States has got a bodyguard? "

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" Certainly he has a bodyguard and my hon. Friend would not fail to be impressed by it. It is a symbol of the dignity attached to the office. I suppose we have not come to that state of cutting down everything and reducing everything to one common level."

The motion was put and lost

Motion No. 61.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, I move

' that the allotment of Rs. 34,000 for His Excellency the Governor's Band be omitted '.

" I do not propose to advance any further arguments than those advanced in connexion with the previous motion, because they all apply to this. Although I recognize that occasionally the band does give pleasure to the people on the marina when they play good music, still, as that is a luxury which we can do without, I move this motion."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" As my hon. Friend has anticipated, my answer to the previous motion applies to this also. I do not think I need detain the House by repeating it."

The motion was put and lost.

Motion No. 62.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, the motion that stands in my name runs thus:

' that the allotment of Rs. 20,500 for Government House furniture be reduced by Rs. 100.'

" Sir, this is a matter on which we had a fairly good debate last year during the Budget discussion and I think the hon. the Home Member was not able to convince us that proper accounts are being maintained. I want to ask just these three questions. Sir, every time a new Governor comes a lot of money is set aside for new furniture. I want to know what becomes of the old furniture. Is it suggested that once in every five years we have to invest 20,500 rupees on furniture? I do not think we can afford it."

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"Then, I want to know how much of this furniture is purchased in this country. After all furniture-making is an art in which even Madras has made considerable progress. I am sure hon. Members might have seen at the Anjuman in Mount Road and at the Ramakrishna Home beautiful specimens of furniture which our own people have made and are making. I do not see why the Government House should not spend this allotment on the encouragement of Swadeshi furniture.

"My next point is this: I want to know if this furniture is entered in any account and if it is submitted to audit, as furniture in other public offices is submitted to audit."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The Military Secretary keeps an account and it is submitted for audit."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I am told by the hon. the Home Member that the Military Secretary keeps some sort of account of this furniture and that it is audited. I want to know whether it is audited according to the well-known systems of audit of furniture year after year, depreciation provided for, account taken of furniture lost or destroyed and responsibility placed upon those people who are in charge of that furniture."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Sir, on one point I can entirely satisfy my hon. Friend, that is, on the question as to whether furniture is purchased here or from abroad. The answer is that practically all is purchased in this country. I may add, having been personally responsible for some of the present arrangements, that the whole estimate for the provision for furniture is made on the basis of the prices of furniture manufactured in India.

"The hon. Member's next question was why there should be a periodical sum granted for new furniture. I explained last year on a similar motion what the practice is. The Government of India have allowed a certain amount for depreciation not only on furniture but on such perishable things such as curtains, cushions, etc., but instead of granting that amount for depreciation and renewal each year which is the arrangement in private life, they have allowed only a portion to be spent for repairs each year, while the balance of 2½ per cent per annum, is handed over to the new Governor at the beginning of his term of office so that he may be in a position, to have new furniture, new covers and so on. The combined total of the annual allotment plus the five yearly lump sum allotment only amounts to 7½ per cent which is a very moderate allowance indeed for repairs. I pointed out last year that if it were not for the arrangement under which once in five years a lump grant is made the annual grant for repairs would have to be larger. So that this arrangement is a reasonable one and suits the convenience of Governors at the same time costing the State no more than it would have otherwise to pay for annual repairs and renewals.

"Then on the question of accounting I mentioned last year that the rules concerning this had been brought to a proper basis. A stock list of furniture is maintained by the Military Secretary and the list is checked by the Audit Officer in every second and fourth year of the term of each Governor. They wait till the second year in order to see that the alterations are completed before the check is made.

"The only other point that my hon. Friend raised was as to what becomes of the old furniture which is replaced by purchases made out of the

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inauguration grant I may point out that with this 7½ per cent of the total value of the furniture allotted once in every five years one cannot be expected to purchase many new articles of furniture. At the commencement of the term of office of a Governor, the whole of the furniture is not automatically added to the stock list. Some is taken over and paid for by the new Governor and the sale-proceeds credited to the Government. The idea is that the stock of furniture in the Government Houses should not be allowed to accumulate, because accumulations of that kind without any corresponding provision for annual maintenance gives rise to difficulties. The Government of India decided ten years ago that that practice should be put an end to, any furniture over and above the standard equipment being sold by auction or taken over by the new Governor with money from the inauguration grants."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I want to know if furniture which is not wanted is sold by public auction"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am not sure about it, but that is the intention."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I take it that it is the intention of the Government to arrange for the disposal of unwanted furniture by public auction?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The position is this. The Military Secretary retains the furniture he wants and disposes of the rest by sale. The amount realised is credited to the Government. It is most unlikely that it will be disposed of by private sale."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I do not press the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 63.

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I beg to move the following :—

'that the allotment of Rs. 1,38,000 for tour expenses be reduced by Rs. 1001'

"I wish to ask for some information. When His Excellency the new Governor came here, two things were announced in the papers. 4 p.m.

The first was that His Excellency was going to appoint an Indian Private Secretary. That has not been done till now. The second thing that had been announced was that there was an expression of opinion by His Excellency himself—that it was the desire of His Excellency to travel in the regular train and not to engage any special trains; and I believe on one or two occasions His Excellency did travel in the regular mail train. First it was announced in the papers that his first tour to Coimbatore district would be by the mail train. For some reason or other, that was cancelled afterwards and in the programme it was said that he was going by a special train. Then it was stated, and it has not been denied specifically, that the chief obstacle in the way of His Excellency travelling by the regular mail trains was placed by the Railway companies themselves. It was also stated that so far as mail trains were concerned, Railway companies would not undertake to take His Excellency's saloon with the train and detach it wherever it was necessary because a few minutes' time would be taken away.

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I wish that the Railway companies were so anxious about the convenience of passengers in running trains according to the fixed time-tables. Unfortunately, the experience of all of us is that exception is the rule, and I do not think that mail trains from any direction arrive in Madras punctually every day. Two days ago, the mail train arrived at Katpadi one hour late because some carriages had not been lighted and I had to take a circuitous route. All I can say is that it is a matter of primary importance to the country itself. It is not a case where His Excellency himself is not for travelling by the ordinary mail trains; and even supposing that there is some inconvenience to the Railway Company in detaching His Excellency's saloon in out-of-the-way stations, there is no reason why it should not be done in cases where His Excellency travels from Mettupalaiyam to Madras and in such other cases. In any case, it is a matter that the Government should investigate and His Excellency should try his best to do something in the matter. If His Excellency is likely to travel on a large scale, and so far as we are concerned we are for His Excellency travelling on a large scale, so that he may be able to ascertain the wishes and acquaint himself with the habits and manners of the different classes of people, it is very desirable that he should be able to travel with as little expenditure as possible.

"If we look into the budget we see that the expenditure for 1923-24 was Rs. 47,000. Curiously enough, the budget estimate for 1924-25 was Rs. 67,000 and the revised estimate also was exactly the same without any annas or pies. However that may be, there is an increase of Rs. 20,000. It is practically 50 per cent more than it was for 1923-24. For 1925-26 also, they have put the same figure.

"I would therefore ask the hon. the Home Member to tell us whether any obstacles have been placed by the Railway Companies in the way of His Excellency travelling by the ordinary trains and whether any attempts have been made to remove them. There was a rumour in the newspapers and no doubt the point was raised here and it was said that the Railway Companies were not entirely responsible for it. Whatever that may be, it is better that the Railway Companies should not in any way be responsible for this. Attempts should be made to remove the obstacles so far as the Railway Companies are concerned; and even if it were otherwise, I would request His Excellency on behalf of the people to go in saloons attached to the ordinary mail trains whenever it is possible for him to do so, as evidently he wished to do in the beginning. As a matter of fact, he did so in the beginning of his career and even now occasionally he does so. There is no reason why that practice should not be adopted on a large scale so that we can save money. Every pie that is saved will be valuable when we are running our Government at an extraordinary cost, and we should try to avoid unnecessary expenditure. With these words, I move my motion."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"The Council has a short memory and the hon. Member who sat down has also a short memory. Because when he raised this question about the increase in the case of special trains as between the figures for 1923-24 and the current year, he might have recollected that about this time last year I came to this Council for a supplementary grant, the reason being that the Railway Companies had raised their rates, and I had to explain the matter in detail."

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*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I refer to the figure for 1923-24"

*The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"In 1923-24 the rates had not been raised."

*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"The touring expenses should be curtailed."

*The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"The House is in full possession of the explanation of the apparent discrepancy between the figures for 1923-24 and the revised estimate for the current year.

"On the main question, it is perfectly true that when His Excellency, the present Governor, came here he did make enquiries whether it was necessary always to use special trains and he came to the conclusion that there were occasions when he could do without special trains. As my hon. Friend mentioned, on one occasion His Excellency came from Mettupalayam to Madras in a saloon attached to the ordinary train. But a short experience brought to his notice that even when he was travelling with a very small party it was not to the convenience of the public that his saloon should be attached to ordinary trains. Most of the trains are working to their utmost capacity and if His Excellency's saloon is attached to them, the train becomes so heavy that the carriages for the public are restricted and a number of people are crowded out from the train."

*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Not in the higher classes."

*The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"The trains are working at their maximum capacity and if His Excellency's carriages are going to be attached, it must necessarily mean that some carriages have to be taken away. That will react to the great inconvenience of the public. If my hon. Friend himself came to the Coimbatore railway station and found there was no room because His Excellency was in the train and he had to wait till the next day, he would be the first to complain."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I always reserve seats beforehand"

*The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"The hon. Member would be inconvenienced if he had to start urgently without reserving a seat. The reason for hesitating to attach His Excellency's saloon to the ordinary mail trains is that it will inconvenience the passengers.

"There is another side of the matter. The advantage in the way of expenses by His Excellency travelling by the mail trains is not much. If he has to take a large establishment, we have come to the conclusion that it is actually cheaper to engage a special train. The cost of engaging a special train is Rs. 5 a mile."

*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Does it only cost Rs. 1,500 to engage a special train from Coimbatore to Madras?"

*The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I have got the information from the Military Secretary. The rate is Rs. 5 a mile. It is sometimes actually cheaper to have a special train than to pay fares for the ordinary carriages and in addition pay for luggage and for hauling charges to take His Excellency's saloon. I can assure my hon. Friend that the Military Secretary and His Excellency are anxious to keep the cost of travelling down as much a

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possible. If they can travel at a cheaper rate, my hon. Friend may take it from me that they will most certainly do so. I may also remind the House that the carriages provided for His Excellency in the special train are to a certain extent, also places of residence while on tour, and this is hardly possible if mail trains are used. As I said, I assure my hon. Friend that we are looking very carefully into the matter and nobody is more anxious than His Excellency to reduce the cost of travelling to the least possible amount, in other words, to make the amount provided go as far as possible."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand VIII for 6.52 lakhs was put to the House and carried.

DEMAND IX—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

"The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I move, Sir,

'for a grant of 2.35 lakhs under "Demand IX—General Administration—Legislative Bodies"'.

Motion No. 64.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the following :—

'that the allotment of Rs. 16,200 for pay of officers be reduced by Rs. 100.

"I do not desire to make a long speech on the subject because it is after all a small matter. As I was going through the budget, I was struck that for the Superintendent and for the Assistant Secretary the same salary was fixed viz., Rs. 200—20—400. I first thought that it might be after all a small clerical error. I have had occasion to enquire and I understood that it was not so. I do not think much discussion is required, because it is a small matter in which the whole House must be interested. Looking at the responsibility of the post of Assistant Secretary as compared with that of the Superintendent and not at all looking to the present or future incumbent of the post, I think that between one office and another there may be some small difference in pay. I hope and trust that the Government will not find it very difficult to make a small increase without materially disturbing the figures of the budget.

"And, Sir, it is a matter which concerns the whole House. As in other departments, here also there must be a difference in pay between an officer of one grade and an officer of another grade. I hope and trust that this proposal of mine will commend itself to the hon. the Law Member and the other hon. Members of the Treasury Bench."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I support the motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. P. Anjaneyulu. I was the only one that raised this question on the very first day that the Assistant Secretary took his seat and said that he was given only the name and not the corresponding remuneration. He was given only the shadow and not the substance. Taking into consideration almost 25 years of service he has put in, the usual pay of the Assistant Secretary might be given to him as in other departments. I hope the whole House would be for it and the hon. the Law Member will accept it."

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* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, it is rather difficult to understand why the pay of the Assistant Secretary to the Legislative Council is so low as Rs. 200—20—400. In other words, starting from Rs. 200 it would take ten years to reach the maximum, whereas in other departments such as Law, Finance, Development, Local Self-Government and Revenue the Assistant Secretaries start on Rs. 500 or so. I for one do not want that such anomalies should exist between the officers of one department and another. Is the low pay due to the fact that Government consider that we do not work here or that he does no work or because the work he does is not such as to be paid for decently? I trust the hon. the Law Member will take this matter into consideration and try to remove the anomaly in this matter."

Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO :—" Sir, I cordially agree with the hon. Member who has just spoken that something must be done. ('Hear, hear'.) I do not want to go into the details of the question, but I strongly support the motion that his pay should be increased."

Diwan Bahadur W. VIJAYARAGAVA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I wish to add a word in support of what has been said on both sides of the House on behalf of the Assistant Secretary. Considering the enormous work that the Assistant Secretary has to discharge, considering the responsibility of his position, and considering the way in which he has discharged his duties to the satisfaction of the hon. Members of the House, I think it is our duty to manifest our wishes by appealing to the hon. the Law Member and try to reward his services as adequately as possible."

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN :—" Sir, I also most cordially associate myself with all the sentiments that have been expressed. When making provision in the next year's budget Government must see that not only the Assistant Secretary but also the Secretary must get his due share. Because it is our duty to see that the hard-worked officers of this House have no grievance. We must first of all remove such grievances. I cordially support this resolution."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" Sir, I do not wish to depreciate the work of any officer, either of the Council or of the Government. I do not know anything about the facts of the case. If the question comes up to the Finance Department it will be scrutinized. Hon. Members of this House may be more acquainted with the work of the Assistant Secretary than I am but I think I may be permitted to say that I know more of that of Assistant Secretaries and other officers of Government and am in a better position to compare the two. Therefore I hope the House will pardon me if I say that if any such proposal comes up before the Finance Department it will be scrutinized very carefully before it is accepted."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" Will the hon. Member consider it sympathetically? "

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" Scrutinize it very carefully." (Laughter).

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I realize that there is a disposition evinced by hon. Members belonging to every party in this House (A Voice :—"Some hon. Members")—by some hon. Members, I am corrected,—that the remuneration of the Assistant Secretary of the Council should be placed on the same level as the remuneration

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of other Assistant Secretaries. Let me however in justification of what has been done point out exactly the history of the matter and how the question arose originally. As the Council was originally constituted there was a President and the Secretary, and two superintendents. It was then pointed out by the hon. the President that if and when the Secretary was not actually in his seat and was otherwise busy there must be some gazetted officer who would be willing to relieve the Secretary and do the duties of the Secretary. My hon. Colleague the then Finance Member, the watchful guardian of the public purse, made an arrangement—to which the hon. the President had no objection—by which this officer who was then the senior superintendent of the office was posted as Assistant Secretary, provided that no extra expense was entailed by so altering the designation. This is the history of the matter and on that basis the Assistant Secretary has been working. I know what is in the minds of the hon. Members of the House, and I shall take note of their feelings, subject of course to the scrutinies which my hon. Colleague, the Finance Member, has promised in advance. I do not think I am justified in saying more on this subject.”

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—“In view of the assurance given by the hon. Member, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“I fancy that Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar has no other object in his motion No. 357.”

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—“I have a different object.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“We shall come to it by and by.”

Motion No. 65.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“Sir, I beg to move

‘that the allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 for Travelling Allowances be reduced by Rs. 1,116.’

“Sir, I find that there is also another motion more or less to the same effect tabled by my hon. Friend, the hon. Member for Cuddapah. There are some anomalies in the system of travelling allowances which deserve to be attended to.”

ACTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN REGARD TO SALT TAX.

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“Sir, I do not wish to interrupt the hon. Member, but I think that the House will be interested to hear a telegram which has just been received:

‘After debate of an hour and quarter, Assembly by 78 votes against 50 agreed with Council of State in restoring salt tax to Rs. 1-4-0. During debate, Sir Basil Blackett had definitely warned that only effect of adverse vote would have been reduction in proposed remission in provincial contributions’.

Motion No. 65—cont.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“I was saying, Sir, that any one who has bestowed some attention on the method now in vogue would have perceived some anomalies. These anomalies have to be attended to. There are some hon. Members in Madras who are as assiduous and regular in the

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discharge of their duties as any one who comes from outside, and under the present arrangement they are not eligible to draw any daily allowance for attending the meetings to meet the expense connected therewith.

“Again, Sir, there is a disparity, which for me has no justification in the amounts which vary according to the distances travelled by each Member. One may come from Cuddapah or Bellary or Tinnevely or Chingleput or Ganjam. You will find that under the rules they are eligible to 1½ first-class fares. Assuming that one first-class fare is intended for covering the fare, there is still ¾ left which will vary according to the distance travelled by each hon. Member. I wish it were possible to make these things equal among the several hon. Members of the Council. Therefore my object in tabling this motion is to reduce, if possible, the amount of difference in the railway fare given to the hon. Members who come from the mufassal and utilize the savings so effected in giving a daily allowance to the hon. Members of the House who are resident in Madras and who are attending to the work in the Council.”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—“I have given notice of the following motion:—

‘To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 for Travelling Allowances by Rs. 1,111.’

“Sir, my point is while we were so generous as to curtail the travelling allowances of presidents of local boards and also think of curtailing our travelling allowances here in a deficit year like this other departments also must take our example and curtail their expenditure also. That was my object when I gave notice of this motion, Sir. To effect this, my suggestion is that for the first 100 miles hon. Members may be paid double first class. Beyond 100 miles they may be paid a single first class. Thus we can make a saving of Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000. For the expenses of the current year we budgeted for a lakh of rupees, but Government had to come forward with a demand for supplementary grant for Rs. 50,000. For the coming year also we have budgeted for Rs. 1,00,000. It is possible and very probable that Government will come forward with a demand for supplementary grant. My humble opinion is that supplementary grants should always be deprecated. It shows that the budget has not been carefully prepared by the Government.”

Mr. R. W. DAVIES:—“No, Sir” (hear, hear and loud laughter.)

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—“It is my humble opinion that the moving of supplementary grants should always be deprecated. That shows that the budget is not carefully prepared by the Government.”

Mr. R. W. DAVIES:—“No, Sir.”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—“I shall prove it at once. The Government knew that they would have to come forward with a supplementary grant of Rs. 50,000 and yet they have provided for Rs. 1,00,000. Is it because that there will be a decrease in the number of Members or that the Members are going to draw less travelling allowance in the coming year, or going to absent themselves owing to the dullness of work that is going on here. . . .”

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"There will be no such supplemental demand this year. Last year on account of the proceedings of the Irrigation Committee which sat at Ootacamund, the originally budgeted amount was exceeded. This year there is no programme like that so far."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"I would remind the hon. the Law Member that there is the Malabar Tenancy Bill and it will cost them at least an equal sum if not more."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I deny that."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Anyhow that is my object. My object in moving this motion for reduction is that we should set an example ourselves instead of telling other departments that they should curtail their expenditure. We have left our homes and our friends and fortunately or unfortunately leaving our business which will bring us money we have come here to work for the public weal and we should not grudge to sacrifice a portion of our travelling allowance whole-heartedly. At the same time let us not incur any expense from our pocket. That is my object in moving this motion and I appeal to every hon. Member to be so patriotic as to consent to my proposal. It will be inconvenient for them to reject my proposal because it will be said, when they make proposals for the reduction of travelling allowance in other directions, that we were more mindful of our travelling allowances. Therefore I appeal to them to accept this reduction."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"The motion that stands in my name runs as follows :—

'that the allotment of Rs. 1,67,100 for Provincial Legislative Council be reduced by Rs. 1,000.'

"The reason why I want to move for this reduction is that I want to urge upon the Government the necessity for regulating the travelling allowance and batta of Members, according to their attendance in Council. Unless a Member is prevented from attending the Council on account of unavoidable causes such as serious illness, etc., I think it is quite essential that we should insist upon their regular attendance in Council in order to enable them to draw their travelling allowances and batta. The other day we had a desultory discussion in this Council about the attendance of Members, and when it was suggested that a sort of muster roll should be kept for signing our names, apparently there was some objection to that proposal, and instead of this arrangement I find a clerk of the Council Office going round and marking whether we are present or not. I should have no objection to this arrangement if it had been correctly done. But I am mentioning this only by the way. I was made the first victim and when I sent in my travelling allowance bill I was put a question as to whether I had attended the Council on a certain day, because in the register I was marked absent. I attended the Council that day. When the clerk came I might have gone out to the library room or somewhere. That is all. Anyway had I not been present I should not have been sorry at all if batta for that day had not been paid to me. Batta is a word which is used on the West Coast for daily allowance."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"What does the hon. Member mean by saying 'regulated according to attendance.' I merely want to know what the criterion is for their regular attendance. I am sure other hon. Members also have the same doubt."

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I shall explain what should be the criterion. It is this: That they should be allowed to draw their batta in proportion to the number of days they attend the Council. Suppose the Council works only for one day and a member comes here and makes it convenient to go here and there and does some business of his own and does not attend the Council, I would say that he is not entitled to any allowance either for coming to or going back from Madras."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Merely for the purpose of enabling me to reply to the hon. Member, may I know how he proposes to deal with a case where an hon. Member has come to the Council but at a certain hour of the day he is in the library preparing a speech for the next day? Is he entitled to any allowance or not?"

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"So many questions may arise and they are all the concern of the Audit Officer."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It is not a question of the Audit Officer. I want merely to know whether it is the intention of the hon. Member that a Member should be only within the four walls of this room or whether he may go to the library room. I want to know what is the point which my hon. Friend is on."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I think, Sir, in such cases the Member should not be allowed to draw his halting allowance. Halting allowance is not given to him to go and prepare his speech, thus absents himself from the Council. The tax-payer pays us for attending the Council and for doing some work in the Council and not for doing other kinds of work whether private or public. I have heard complaints from people that Members are going to Madras for idling away their time and sleeping and not for doing anything useful to the public."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"This reminds me of one thing: supposing an hon. Member sleeps here in the Council itself, what is to happen to him in that case?" (loud laughter)

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"No objection, Sir, to our having an occasional nap. Because we see Judges themselves sleeping on the bench when the arguments are too long. I do not contend that we should not all keep very alert. However, I do consider that in discharging our duties which we owe to the electorate and to the tax-payer, we must be more strict with regard to our travelling allowances and I entirely support my hon. Friend Mr. Narasimhacharlu's motion. I know that many of us lose our income by coming to the Council and employing ourselves here while we could earn something more if we were to remain in our homes. I know that we are put to so many discomforts. I know that our travelling allowance does not sufficiently compensate us for the trouble we take, but travelling allowance and batta or the daily allowance are paid by our electorate in order to do our duty and we should sacrifice it if we do not attend the Council. Under these circumstances, I think that the allowance should only be proportionate to the attendance in the Council. In this connexion I may say that if we only certify that we attended or did not attend the Council on such and such day, our certificate should be treated as final without question as to the truth of it."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think I explained this on the last occasion when this question arose. The attendance which is now being kept is not at all for the purpose of check. No hon. Member can be questioned as to the fact of his attendance or his reasons for non-attendance."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"My intention was to speak about the travelling allowances because practically every year I am one of those like Mr. Narasimhachari who have been urging the necessity of drawing reduced travelling allowance. Now various things have been said about the attendance of Members. I am one of those who wish that every hon. Member should be present here without chatting or sleeping somewhere. I am one of those who wish that our activities in the Council should be scrutinised. You may remember that just at the close of the last Council I wanted the Secretary to furnish me with a statement showing whether each Member attended the Council regularly or not, and I sent you a question as to whether an attendance register can be kept of the Members who were present on the days on which the Council sat. You, Sir, as Secretary replied that there was no regular attendance register kept, and added that it was not possible to give any correct information. I think it is desirable that some attendance register is kept not as to the minutes or hours that anybody attends here, but merely showing whether a Member has attended or not. I would certainly prefer the register to be signed by the Members rather than the clerk going round and noting whether a Member was present or not. Hon. Members are aware that in district boards and municipalities there is a regular register kept on the table for this purpose and every Member goes to that table and signs the register which is kept on it, and it is not considered beneath one's dignity to do so. But I do not think that any explanation is called for from any Member as to whether he has attended the Council regularly or not."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The rules state that if an hon. Member is absent consecutively for two months or unable for that period to attend to the duties of his office an explanation should be submitted to the Governor and His Excellency as a rule accepts the explanation."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I simply wanted to say that it is desirable that we should have some register showing each Member's attendance. I would strongly urge that in case we should decide that a register should be kept we should always have it, so that at any time a Member may choose to initial in it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I may cut short the debate by reminding hon. Member that the other day when he was also present I raised the same question and several hon. Members objected to signing an attendance register, in consequence of which objection I have been obliged to ask a clerk of the office to take down the attendance in this sense that whenever an hon. Member attends during the day, whether for a minute or an hour, his attendance is counted as a day's attendance. That is what is being done. As regards the signing of an attendance register I thought that the question was closed and that hon. Members did not want it."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"So far as I am concerned I may say, Sir, that I would be perfectly willing myself to sign a register rather than leave it to a clerk to mark it. Just now we have heard the

[21st March 1925] [Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar]

complaint of the hon. Member, Mr. Saldanha, that he was present here when the office had marked him absent. It is quite probable that mistakes might be made. An hon. Member may come and be here for a short time and go away. I do not think that there is anything beneath our dignity to just put our initials in a register when we are signing our travelling allowance bills. That is, so far as the daily allowances are concerned

"Coming to the travelling allowances it is time that we should pass a self-sacrificing resolution reducing the present provision. There is no use of our clamour for reducing the allowances of Government officers unless we are prepared to say that we would accept less. It is curious that within the first three years of this Council I was defeated in the first two while in the third I was successful. It has its own moral to tell."

(A voice:—What is the moral?)

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I am asked what the moral is. It is that they have to face the election. It is desirable that the present maximum so far as the journey is concerned should be there. But it should be left to the hon. Members to say exactly what their actual expenses were. No one need feel that this will be hard on him. It may be that the expenses are a bit increased unconsciously, but the actual amount must be allowed. It is also the case with some that they travel in a lower class than that in which they ought to. Sometimes for the purpose of attending Council meetings we travel in the first class simply because we are allowed the fares though generally we travel in the second at other times"

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I do not know whom the hon. Member refers to as *we*."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I do not refer to any one particularly, Sir. There are some people like my hon. Friend, Diwan Bahadur Krishnan Nayar who always travel in the first class. But there are some like myself who generally travel in the second but choose to take the first class sometimes because we get the allowance. There is no use, Sir, of forgetting facts. Some of us do so. I do not blame them. But is it fair to travel in the second and draw the first class allowance? Of course, the difference in a majority of cases will be small. But in the case of distant places like Mangalore, Coimbatore or Tinnevely, it will come to a high figure. Thus I say, Sir, there is no use of our cry for retrenchment; there is no use of insisting that the highest officers of Government ought to get lower pay or draw less allowances. Let us set the example and say we are drawing less and so shall you. Otherwise it only amounts to saying 'let others curtail their allowances but let us have more'. Certainly it is not consistent with the object with which we are sent here. I think therefore that the actual expenses should be paid, whatever it may be, subject of course to the maximum that now prevails. As the hon. Member, Mr. Saldanha, said, if any hon. Member certified that his actual expenses were so much, not exceeding the maximum that is now fixed, the authorities must be satisfied."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Do I understand the hon. Member to say that each member should give a list of his actual expenses not exceeding the present maximum and that the unfortunate Council Office should scrutinise it?"

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MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Yes, the total expenses. That is done in several departments. The officers are asked to give their actual expenditure. I do not of course want that any member should say that he paid 3 annas for a porter, 3 pies for an orange and so on. But certainly the total expenditure he is expected to know and it is enough if he puts the expenditure not exceeding the maximum allowance now allowed."

MR. P. C. MUTHU CHETTIYAR:—"சார், இப்போது விவரிக்கப்படுகிற மெம் பர்களின் அலவன்சைப்பற்றி ஆனரபிள் மிஸ்டர் வெங்கிடராமணயங்கார் உகை யறு விவரிப்பதை சிறிது தெரிகிறேன்."

"ஆனால் அவர்கள் விவரத்தில் குறிப்பிட்டு இன்னதுதான் என்று துலங்க வில்லை. நான் நிதானிக்கிறமட்டில் ஒட்டுக்கொடுத்தவர்கள் திருப்திக்கு அட்டென் டன்சு விவரமாய் ஏற்படுத்தவும் பில் பிசகாய் போடாதிருக்கவும் தேட் கிளாசிலும் வருகிறார்கள். மெம்பர்களுடைய வாஸ்த வத்தல் சிலவாயிருக்கிற சிலவை கொடுக்க வேணும் போலும், அலவன்சு துறைக்குறைக்க காரணமாவது போலும், மூன்று விதமாய் நிதானிக்கிறேன். இந்த யோசனையானது ஒன்றை ஒன்று தழுவி யதாக இல்லை."

"மெம்பர்கள் ஒருபதவியை அடைவதோடு லாபமும் அடைகிறார்கள் என்று யோசனை இருக்கலாம்."

"முன்காலத்தில் இதில் கால்வரிசை அரைவரிசை மெம்பர்களடங்கிய கவர்ன் ரின் கௌன்சில் சபையையும் நான் தெரிந்திருக்கிறேன்."

"அப்போதுள்ள பெருமையும் மதிப்பும் இப்போது எதுவும் இருக்கப்பட்ட தாக தெரியவில்லை."

"இதற்கு எண்ணில்லாத பணத்தை விரயஞ்செய்தும் சரீர பிரயாசையும் அனைக்கள் கேள்விக்கு கட்டுப்பட்டும் அனைவர் இந்த ஸ்தானத்தை அடைந் திருக்கிறார்கள்."

"ஸ்கூல் குழைந்ததைப்போலும் லோகல் போர்டு மெம்பர்களைப்போல் சர்வண்டைப்போல் பாவிக்கக்கூடிய வாசகங்களோடும், காரரான சிலவை எழு திக் கொடுத்து வாங்கவேண்டியது போலும் சொல்வது ரொம்ப அற்பமாயும் ஜனங்களின் தேர்ந்தெடுத்தலுக்கு குறைவையும் கற்பிக்கிறது."

"ஆனால் அதற்கு பிரசிடெண்டவர்களின் பொறுமையான பதில்கள் மதிக்கத் தக்கதாகும்."

"கறாரான சிலவை கொடுப்போமானால் அதிலும் பிசகிருப்பதை தெரிய அதற்கு ஸ்டெஷல் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களும் வேண்டியதுதான். அதையும் நம்பு வதற்கு வேண்டிய சாதனங்களும் தலைவர்களும் பின்னால் வேண்டியவரும்."

"ஆனரபிள் ராமநாத் மகாராஜா 4 பஸ்ட்டுகிளாசும் 20 சர்வண்டுகளுடன் வருகிறார். மற்றும் அனைக்கள் வேண்டிய சர்வண்டென் வருகிறார்கள். ஜாஸ் தியான சிலவு ஆகிறது. இனி குடும்பத்துடன் வருவதற்கு நியாயமுண்டு. அப் படியானால் அவர்கள் சிலவை கொடுப்பது நியாய விரோதமாகாது."

"சி. எஸ். ஆர். பண்டமெண்டல் ரூஸ்களும் முரணியிராதென்றும் நினைக் கிறேன்."

"இந்த டவுனில் சிலவு தினுசும் வண்டிவகையறு நிலைமையும், இவைகளை யெல்லாம் தெரிந்து லாபகரமாகவே ஏற்கனவே தீர்மானஞ்செய்து நடந்து வந்திருக்கிறது."

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"வா வர டிஸ்ட்ரிக்ட் பிரசிடெண்டு, தாலுகா பிரசிடெண்டு, பெஞ்சு பிரசிடெண்டு, யூனியன் பிரசிடெண்டு, பஞ்சாயத்து பிரசிடெண்டு என்னும் எல்லாம் ஒரே மாதிரியாக கல்ப்பித்தும் அதற்கும் மீட்டிங்குதான். மகிராஸ் கௌன்சிலுக்கும் மீட்டிங்கு என்று வழங்கும்படி வாய்த்திருந்தாலும் இந்த கௌன்சில் மெம்பர் களுக்குமட்டும் அதபோல என்று தோணுவருவதாக நினைக்கிறேன். ஏனெனில், முன் எடுத்த பிரயாசையை உத்தேசித்து புரப்பட்டுப்போது தன்னுடைய பூர்விக அனுஷ்டானம் வேறுவிதமாயிருந்தால் அதை மறந்தவர்களாயும் பெரிய பொறு ப்பை வகித்தவர்களாயும் வகிக்கப் பேரவதுபோலும் எண்ணி அதற்கு வேண்டிய சரீர அமைப்போடு பிரயாணமாகிறார்களென்றும் ஹவுசுக்கு வந்து ஜனசமூகத் தின் பொறுப்பில் இருப்பவர்களாக இருந்தும் ஹவுஸ் சேவையை அடைகிறார்கள்."

"ஆனால் அவர்களைப்பற்றி குறைவு சொல்ல எதுவுமிருப்பதாக தெரியவில்லை."

"அவரவர்களுக்கு தகுந்தபடி விலையுயர்ந்த டயத்தையும் கொடுக்கிறார்கள்."

"எல்லாம் ஜனங்களின் நன்மைக்கேயல்லாது பெரும்பாகம் வேறு காரணம் சொல்லமுடியாது."

"வருபவர்களை ஹவுசுக்கு அல்லது ஸெக்ரடெரி கணக்கிட முடியாதென்று தெரியாமாய் சொல்லமாட்டேன். பலவிதமாய் அறிய காரணமிருக்கிறது."

"நான் பில் அடிக்கடி எழுத முடியவில்லை. தவறுதலாக பிழைகளும் விழாநீ ருக்க பயமுண்டு."

"நண்பர்களே, ஒன்று பார்ப்போம். ஜனங்களின் நன்மையை கருதுபவர்களு க்கு இந்த சாலங்களில் ஏதாவது ஒரு பலன் அடையமுடியுமா?"

"அப்படியிருக்கும் காலத்தில் நாமே நம்முடைய எதார்த்தமான சுமையா ளியை குறைவாக கற்பிக்கவும் தேரிட்டது ஆச்சரியம்தான்."

"இவ்விதம் கூறவேண்டாம். அலவன்ஸில் லாபம்செய்ய எண்ணமிருந்ததெ ன்றால், நியாயமாய் சொல்லவேண்டியதாவது, ஜனங்களின் நன்மைக்காகவே வந் திருக்கிறபடியாலும் அவர்கள் பொருட்டாக அந்த அலவன்சை வாங்க வேண்டிய தில்லையென்று சொன்னால் ரொம்ப உசத்தியாய் நான் நினைக்க எனக்கு சொந்த அபிப்பிராயமுண்டு."

"அப்படி சொல்வது மவுட்டாக நினைக்கப்படாது. எந்த லோகல் போர்டுகே ளாலும் நான் ஏற்கெனவே அலவன்சு வாங்குகிறதில்லை. அதினால் என் எண்ணம் உண்டு என்று ஒப்பினாலும் அது சரியானதாக ஹவுஸ் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமெ ன்று நினைக்கமாட்டேன்."

"தேசாபிமானத்தையும் ஜனங்களின் நன்மையையும் உத்தேசித்து அலவன் சை தேவைவிலையென்று சொல்வதானது ரொம்ப உயர்தரமாய் நினைக்கலாம்."

The House adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 23rd March 1925.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

[21st March 1925]

APPENDIX

[Vide item II—Communication to the Council at page 479 supra.]

Copy of a letter R.O.C. No. 12-D/25, dated 3rd February 1925, from the District Educational Officer, Malabar, to the Director of Public Instruction.

The school is held in a rented upstairs, the rent of which is Rs. 10 per mensem. There is no access to the depressed classes and the member representing depressed classes in the Palghat Municipal Council has not visited the school. Of the four teachers all of whom are trained, three are Brahmans and one is a non-Brahman—Hindu—Nayar.

A new site accessible to all classes including Adi-Dravidas has been selected for a school building and I have given my approval.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 23rd March 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI AVARGAL, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Depressed classes.

The Adi-Dravida non-mission school at Kamalapuram village.

* 622 Q.—Mr. R. VEEBRIAN : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Labour department intend to propose to run the Adi-Dravida non-mission school at Kamalapuram village, Salem district, at their cost ?

A.—The matter is under the consideration of the Commissioner of Labour.

Mr. R. VEEBRIAN :—"Sir, may I know whether it is under the consideration of the Labour Commissioner to run the said school as a day-school as well as a night-school ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"We have no information beyond the fact that the Labour Commissioner had an informal conference with the Collector of Salem in regard to this matter. As for the details, we have no information."

Mr. R. VEEBRIAN :—"May I know how many schools are run by the Labour department in the district of Salem ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid I must have notice of that question. But my impression is that we have none for the reason that we have no district labour officer there."

[23rd March 1925]

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"If I remember aright, the Labour department are running only one labour school, and if so, I wish to know whether it is a day-school or a night-school."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"May I ask, Sir, whether my hon. Friend is asking for information as to the schools run by the Labour department? He has answered the question himself."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know whether the Government have received any report from the District Educational Officer of Salem with reference to taking up this particular school at Kamalapuram by the Labour department?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am not aware of any reports on the subject."

Civil Justice.

Arrest of a girl wife under the orders of the District Munsif of Polavaram.

* 623 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state with reference to the article in the "Swarajya" of the 16th September 1924 under the heading 'Arrest warrant against a wife'—

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Munsif of Polavaram ordered the arrest of a girl wife and whether this was done under the influence of the Divisional Officer of the place;

(b) whether it is a fact that the action of the District Munsif was considered illegal and ultra vires by the District Judge of Rajahmundry;

(c) if the answers to clauses (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, whether any, and if so what, action was taken against the officials concerned in the matter; and

(d) if the Government have no information on these points, whether they will kindly call for and furnish the same?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information.

(d) The Government will call for it.

Irrigation.

Extension of irrigation in the double-crop and single-crop areas.

* 624 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that extension of irrigation is prohibited in the double-crop and single-crop areas;

(b) if so, the reason for the same;

(c) whether the maximum area intended to be irrigated by the Periyar project has been reached; and

(d) the total area irrigated up to fasli 1333 in the Periyar project?

A.—(a) & (b) The proposal to sell all lands under puduval cultivation and irrigated with Periyar water and to refuse permission to all other irrigation, pending settlement of the question of the adequacy of the supply of water, was approved by Government in 1923 on account of the considerable difficulty felt in providing sufficient supply to the registered ayacut.

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(e) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (1) of question No. 745 asked at the Legislative Council meeting of October 1924.

(a) The area charged as irrigated in fasli 1333 is 131,379 acres first crop and 49,391 acres second crop and this is the largest during the past ten faslis.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—"With regard to clauses (a) and (b) the answer is that 'the proposal to sell all lands under puduval cultivation and irrigated with Periyar water and to refuse permission to all other irrigation, pending settlement of the question of the adequacy of the supply of water, was approved by Government in 1923 on account of the considerable difficulty felt in providing sufficient supply to the registered ayacut'. May I know, Sir, whether that question has been settled now?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Not yet, Sir. As my hon. Friend would have known from my answer with reference to Periyar irrigation, I said that we were considering the matter and coming to a conclusion very shortly with reference to what was the possible limit of expansion of this irrigation."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether the villagers of Cumbam have applied for permission to take water for drinking purposes from a place called kuruvanthu by a channel at their own cost, and whether the Government will be pleased to consider the request favourably?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I shall take note of that question, Sir, but I cannot obviously give the answer now, for this is the first time I hear of it. The matter is not contained in this file, and there is some other file dealing with it, but it shall be inquired into."

The conduct of the Executive Engineer and Sub-Overseer of Nellore.

* 625 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 139, dated 19th August 1924—

(a) whether the investigation of the 'case' regarding the vagaries alleged to be indulged in by Executive Engineer and Sub-Overseer, Nellore taluk, is completed and whether any report has been submitted to the Government by now; and

(b) if the answer to the above is in the affirmative, whether any action has been taken by the Government?

A.—(a) & (b) The reports have been received and the matter is under consideration. Some further information is awaited.

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—"May I know, Sir, the nature of the further information that is awaited and when the case will be decided?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"After full information is received, it will be decided."

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Volume of water discharged east of Grand Anicut at Kilikudu.

* 626 Q.—Mr. VENKATARAMA AYYAR alias PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the volume of water let down per second east of Grand Anicut from the date on which floods subsided at Kilikudu up to the date of the closing of the breach;

(b) the volume discharged in the same period during the previous agricultural season;

(c) whether he has been cognizant of the fact that sufficient supply of water is not forthcoming this year for irrigation purposes;

(d) whether the Government received any representations from the mirasidars of the district complaining about the inadequate supply of water; and

(e) if the answer be in the affirmative, what steps are taken or proposed to be taken in the matter of adequately giving compensation to the mirasidars who had to suffer from scarcity of water?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) Owing to the complete alteration of the river conditions resulting from the flood and the fact that supply was passed partly through the old Vennar head, it has been found impossible to get reliable figures. The supply was, however, unavoidably less than the normal and the available supply had to be eked out by working turns.

(d) Yes.

(e) Season remission will be granted under the rules contained in Board's Standing Order No. 13.

Public Works.*Quarters for the District and Sessions Judge, Coimbatore.*

* 627 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Member for Finance, the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) why residential quarters are not provided by the Government to the District and Sessions Judge, Coimbatore, as in the case of the District Collector and other officials;

(b) whether there is any proposal for the construction of a bungalow with the necessary servants' quarters to the District and Sessions Judge, Coimbatore;

(c) whether any reference has been made to the Government by any of the District and Sessions Judges, Coimbatore, with regard to providing a bungalow at the cost of the Government instead of the District and Sessions Judge remaining in a rented bungalow; and

(d) if so, what has become of such a reference?

A.—(a) An official residence has been provided for the District Judge.

(b), (c) & (d) These points do not arise.

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Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"Sir, with reference to clause (a), the answer is that an official residence has been provided for the District Judge. May I know whether it is a rented building or a Government building?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The building has been purchased by Government."

Land Revenue.*Suspension of revenue assessment in Kurnool district.*

* 628 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the years for which the land revenue assessment was kept under suspension for Maddikera villages of Kurnool district;

(b) the average yield of crops of cholam, cotton and korra respectively this year in the said villages;

(c) whether any petitions have been sent by, or representations made on behalf of, ryots of the villages praying for remission or postponement of the collection of the suspended revenue; and

(d) whether the suspended as well as the current revenue has been ordered by the Government to be collected in this fasli alone; and if so, why?

A.—(a) The entire revenue for faslis 1330 and 1333 in the case of Maddikera West and the entire revenue for fasli 1330 and half the revenue for fasli 1333 in the case of Maddikera North.

(b) The yield of the crops in question this year was normal.

(c) The Government have not received any petitions or representations.

(d) The suspended revenue of fasli 1330 was remitted in fasli 1331 and that of fasli 1333 is being collected with the current year's kists. It is usual to collect suspended revenue as soon as the season is favourable.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"Have Government received any information or representation from the ryots since giving this answer with reference to clause (c)?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"No, Sir."

Irrigation.*Cultivation of crops on lands irrigated by the Tungabhadra channels.*

* 629 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have ruled that only single wet crops should be grown on lands which will be newly brought under irrigation by the Basavanna channel extension scheme and, if so, the reasons for such an order; and

(b) whether it is not the invariable practice on the part of holders of lands under this and other Tungabhadra channels in the Bellary district to grow on their fields paddy and sugarcane alternately?

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A.—(a) Yes, as water is estimated at present to be available only for a single crop.

(b) Government are aware that sugarcane is grown. The question whether water can be made available for cane in approved areas will be considered after the new channel is working.

Education.

Grants for furniture in aided schools.

*630 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the managers of aided schools can get furniture grants only on condition that they purchase or get prepared single or dual desks of a prescribed pattern;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that there are schools in this Presidency where the seating arrangements are different and the furniture used is of a different pattern suited to the particular localities and in consonance with the system and the ideals of education pursued in those schools; and

(c) whether such schools have to go without grants for furniture if they fail to satisfy the conditions prescribed?

A.—(a) The rules provide that grants shall not be given to meet the cost of seats or desks of a pattern which has not been approved by the District Educational Council in the case of elementary schools and by the Department of Public Instruction in the case of other educational institutions. Further instructions on the subject are contained in appendix L (A) to the Grant-in-Aid Code.

(b) Yes.

(c) No, provided that the seating arrangements are approved.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"With reference to the answer to clause (c) of this question, may I know if further light can be thrown upon this sentence: 'No, provided that the seating arrangements are approved?' May I ask by whom they are to be approved and, secondly, whether the approval is based on any uniform rules, and if variations in the kind of seats will be accepted and approved?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Variations may be accepted, provided they are otherwise adequate and satisfactory."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Irrigation.

Irrigation Boards.

631 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) (1) the districts in which irrigation boards similar to those working in the Nellore district from 1911 have been constituted,

(2) the year of their introduction into those districts, and

(3) the result of their working so far; and

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(b) with reference to G.O. No. 194, dated 12th July 1923, whether the Government will make a statement on the working of the Irrigation Advisory Boards in the Gōdāvari, Kistna and Cauvery deltas and if the experiment has been extended and if so to what other deltas or sources of irrigation?

A.—(a) Godavari and Kistna 1917 Moderately satisfactory; dis-sensions and complaints being reported in one or two panchayats. Further trial being given.

Bellary district ... 1923 The first annual report is due in May or June next.

Trichinopoly district. 1917 Useful in minimising individual complaints.

(b) During the first year of its working the Irrigation Advisory Boards of the Godavari, the Kistna and the Cauvery deltas held very few meetings, some of which had to be adjourned for want of a quorum. The Boards have not worked sufficiently long to enable a statement to be made. The experiment has not been extended.

Depressed classes and crossing of canals, etc.

632 Q.—Mr. P. SAGARAM: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether there is any rule prohibiting the untouchables from crossing the canals and rivers in boats earlier than caste Hindus though the former reach the place earlier?

A.—There is no such rule as that referred to by the hon. Member. The rules relating to passenger boats will be found appended to the answer to question No. 1049 asked at the meeting of 16th November 1921.

Post offices.

Closing of sub-post office at Hampankatte.

633 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to enquire and state—

(a) in what year a sub-post office was opened at Hampankatte in Mangalore;

(b) in what year the same was transferred to Codialbail;

(c) whether the customary notice was given before it was removed;

(d) what were the reasons for shifting it;

(e) if the absence of a suitable building was one of the reasons whether it can still be advanced for not opening another in the same place;

(f) whether it is recognized that Hampankatte is the most or one of the most crowded centres of the town during the busy hours of the day;

(g) if the place was important enough to have a post office, say, ten years ago, whether its claims are less now;

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(h) what were the replies given to the memorialists who seem to have approached the authorities concerned on the ground of inconvenience suffered by them on more than one occasion; and

(i) when the Hampankatte post office was closed whether there was an idea of opening one at the railway station, as the nearest post office is about a mile away from Hampankatte?

A.—The Government have no information.

II

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1925-1926.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

DEMAND IX—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

The House then resumed consideration of Demand No. IX.

Motion No. 65—cont.

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I wish to say one word on this question of travelling allowance. Of all the Members of this Council those who do not receive any travelling or halting allowance are Members residing in the city of Madras. I do not see any reason why of all the Members those who reside in the city of Madras should alone be deprived of any allowance. I am certain they will not claim any travelling allowance, but at the same time there is no reason why they should not get an allowance for the days they attend the sittings. No doubt this allowance is not a substitute for any loss that they necessarily have to incur by abandoning their other work in the city for the days on which the Council sits and attending the meetings here. But at the same time it seems to me that it is not reasonable that they should be refused any compensation for their out-of-pocket expenses. Certainly they have to engage conveyance to come to the Council for attending the meetings, and they certainly have to give up their work for these days. So that it seems to me that it is only reasonable that this Council should give them the same allowance that the Members from the mufassal get for the days on which the Council sits.

"Then, with reference to the other point that has been raised, namely, that the rate of allowance as it exists now should be reduced on a consideration of all the circumstances, it seems to me that there is no need whatever to reduce the existing amount. If you take into consideration the actual travelling expenses and the other expenses the Members have to incur in this city for boarding and lodging as well as for engaging conveyance, it seems to me that the existing allowances certainly do not err on the side of being excessive. So that it seems to me that the best and reasonable course is not to interfere with the existing rate, and to give the same allowance to the Members who are residing permanently in the city as that which is given to the mufassal Members."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I greatly appreciate this instinct of self-sacrifice that lies behind this motion and prompts this motion, but at the same time we were told that as an alternative certain methods might be followed in the matter of travelling allowance to hon. Members. I may be pardoned if I should observe that the alternative proposals are so clumsy

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in their conception that I greatly wonder whether they are workable. And, besides, Sir, we are told by some hon. Members that the batta, for instance, should be proportionate, if I understood the hon. Member aright, to the amount or volume of work they turn out in this Council and the amount of attendance they put in here."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"I am afraid my hon. Friend has misunderstood what I said. It is not the amount of work they do, but their attendance in the Council Hall during the sittings, that is, their coming there. If they do not come to the hall but stay in the town, I said they should be deprived of the allowance at least for the days of absence."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"I thank my hon. Friend for the correction, but if we go into the details of the attendance, the number of servants brought by Members and the quantity of their luggage and so forth, which are only small minor details, I do not think it will be possible to work them out on any uniform basis and perhaps we shall have to requisition the services of a few clerks and possibly an additional auditor to go into those matters. So that if we have to get all these things done, probably the cost of the establishment may be more than the saving. It is said that we should set an example to the Members on the Treasury Bench to exercise an amount of self-sacrifice and self-denial in drawing their travelling allowances and salaries and so forth. I very much wonder whether the hon. Members on the Treasury Benches are so responsive to our suggestions in having this self-denying ordinance enforced on ourselves. As it is, if we look at pages 51, 52 and 53, we will find that there is a motion to urge upon the Government the need for providing at least Rs 10,000 for the House Committee of this Council, or in the alternative that the provision for the establishment of the Finance Secretariat, Rs. 1,29,900, should be cut off. I really wonder whether we would not, when we come to discuss those propositions, be putting ourselves in a rather ridiculous position. Here we are discussing a number of austerities in having the allowances cut off to a low minimum, but there we are trying to have more luxuries, for the House Committee is to be given."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member will have noticed that we have not come to the House Committee yet. He may confine himself to what is now going on, and be as brief as possible."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"I am only making a passing remark, so that I may make my position better understood. So, if we are to agree to this self-denying ordinance, we may hereafter find ourselves rather in a very peculiar predicament. In one breath we want to observe austerities, and in another breath we are going to say hereafter we want more comforts. If hon. Members are really so very earnest about this matter, instead of setting an example to the Treasury Benches, I would humbly suggest that such of us as are in earnest may not receive the allowance, or may draw less, for there is no rule imposed on any hon. Member that the existing rate of travelling allowance and batta should be drawn by him whether he likes it or not. It is not after all a great principle or policy we are discussing in this matter. This is a matter of individual taste and individual comfort. If there are any Members who are really not interested in drawing this allowance or batta, such hon. Members may possibly first try to set an example and wait for one year to see if their example is followed by other hon. Members of their own persuasion, and perhaps it may be time enough

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next year, after we see how this works in individual cases, if it has got much support, when we may bring forward a root and branch motion that no travelling allowance or bitta should be paid as is now the case with hon. Members who are residents of Madras. As at present advised, I should very humbly suggest to my hon. Friends that instead of spending more time on this small matter, we might use it for better purpose on greater questions of policy."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, it is a matter for deep regret that the question of travelling allowance should have evoked so much difference of opinion. It is impossible now from the very nature of things to reconcile the extreme positions taken by the hon. Members. One hon. Member was for total abolition of the travelling allowance. Another hon. Member suggested the payment of a double first-class fare up to a limit of Rs. 100. Another hon. Member wanted that the travelling allowance should be regulated with reference to the actual expenses incurred and so on and so forth. In this state of things, I think, it is much better that *status quo ante* is maintained, and I am thoroughly satisfied that no case in the matter of modifying it has been actually made out. I am entirely in agreement with the statement made by my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar that something should be done in the matter of paying sitting fees or halting fees to the city members. As it is they are paying for tiffin, and for carriages to attend the Council in time. This is hardly fair. I think that no case for modifying the existing travelling allowances has been made out. I am strongly and decidedly of opinion that justice, reason, propriety and decency require that the city members to whom the sitting fees have been denied, should have the benefit of some sitting fees given to them."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, there are three questions that were raised in the course of the debate. One is as to the necessity for enforcing strictness of attendance and not only strictness of attendance but continuity of attention. It seems to me, Sir, that the Council as a whole will not be well advised either in starting any discussion about the number of days that the hon. Members should attend or the kind of attendance that they should present so far as this House is concerned. As I was saying, supposing that some hon. Members, in order to expound some important problem are in the library, are they to be marked absent for that reason? It seems to me that we should not embark into those inquisitorial discussions. It seems to me, Sir, that I am voicing the general feeling of the Council that no case has been made out for the reduction of travelling allowance. There is one aspect however to which hon. Members have not adverted which is worth referring to. It has been pointed out to me and also to some of my Colleagues that there are cases in which hon. Members residing at Madras have to incur expenditure in getting conveyance and so forth. It seems to me that that is a matter which has to be considered and I do think that hon. Members residing at Madras would like to have an allowance by way of conveyance. Of course the time has not probably come when the payment of Members generally will take place. It is bound to come. It seems to me that if we all expect constant and strenuous work in the Council and if the work of the Council is more exacting, as is bound to be the case, in course of some time payment of members is inevitable. In the immediate future however it may be proper to consider the question of

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paying conveyance charges to the Members of the city. I may say at once that if there is a wish generally expressed by hon. Members residing in Madras that special allotments should be made for their conveyance allowances, then myself and my hon. Colleague the Finance Member shall pay most earnest consideration to the matter."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, after the speech of the hon. the Law Member, I have very little to say. In fact, as he has said the question of payment of Members is bound to arise, rather sooner than later. My motion, Sir, was really, if it is examined, a step in that direction. If the Law Member sees the exact situation and is prepared to face it, I am willing to withdraw this motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 66.

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 1,67,100 for Provincial Legislative Council, be reduced by a sum of Rs. 100'

"My object in tabling this motion is to invite the attention of the Government to the inadequate pay given to the Shorthand Reporters of this Council as compared with the pay paid to their confrères elsewhere in this country, and also to request the Government to better their conditions and prospects. Hon. Members of this House will find that to this office, ten reporters are attached. One reporter gets Rs. 200; another gentleman gets Rs. 175; four persons get Rs. 150; and four others get Rs. 125. The utility of these shorthand writers cannot be denied. They are, and if I may say so, they form a necessary adjunct of this Council. Most of them, I may even say, that all of them are highly qualified men."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I do not want to interrupt my hon. Friend. If he had the intention of raising this particular question, some kind of notice might have been given by him. But the point was the reorganization of the Council Office and I took the opportunity of asking the President and the Secretary whether they had any idea of this question, namely, as to the remuneration of the reporters coming up. But all of them said that they were not aware of it. It is a matter upon which I shall have to answer with reference to the figures suggested by my hon. Friend. I am afraid that I have not got a definite notice of the particular question. I can give only vague or general answers. But if hon. Members are not satisfied with the answers given by me, then sufficient time should be given to me to equip myself with facts and figures."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" With respect to the point raised by my Friend the hon. the Law Member I may say that I had this question in my mind. It is a matter for regret that I did not specify it. But my present object is to lay before the hon. the Law Member certain facts and details, so that he may be able to give his best consideration to them, if not now, at least on a future occasion. It is only with that object in view I beg to make this motion.

"So far as the reporters are concerned, as I said, they are highly qualified men. They are also our reflectors. They report our delivered speeches in the Council. The work that is expected of them is very onerous and exacting. They are not only expected to hear our speeches very carefully,

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but also to report them accurately and oftentimes they have to indent upon their imagination for the purpose of supplying the deficiency, whenever some of us are not quite audible (laughter). I have gone through their reports and I have come across very few instances of the reporters having committed mistakes.

"Now let me consider the position of their confrères elsewhere. Hon. Members may know that to both the bodies the Council of Elders or the Council of Youngers, namely, the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly, 12 reporters are attached and the minimum pay of a reporter is Rs. 450 going up to Rs. 750. And so far as the Legislative Assembly is concerned it works only for three days in a week. Now let us come to the Bombay Council, to which are attached 6 reporters as against 10 here. No doubt there is an excessive strength here. But so far as the Bombay Council is concerned it works only for three hours a day, namely, from 2 to 5 p.m. and one therefore can very well understand the reasons for the present strength of our reporters. They draw a pay of Rs. 200—25—450 or in other words a man starting on a pay of Rs. 200 can hope to reach the maximum in ten years. In Punjab the scale of pay is Rs. 300—15—450. In Bengal the scale of pay is Rs. 200—10—300 plus Rs. 150 for seniors and Rs. 75 for juniors. In Behar and Orissa the scale of pay is Rs. 350 to 500. And in Madras the pay is Rs. 125—5—200 or in other words a person starting on Rs. 125, unless he is exceptionally fortunate, if his chances are to be measured by the time-scale, he will have to wait for twenty years before he can seriously think of reaching the top. Then what about the High Court? So far as the Madras High Court is concerned, the reporters are started on Rs. 150 mounting up to Rs. 250 with a time-scale of Rs. 10 a year, and it cannot be said that the work of our official reporters would stand comparison with that of those reporters and even that of the reporters elsewhere. That we are not paying our reporters properly is proved by the fact that we have recently lost two very good reporters attached to this Council Office. And in this connexion I can do no better than to quote some observations made in the 14th Annual Report of the Presidency Shorthand Association:

'We would like to draw the attention of the employers, whether Government or private firms, to the following: The starting salary of a shorthand typist with elementary knowledge of shorthand and typewriting and with a fair knowledge of English is too low and experts are not paid adequately; consequently shorthand writers and reporters seek service in other provinces which offer them double and treble the salaries they get here and we lose efficient service. Messrs. C. V. Vedachella Ayyar and M. S. Venkateswara Ayyar, two Council reporters of Madras, would not have left for the Punjab and Coorg respectively, had their salaries even approached the salaries of Council reporters in other provinces.'

"That is the picture which we could not contemplate with equanimity. It is unfair to our reporters, it is unfair to us that these gentlemen who have been so loyally doing their work are one after another obliged to desert us, for no fault on their part, but simply because we do not adequately remunerate them. I do recognize that on account of my omission to indicate the object of this motion the hon. the Law Member is at a disadvantage. But to end as I began, it will give me great pleasure if the hon. the Law Member will take into consideration the lot of these people with reference to others elsewhere and make up his mind to consider their case favourably and sympathetically."

*Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"In supporting the proposal of my hon. Friend, Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, I also hope that the motion would not be pressed. We want to bring to the notice of the Treasury Bench the

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grievances and the sufferings of a very useful class of subordinates of our office. I suppose that in this matter I will have the sympathetic consideration of not only the Treasury Bench but also of the hon. the President who is an expert in that art. It is well known that Madras reporting is by far the finest in India (Hear, hear). In fact, not only throughout the whole of India in the different Government offices and in the biggest commercial firms, but also outside India it is the Madras Reporter that is sought after and very well received. Sir, you all remember how at the time when the Lee Commission came here, bringing with them some British Reporters, there was hue and cry raised from all parts of India against the importation of that foreign article when superior articles could be had locally. Sir, the position of the Reporters at the Madras Council is this: while there is career for Madrasis everywhere else, there is none for the sons of the province in their own province.

"Sir, it may be that because of poverty they are prepared to accept smaller remuneration than their merits deserve and it may be an argument also that they should be content with that low pay. But it is a well-known maxim that the poverty of the people ought not to be exploited by Government who can really pay adequately. The pay of the present Reporters compares very very unfavourably with the scales obtaining in every other reformed Council in the whole of India. Not only the scale of increment is very low—it is, I believe, Rs. 5 per annum which corresponds to the scale of increment given in the case of subordinate clerical establishments in the Presidency—but also Rs. 5 per annum is really a very poor annual increment for such a trained and gentlemanly set of people as we have here and who have really got such good qualifications. The increment is so tardy that it takes twenty years for a Reporter to reach his maximum salary. As for the work also, in the other provinces the number of hours that the Reporters have to work is smaller indeed. For instance, the Council of Elders—I do not know whether because our elders are advanced in age and therefore their brains can work for shorter hours—I am told that the Council of Elders sit only for half a day. In Bombay, too I believe they sit only from 2 to 5 in the afternoon. In Madras we are exacting a full five hours' work, and not a drop of blood less. That being the case, I think I am not very unreasonable in demanding that their services are to be better recognized than by giving them a very very small advance of Rs. 5. It takes, as I have already pointed out, full 20 years for a man to get up to the height, which is itself moderate, set before them. For these reasons, and also remembering that well-known dictum given expression to by the hon. the Law Member that he would freely give to those who did not ask for—and these Council Reporters did not ask for it either—I hope the Treasury Bench will not stint giving them the proper increment and pay that they so much deserve."

*The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, let me first of all state what I have got to say about this matter. No one could be more alive to the technical qualifications and the general efficiency of the Reporting staff than myself. The question, as I have said, was not specifically raised in the notice of motion and therefore I am not as well prepared with the details as I may otherwise be. But I shall take note of the feeling that has animated hon. Members and shall examine the question very early and with as much care as it deserves."

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"One thing I might at once say, viz., there is a great deal of force in the argument comparing the scale of pay obtaining in the High Court with that of the Council reporters. But there is not much point in making comparison with other Councils at Delhi or at Bombay. There are other factors which are operative there and which do not obtain here. It is that elsewhere in India they cannot get shorthand writers and they have come to Madras for shorthand writers. The number of men available here who have reached a high standard of general English knowledge is much larger than in the Punjab and even in Bombay. The second point is the cost of living in places like Delhi and Bombay. But let me not be understood as throwing cold water on this suggestion itself. While I am perfectly prepared to pursue the analogy with regard to the High Court, I am not quite so convinced by the analogy of the pay drawn in other Councils."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Sir, I will be perfectly satisfied if our Reporters are paid on the analogy of the High Court. And on the assurance of the hon. the Law Member I beg leave to withdraw the motion."

The motion was then by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 67.

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, may I request permission to move the motion which stands in the name of my hon. Friend Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu?"

Permission being given, Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR moved

'that the allotment of Rs. 1,67,100 for Provincial Legislative Council be reduced by Rs. 100.'

In doing so he said :—"Mr. President, in making the motion I am going to confine myself on this occasion to the first portion of the request as indicated in the object of the motion. I wish to raise the question of a standing counsel being appointed to the hon. the President to help him in giving his rulings in this House. This is a matter of very great importance to us who are Members of the Legislative Council. Sir, I see I am met with ridicule and laughter from sources from which I least expected it. I speak with a full sense of responsibility, Mr. President, that it will be doing justice not only to ourselves but also to those law officers of the Crown to whom occasionally you, Mr. President, have to look up to when you have to give a ruling on an important matter, so that the ruling might be entitled to the weight that a ruling of a President of a Legislative Assembly or Council is entitled to. As the work of the Council is growing day after day we feel that questions of the greatest difficulty come up for decision before the President and rulings which no doubt necessitate a very careful examination of the laws of various kinds of statutes and the most intricate and the most complex problems are bound to arise and you have been more than once already obliged to go in for the gratuitous advice of the Law Member or the Advocate-General. I say gratuitous advisedly because, I do not see how either of these gentlemen, eminently legal lawyers as they are, is bound to tender advice to the President. Very recently there has been an occasion when a great deal of interpretation of textual law was necessitated in the solution of a certain question. I refer to the very difficult issue that was raised over a certain amendment that I had the honour to move along with some of my hon. Friends

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here with reference to the Civil Courts Act. Your office had to interpret the Government of India Act. To a certain extent the difficulty involved in the determination of what the law is on that point has to be recognized. Now, Sir, we all know that the hon. the Advocate-General is very rarely in this House. To a certain extent it may be said that he is an independent administrative authority. Even agreeing to that convention, it is not possible to have the Advocate-General always present here and he is not always at your disposal in helping you to determine any interpretation that may arise on a point of order or on matters of admissibility of resolutions. The hon. the Law Member in the first place, cannot always be a great legal luminary that we have at present. And in the second place the impartiality of the Law Member cannot always be above suspicion to a certain extent in the interpretation of law and he may undoubtedly have to be guided by other considerations. I do not say of any impartiality on the part of the Law Member himself; but from an objective point of view, from the point of view of those who are not lawyers, it is not always possible to avoid the suspicion that in the interpretation of law to a certain extent he is guided also by other considerations. Moreover, if the Advocate-General is not always available his help to you, Sir, must be one of pure love and not of duty. As there are these difficulties whenever you have to give a ruling on a point of order, you must necessarily have some sort of a Standing Counsel on whose advice you have to fall back. My hon. Friends might say that the interpretation of law is a matter of commonsense and that precious commodity, I am conscious, we find in a very large measure represented here. Apart from that question of commonsense we know that the interpretation of law especially when different sides represent different aspects of it is not such an easy matter. But, taking circumstances as they are, if my hon. Friend the Member for the University gives one interpretation and some other hon. Member on this side gives a different interpretation on the same question, matters are certainly not going to be facilitated by the absence of a Standing Counsel. It is high time that we should have in every modern legislature a Standing Counsel. As time goes it will be very necessary to equip the President with Standing Counsel to advise him in all intricate matters that come up before him for decision. I am aware that owing to a combination of adventitious circumstances we have in our present Secretary a lawyer who can to a certain extent be relied upon to help you in legal matters but this cannot be a lasting arrangement. I strongly feel that you must have an impartial help and such facilities for an impartial examination of legal questions as will entitle you to say after taking the necessary legal advice of a Standing Counsel that a particular decision has been arrived at after consulting legal opinion. This will go a great way to help you in the decision of many intricate problems, and it is high time that you demand from Government that you be assisted by a Standing Counsel and the Government should accept the demand. I feel that that demand should be made on your behalf by us and that you should have the help of a Standing Counsel."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, let me say at once that speaking for myself I would welcome the appointment of a Standing Counsel for the present. Quite apart from the impartiality or the sense of detachment of the Law Member for the time being, it is undoubtedly true that he is a Member of Government wedded perhaps to certain definite policies and may have perhaps what may be called a party bias. I realize

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it. But I thought that the hon. the Advocate-General who, as was rightly pointed out, is not in constant attendance in this House and who is not generally supposed to take part in the controversies of this House, might be an adequate functionary for the purpose. But there is also this to be said that the Advocate-General is a very busy person, and it might be that as time goes on the legal questions that come up before this House may increase both in complexity and in number. Let me at once say this on behalf of Government that if the House generally feels that a Standing Counsel for the President is necessary the Government are not going to stand in the way of the creation of that office so as to assist the President."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"There are two things here; I really fail to understand whether the other thing, viz., convenience for the Deputy President, was consciously or unconsciously or advisedly given up. If it is to be given up, I hope it is not."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I shall ask Mr. Ethirajulu Nayudu to speak upon it."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May we not confine ourselves to this for the time being? On the question of remuneration and such other things, we have to take into careful consideration the amount of work that will fall to him."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"As the hon. the Law Member is anxious to have the views of the House on this question, I request you to put it to vote."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I think there was a proposal for providing legal assistance to the Council in the form of a drafting department. I should like to know what has become of that proposal. In case they are going to provide assistance by giving a qualified lawyer, it is likely he would be working under the President. In case we are to have a drafting counsel, the appointment of a Standing Counsel may not be necessary."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I purposely refrained from advertng to that matter because the question is a very difficult and complicated one. In most other Governments in India, there is what is called a legal remembrancer to the Government who is vested with the duty of looking after the drafting portion of the work of the Government, and in certain provinces or presidencies, he is also an adviser to Members of Council in regard to questions of law that arise now and then. That matter has got to be settled, and having regard to the financial resources of this province we came to the conclusion that we should not proceed with that scheme for the time being at all events. So, for the time being, it is not proposed to appoint a legal remembrancer or as was suggested in some quarters all these questions are not before the Government and under its consideration. The question may arise at any time, because the Government of India have always felt that it was an advantage to have a remembrancer of that kind and many other provinces have already got one. It may be public opinion may feel strongly on the matter; if so, the question will be discussed and dealt with on the merits. The present proposal is for a different kind of officer. A Standing Counsel for the President will solely be a kind of legal adviser to the President with regard to matters which arise for his decision and are within his direct cognizance."

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"I would suggest that this motion is too premature to consider. At present we have got experts in the legal procedure of this House, and we have got an able lawyer as Secretary, who will, I believe, remain with us for some time longer. Whenever we require, we can get the advice of eminent lawyers in this House—I think we have got a superfluity of them (hear, hear and laughter). You can appoint a pleader or lawyer on each side of the House to give advice—I do not want to be partial to any side. As the hon. the Law Member himself said, this proposal is quite premature and should not be passed in this House."

(Cries of 'vote, vote' from Ministerialists.)

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. the Law Member evidently wants the opinion of the House in this matter. If hon. Members are not willing to speak any further on the matter, I shall put the question to vote."

"As regards my own sentiments in the matter, I must say this. When I saw a notice of this on the agenda paper, exactly as I saw the previous one, I was not quite sure whether they both meant the same thing or different things. I now see that Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar referred to the Reporters and Mr. Muniswami Nayudu referred to something else. It would be desirable if hon. Members stated for the information of the Law Member what they thought about this matter. As for myself, when I saw the notice on the paper, I decided, as I always do in matters referring to expenditure in connexion with Council office, to place myself in the hands of the Government. It will be very difficult, if on a question of expenditure I set up an opinion and Government felt that they could not incur the expenditure or could not give as much as I wanted, and it would not be of any use to the House to be told of all the possible directions of expenditure, of objections as well as of reasons. I think the matter generally can be left at that, and I decide to leave it there on the present occasion. It would hardly have been necessary to say anything on this point but for one or two matters which have arisen in the course of the debate."

"Hon. Members may be exercised in their minds as to what the President does now when he is in need of legal opinion. I have not made a secret of the matter. Hon. Members know very well that I take such legal advice as is open to me before coming into the Council, when the matter is one of notice given some days before, and more generally and even in the case where outside opinion has already been available to me I place the matter before the House. I am aware of this particular disadvantage that there is no standing counsel and I therefore prefer that purely legal questions should be threshed out between the legal authorities on both sides of the House. I am not ignorant that there may be a prejudice, and not necessarily an ill-conceived or unreasoning prejudice, against hon. Members of the House who are in the pay of the Crown being my sole legal advisers. Therefore I generally do not content myself with taking their opinion but I put the case before the House and I listen to what is said on the other side. I wish hon. Members on both sides of the House would clearly understand that this is my policy in this matter. I wish to make up not only as far as possible for the absence of a standing counsel but for all the exigencies of the case, by taking the opinions of both sides. I suppose hon. Members having placed me in the chair and expressed their confidence in me by their vote, would do me the honor to trust to my accepting either

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of the points of view that have been put before me or any other point of view for that matter that may occur to me, after considering both sides of the question. I said that it was not necessarily because of the want of standing counsel that I was adopting this course. Because there is also this view of the matter. Supposing there was a standing counsel, I do not know how such counsel would be remunerated. The hon. the Law Member said that the question of remuneration would be a difficult thing. Probably he would be paid by the number of occasions on which opinions were given or by a monthly salary. But whatever the method, I put it to myself in the first place that the advantage of a third legal authority in addition to those who are already available to me would not necessarily imply that I must as a judge follow the opinion of that third authority rather than these two. The danger will always remain of my leaning to one side or the other. Nothing can relieve the position except the confidence of the House in the chair. I do not therefore think that the mere institution of a standing counsel will solve the difficulty. I do not know what is done elsewhere, but whatever we do here will have to be done upon careful consideration and I should like to have the assistance of hon. Members on both sides of the House, particularly on the side of the Opposition, in this matter. If the hon. the Law Member is going to consider the question, I should like him to be associated with certain number of legal authorities on the side of the Opposition. I am sure we shall arrive at some understanding in the matter.

"Having said this, as I observed before, I am in the hands of the Government as regards the expenditure; I am in the hands of the House as regards the expediency of the appointment and the manner in which the appointment should be made. I shall now, if the House wants it, put the question."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I am sure the House will be indebted to the President as indeed I am for the thoughts suggested by the pronouncement from the chair to which the House has just listened. It seems to me that in addition to some of the points of view I indicated in my speech, there are others, other trends of thought, started by the speeches made by you, Sir, and it seems to me therefore that it would be an advisable course that the Government should constitute a committee for exploring this matter composed of Members belonging to all parties of the House who may report to this House. I promise to constitute a committee forthwith. Probably that will be the best solution. If that would suit hon. Members, I can forthwith form the committee; it will be composed of Members belonging to all parties in this House, and they may consider the question of the advisability and expediency of a standing counsel and the terms on which he may be remunerated. That will probably raise a question and a debate may ensue on that. When the committee reports to the House, a definite position may be taken in a more satisfactory manner, in a more comprehensive form than would be possible on a motion of this kind."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, I rise to give expression to the very deep regret that I feel if in the course of any remarks of mine I had impugned either the impartiality or the dignity of the chair."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I am sure the hon. Member required no correction, least of all a correction administered by himself in this case,

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because nothing was farther from my thoughts than to protest against anything said by the hon. Member. I do not know if the hon. the Law Member felt otherwise. It was certainly not my intention."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Certainly not; there is nothing in my remarks calculated to produce such an impression. To each side you had pointed out this difficulty, namely, that if a third legal authority was requisitioned, his opinions would also have to be weighed along with others. The question of remuneration was raised in a very direct form and it raised new ideas in my mind after listening to this question about remuneration."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The simplest answer to the hon. Member from Chingleput appears to me to be this, that I think he was justified in raising this question, and I thought he was justified in anticipating it at the time when he moved an amendment on the Civil Courts Bill on which occasion he said he would have to move later on the question of standing counsel for the President. I am absolutely clear as to that. But what I was feeling a doubt about was the question raised, I think, by hon. Members on the Opposition. I am not sure if the hon. Member who moved it was of the view that the matter should be put to vote at once. I am not sure that the matter is one fit to go before the House for its vote. Therefore I said that, before voting upon this question which is a very serious matter, we might take time to consider it through the intermediation of a committee such as the hon. the Law Member has happily since proposed. That was all that I meant. I absolutely did not mean to question the propriety of the motion moved by the hon. Member from Chingleput."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"On a point of order, Sir. You mentioned the other day and I wish it is put down as a definite rule. I noticed the hon. the Deputy President and another hon. Member leaving the House while you were on your feet. I think it is not right, and I request you to exercise your right and enforce discipline."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I do not think any rule is necessary in this matter. It was not physically possible for me to see whether any hon. Members were leaving the room while I was speaking. If any hon. Members do so in future, I shall draw their attention to the convention."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"Nor was I conscious of your standing. (Loud laughter.) The Leader of the House also was not conscious that you were standing."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 68.

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"I beg to move the following :—
'That the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for elections be reduced by Rs. 100'."

"I may at once say that I have no idea of speaking in disparagement to any of the appointments that have been recently made by the Government. As I had occasion to say, I do not want to stand in the way of any hon. Member of this House applying for the Public Prosecutor's place or of the Government complying with his request. I am confident the Government will appoint only persons who are fit by education, ability, character and who

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possess all those qualifications which are usually observed in making such appointments. I am speaking only from the point of view of the tax-payer, i.e., the expenses involved in a by-election. Sir, the tax-payer does not expect that the candidate in whose favour he has recorded his vote will vacate his membership of the Council whenever an opportunity for personal advancement presents itself, nor is it fair to him to be asked to bear the extra cost of a by-election on that account. It is that aspect of the question alone that I want to put before the House. With these words, I move that the grant be reduced."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I realize that the question raised by the hon. Member who has just sat down is one of great importance. I further realize that the Government ought not to lay itself open to reproach for buying or for subsidizing hon. Members of this House by appointments. But, Sir, you cannot possibly lay down a hard and fast rule in regard to this matter. All I can say is that a certain rule was uniformly observed by the Government that if the Collector and the District Judge combined in recommending a certain person for appointment as Public Prosecutor, the Government would normally accept that nomination. All the recent appointments that have been made were made on that basis. As I indicated in the course of another debate which raised this point, the fact that a person is a Member of this Council ought not to stand in the way of his getting the appointment of Public Prosecutor if he were a leading member of the bar. It is possible to pursue this argument too far. Both sides of the argument may be put forward. Supposing an hon. Member of this House is appointed to the Treasury Bench on its Reserved side or becomes an Advocate-General, he, *ipso facto*, loses his seat. It cannot, I think, be argued that by being a Member of this House, he should be debarred from being appointed to these posts. On the other hand, I am free to admit that as far as possible if they can get competent men outside this House who will fill these appointments, the Government ought not to place any restrictions in the way of their getting them. I do not, for a moment, reproach my hon. Friend for having raised this question. He is entitled to do so. But having regard to the feeling of a certain number of hon. Members in this House, speaking entirely for myself, may I say that in any advice that I shall give, I shall be guided by the idea that animates certain hon. Members of this House that the appointment of Members of the Legislative Council to these places is open to adverse criticism ? "

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am glad that the hon. the Law Member has made this statement which reassures some of us here. We are anxious that, as far as it lies in the hands of the Government, they should help the development of a real democracy in the House. In my opinion, Sir, the Government of India Act contemplates that whoever accepts office shall not be qualified for election as a Member of the Legislative Council—section 80-B of the Government of India Act. "

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I may say, taking the definition of 'non-official,' that while it is perfectly correct to say that a person who becomes a Government Pleader vacates his office, it is open to the Government Pleader to stand for election the next day. Theoretically it is open. Whether the constituency will place confidence on him is another matter. "

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* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I quite realize what the hon. the Law Member is saying. I was leading up to that. While it is easy to get behind the spirit of the Act by enacting rules, undoubtedly the spirit of the Act is that acceptance of office shall make a man ineligible for election. An official shall not be qualified for election as a Member of the Legislative Council. In the Government of India Act, you will find that 'official' is defined, and 'office' includes place and employment. The hon. the Law Member will concede that a Public Prosecutorship is a place and also an employment of the Government. The provision in the Act is this : 'The expressions "official" and "non-official" where used in relation to any person, mean respectively a person who is or is not in the civil and military service of the Crown in India.' That does not also help my friend.

" But the proviso says : ' Provided that rules under this Act may provide for the holders of such offices as may be specified in the rules not being treated for the purpose of this Act, or any of them, as officials.' Rules have been made and the rules say :

' The holder of any office in the civil or military service of the Crown which does not involve both of the following incidents, namely, that the incumbent

(a) is a whole-time servant of the Government ; and

(b) is remunerated either by salary or fees

shall not be treated as an official for any of the purposes of the Government of India Act. '

" Because this rule has been made and because the Public Prosecutor and Government Pleader are not whole-time servants of the Government, they are allowed to practise. That concession is taken advantage of in order to make them eligible for election as Members of the Legislative Council. It seems to me that undoubtedly the spirit is that officials shall not be eligible for election. To accept office after they become Members of this House and continue as such is not in conformity with the spirit of the Act.

" Now, Sir, my hon. Friend referred to appointments to the Treasury Bench, and to the Advocate-General's place. Fortunately they do not occur very frequently. As regards Public Prosecutors, there are 26 districts. With regard to Public Prosecutors, the chances are very much greater for Members of this Council being appointed to these offices.

" My hon. Friend referred to the Collectors' recommendations. May I suggest to him that he may issue a circular to the Collectors asking them not to recommend hon. Members of this House, unless they certify that in the whole bar there is no other man fit to take up the duties of the Public Prosecutor ? I do not think that any Collector is going to come forward and say that there is no other man except the hon. Members of this Council who can do justice to these comparatively minor appointments of Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders. The hon. the Law Member said that he was impressed by the feeling of a certain section of the House. "

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I said a certain number of hon. Members of the House. I was particularly careful not to say certain section of the House. "

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* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I stand corrected. The members of the party in power would always favour the chances of men of their party. It is up to the hon. Members of the Reserved half to discourage the standing temptation of keeping doubtful men in loyalty to the party by preferment. That seems to be a function which is peculiarly reserved to the Reserved half of the Government, if they will very faithfully follow the spirit of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, the Joint Committee and the Instrument of Instructions. Are we, the elected Members, going to encourage this habit of helping men who may be office-hunters and who may be unwilling to oppose if the Government is wrong? It seems to me that if really we represent the people, we ought to strengthen the development of a stern sense of duty against official preferment of this kind. Three hon. Colleagues of mine have been taken away, Messrs. Yahya Ali, Mahabala Hegde and Venkataranga Reddi. I do not think, Sir, that we can approve of this system of taking away hon. Members and appointing them to offices. My hon. Friend may say it is for the electorate to decide which of the persons should be returned. I quite agree but as one knows, in these elections official influence is not yet extinct. I wish it were. And my hon. Friend knows, none better, that Government servants in the position of Public Prosecutors can influence the elections. The Government therefore may make it very nearly impossible for the voters to defeat them. It will be therefore wise on the part of this House to set up a convention and discourage the habit of hon. Members accepting offices under the Government."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"Sir, I am afraid I must disagree with my distinguished friend, the representative for the University. He tells us that Government is always formed by the party in power which consists of majority of the elected Members of the House; and that the party in power would always be trying to find offices for their adherents. By that my hon. Friend would infer that the same thing would not happen if the minority were in power."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"No, no."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"It comes to that."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir. If this House were wholly composed of elected Members, I am perfectly certain that I can persuade the majority not to do that. But in a transitional House like this, it is up to the Reserved half not to encourage certain classes of people to seek office under Government."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"My hon. Friend stated that the electorate was not sufficiently educated and they are being influenced by the officials. That may be correct, but that is not a statement that should emerge from the Champion of Democracy."

"The hon. the Law Member said that it was for the electorate to see whether they might elect people who had accepted offices under Government or not. The electorate must have the choice. If they do not like him, they would kick him out. The Public Prosecutors must be supposed to have some good sense. We must credit them with good sense."

"Again, Sir, my hon. Friend was telling rather in a mournful tone about the departure of three of his colleagues from this House on account of the fact that they had accepted offices under Government. If you prohibit such people from accepting offices, if you prohibit people who seek election

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and try to get into the Council by saying that they must not thereafter accept offices under Government, then the first-rate men in the district who would like to make a living and who have also got chances of becoming Public Prosecutors or other officials would not come to this House. If you put a ban upon such people and say that once you enter the House you cannot get anything else, such men won't seek election to this House. I think we are all just the same human beings. Here you find the party in power trying to put their own men in the offices. In England the elected Member of Parliament, especially the Prime Minister, has generally a very hard task to satisfy his following. My hon. Friend may be well aware of it. I do not see any reason why my hon. Friend should prescribe an extraordinary amount of self-sacrifice to Members of this Council. If the hon. Member himself is appointed a sub-judge (Cries of 'Oh' and laughter) I mean if the hon. Member happens to get into this. . ."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"On a personal matter, Sir, I would like to suggest that if I do at all bring myself to accept any post, I shall accept nothing less than that (pointing to the Treasury Bench)." (Laughter.)

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"I am very very glad. I am sorry I stated that unconsciously. Only I should like to see one of these days as the hon. Member grows older and a little bit. . ."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Wiser."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"Well, it is stated by one of his own followers."

"Then I should like to see him lead this House. Then he would be welcome to the Treasury Benches."

"But he must give credit to those gentlemen who have been there as men who have had enough of self-respect and enough of conscience to oppose the Government when they thought they were wrong and to support them when they thought they were right. I do not think it is a correct policy to say that if we find talents among the hon. Members of the Council we should not appoint them to offices under Government. On the other hand, the country will have the benefit of their talents. I am afraid I must disagree with the hon. Member for the University. Personally I am not going to seek office. Therefore it is not a personal matter at all. I am only submitting these observations for the sake of younger men like Mr. Satyamurti or any other who are adorning the House with their eloquence. If you prohibit them from accepting offices under Government, there won't be an incentive for them to get into the Council. (Cries of 'Oh'.) What is the use of coming here, making speeches and going home and starving? (Laughter.) With these few words, I ask my hon. Friend to be less eloquent about the self-sacrifice which they expect from the hon. Members that come into this House. We are all human beings. This is the same in every other country. If in England they are so, how can you expect better here? (Cries of 'Oh'.) So far as I am concerned, Sir, I am with the majority. . ."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Always."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"Certainly always when the minority is always in the wrong. (Laughter.)"

[23rd March 1925]

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Sir, I had no intention of intervening in this debate. But the speech of my hon. Friend, Mr. Kesava Pillai, has rather, I am afraid, contributed to confuse the issue. I am not going to deal with the instances which were referred to by the hon. Member for the University. I want to make a few general observations. There is the first issue whether hon. Members of this Council could be given appointments under Government. On that subject, I have nothing to add to the statement already made by the hon. the Law Member. But surely there is one issue which is even more important, viz., whether people who accept such appointments should be regarded as eligible for election or re-election to this House. That, I believe, is the crux of the problem with reference to this. My hon. Friend, the Law Member, said that this is a matter for the electorate. And the hon. the Deputy President told us that if we said that the electorate did not know how to exercise their choice properly, it would be a reflection on democracy."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" Yes, for sending us here."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" I am glad I have interpreted my hon. Friend, Mr. Kesava Pillai, aright. But surely my hon. Friend knows as a student of comparative constitutions that in many countries certain disabilities are imposed on people who seek to become members of the various legislatures. It is not that they distrust democracy or that they are not democrats. Thus it has been found by actual experience that certain restrictions are necessary and they are embodied in the constitutional laws of most of the countries. I just now happen to remember the provisions made in Australia. They are not the type of people with reference to whom this debate has been initiated. But even there such restrictions are found to be necessary. That does not mean that Australia is not democratic, that it does not trust its democracy, that it feels very shaky about it. But it only means that the experience of countries which have worked that system of government is in favour of putting certain restrictions on the candidatures in a democratic constitution. I do not think any valuable purpose will be served by our continuing the discussion longer. But I do hope and trust that the matter will be carefully considered by the Government. It is not a question of majorities and minorities but of general fairness which as elected Members on all sides of the House should try to adopt in arriving at conclusions on issues of general constitutional practice."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" I beg leave to withdraw the motion." The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 69.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I move

'that the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for election be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"This is a very important matter, Sir. In this connexion I want to read one paragraph, the last paragraph of the letter which this Government wrote to the Muddiman Committee on the reforms.

"Page 20 of the Report.

"28. Lastly, His Excellency the Governor in Council wishes to express agreement with the pronouncement of the Under Secretary of State during the debate on the Indian Labour problem that the extension of the franchise is fundamentally connected with any steps that may

[Mr. S. Satyamurti]

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not know if there are not men in this community who by their influence and co-operation can be held to move in the matter. In the matter of privileges, their opinion is entitled to weight. Unless they are incapable of exercising their franchise, we must put aside that suggestion and with all respect I submit that Government should take action in the matter, before we go to the next election and ask for the votes of the members of this community with whom we are privileged to work for the benefit of our country. With these few words, I beg to move the motion that stands in my name."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASAN :—" We held a conference the other day and in it the matter of having a separate electorate in Madras was discussed. It was thought that it would be impossible to have a separate electorate in the mufassal. Almost all the people belonging to the depressed classes are employed under mirasidars and they are practically in their hands and cannot be an independent body. They call themselves slaves. They are indebted to men of other castes. Therefore if they were to have a separate electorate it would mean that they will be entirely in the hands of men under whom they serve. Besides, our caste people have not enough of money to spend for these elections. The other communities will take advantage of our ignorance and poverty and thus get more votes in their favour. That is the trouble. No doubt we want to take a share in the self-government of the country and we want to go with the current, but there is time for all these. Since the Labour department was started, there are a number of co-operative societies in the Presidency and our people are just trying to understand the usefulness of co-operation. Yet it will take time for them to understand the usefulness of a separate electorate. I am arranging to hold a meeting summoning the headmen of the various cherries in Madras to get their opinion on this matter. I am sure they will all be in favour of nomination, and not of election. I know of a gentleman in Madras who said that if one of us were to stand in the general election, he was sure to be elected and there was every chance of his becoming a Minister. We have members nominated and at the same time we can vote in a general election for more. Poverty and ignorance have placed us in a disadvantageous position and it would simply be useless for us to ask for a separate electorate at the present moment. Election of any kind should not be forced on us. With these few words, I oppose the motion."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" I personally thank the intelligent critic Mr. Satyamurti for having brought forward this motion; but I feel sorry I have to oppose it; though he has brought it forward with very good intentions in order to elevate the depressed classes. Sir, my reason for opposing this motion is this: if a separate electorate is formed, only persons of influence and money, however incapable they may be, will become successful at the election. And what is the use of having incapable persons in the Council to represent us? They should be able to voice forth the feelings of the dumb millions.

"Sir, we are aware that illiteracy prevails everywhere. But I have no objection for our men being trained in the methods of general election so far as Madras City is concerned. There are different communities amongst the depressed classes. If one were to be trained for election there is every chance of his being set up by men of other castes. Other people will say 'why are you not standing for election; we will try and get as many votes as possible for you'. We the depressed classes have to spend all our money

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[Mr. S. Satyamurti]

be taken to determine the future of the Provincial Government. One main object of such an extension would be to include in the electorate the highest types of artisan and labourer and an appreciable number of the depressed classes.

"Sir, I have heard from almost every Anglo-Indian critic or English critic, like the *London Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, and the *Morning Post* that one lacuna in our proposals is that we never put forward proposals for the expansion of the electorates. This is a misrepresentation. I am now suggesting to the Madras Government with a full sense of my responsibility that the voters' register should provide for special electorates for the depressed classes. I am not suggesting, Sir, that this is the last word in the matter. I myself look forward to the time when the depressed classes will be put on the general electorate. But as at present they are represented by nominated members I am anxious that they should in the future, for some time at least, be represented by members elected by their own electorates. My own personal view, Mr. President, is that in a few years' time when the classes learn to trust one another and act together, we should have a common electoral roll for all classes. And I want to put forward a suggestion for what it is worth that the depressed classes should have a lower franchise, that is to say, if a ryotwari holder who pays Rs. 10 is entitled to vote, then I should like to put the rate in the case of the depressed classes at Rs. 2 or 3, so that more of them may come in than would otherwise come in. I want a small immediate step to be taken in this direction of providing these gentlemen an opportunity of being elected by their own electorates. I am sure the House has appreciated warmly, as I have certainly, the very splendid services which my hon. Friend, Mr. Veerian, has tried to render to his community by means of questions and resolutions and speeches. (Hear, hear) He has rarely agreed with us and I have rarely agreed with him. It has been good to us to hear one of the best men from the so-called depressed classes to protest on behalf of his community. But in future years he may not sit here as a nominated Member but as a Member elected by his own community and by his own countrymen. And then he will be a thousand times stronger to implement his speeches by the opinions of those whom he represents. I do therefore suggest that it will be convenient and progressive to have an electoral register for them. As my hon. Friend, my Deputy Leader, reminded us, the Madras Government Rules themselves contemplate the constitution of such special electorates. In answer to a question of mine, the hon. the Law Member told me some time ago that the Government themselves propose to take an important step in the matter. The rule also provides 'that for the purpose of selecting persons to be nominated under sub-clause (b) of clause (3) of this rule the Governor may at his discretion make regulations providing for their selection by the communities concerned.' I think, Sir, that some of the members of the depressed classes in the country do not come up to that standard of education that is possessed by the other communities. But, Sir, there are certainly many men among them of sturdy common-sense who could be trusted to exercise their franchise in a way which will best serve the interests of the community and the country. And the suffrage will be quite as safe in their hands as in the hands of the other communities. I do not think there will be any danger either to the Government or to that community or to the country, by giving that franchise.

"I am told, —I speak subject to correction,—that in a conference held the other day in this City some of those who happened to be Members of this Council were not in favour of election. I do

12-30 p.m.

R—cont.

Rama Rao, Rao Sahib U.—

Budget motions—

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Establishment (Jails), pay of —		..
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Subdivisional establishments (Land Revenue)		34
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Ramaswami Ayyar, the hon. Mr. C. P.—

Adjournment motion re —

Bifurcation of Kistna district		1044
Provincial contribution, remission of —	.. .. .	..
Writing off loans given to planters, etc.		965, 966, 967-968, 969, 970, 995, 1006

Bills—

President's Salary Act (Amendment) Bill		971, 972
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Budget motions—

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Electric current (Police), allotment for —		56
Establishment (Police), allotment for pay of —		745, 746, 747-749, 750-751

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Irrigation, Civil officers establishment		430, 431, 434, 435, 439, 4
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Irrigation, Public Works officers		447, 449-4
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Irrigation expenditure financed from ordinary revenues, allotment for —		487, 488
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Irrigation works, allotment for —		489, 49
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Irrigation works, Godavari Eastern Delta		492, 493, 494, 49
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Irrigation works, etc., having capital accounts, allotment for —		496, 49
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Irrigation works having no capital or revenue accounts, allotment for —		490, 49
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453, 455, 456, 457, 458-459, 460 482, 483-484, 485, 486		451, 45
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Judges and Registrar (High Court), allotment for —		664, 666-670, 673, 674, 675, 676, 678, 679
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Legislative bodies, pay of officers, allotment for —		530, 531-532
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Legislative Council (Provincial), allotment for —		535, 537, 550-551, 553-554, 555-556
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558-559		794-795
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Motor-cars ("Police"), speed limit on the —		480-481
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Navigation, etc., allotment for —		652, 653, 657-660, 661, 663-664
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Official Referee, pay of —		795-796, 797, 793-800
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Police, pay of officers, allotment for —		228-221, 233-234, 235, 238-239
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Presidency town (Stamps), allotment for —		804-807
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Special police, allotment for —		534
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Travelling allowance (Legislative bodies), allotment for —		..
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Demands for grants—

Administration of Justice		648-6
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Irrigation, Public Works officers		7
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Demand for supplemental grant, Public Health		..
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Questions and supplemental questions—

Discussion re right of asking questions and getting answers		1039, 1041, 1042, 1043
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Select Committees, composition of —		983, 985
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3. The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM, C.S.I., I.C.S., Finance Member. Took his seat on 26th April 1924 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

Central subjects—	Government Servants' Conduct Rules.
Archæology and Epigraphy.	Indian Civil Service—Questions other than leave and appointments.
Customs (including trade).	Move of Government to the Hills.
Income-tax.	Office procedure.
Marine.	Pensions.
Meteorology.	Petition rules—General questions.
Opium.	Publicity including Editors' Table.
Post Office.	Public Services Commission and service questions including examinations and special tests and land returns.
Salt.	Reforms— not being legislative.
Telegraphs and telephones.	Warrant of precedence.
Conduct of business in Council.	
Finance.	
General (i.e., questions of a general nature which cannot be allocated to any particular department).	

4. The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Member in charge of Revenue. Took his seat on 27th December 1924 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

Boilers.	Land Revenue.
Census.	Mines.
Constitution of districts, divisions and taluks.	Pounds and special funds
Economic condition (including prices and wages).	Stamps.
Escheats.	Treasure trove.
Famine.	Wild animals.
	Yeomials and hereditary pensions.

Ministers.

1. The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL, Minister for Local Self-Government. Took his seat on 19th November 1923 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

Adulteration of foodstuffs.	Light-feeder	Railways	and
Local.	Tramways.		
Medical.	Public Health.		
Municipal.	Religious and Charitable Endowments.		

2. The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO, Kt., Minister for Education and Public Works. Took his seat on 19th November 1923 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

Education.	Public Works.
Excise.	Registration.

3. The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI Avargal, Minister for Development. Took his seat on 19th November 1923 and is in charge of the following portfolios:—

Agriculture.	Industries.
Co-operative Societies.	Veterinary.
Fisheries.	Weights and Measures.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI Avargal, C.I.E., I.S.O.

Deputy President.

M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI Avargal, C.I.E.

Panel of Chairmen.

M.R.Ry. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR Avargal.

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo.

Khan Bahadur HAJI ABOULLA HAJI QASIM SAHIB Bahadur.

M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU Garu.

Secretary to the Council.

M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR Avargal, B.A., M.L.

Assistant Secretary to the Council.

M.R.Ry. C. SATAGOPA ACHARIYAR Avargal, B.A.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Name of member.	Name of constituency.
1. Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur ...	Madura, Trichinopoly cum Sringangan, M. Urban.
2. Abdul Hye Sahib Bahadur ...	Ceded Districts, M. Rural.
3. Abdul Wahab Sahib Bahadur, Munshi.	Northern Circars, M. Rural.
4. Abdulla Ghatala Sahib Bahadur (Council Secretary).	North Arcot cum Chingleput, M. Rural.
5. Adinarayana Chetti, T. ...	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural
6. Anjanavulu, P. ...	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
7. Ankineedu Prasad Bahadur, S. R. Y.	Northern Landholders II.
8. Appavu Chettiyar, D. ...	Salem, N.-M. Rural.
9. Ari Gowder, H. B. ...	Nilgiris, N.-M. Rural.
10. Arpudaswami Udayar, S. (Council Secretary).	Tanjore, Trichinopoly cum Madura, Indian Christian.
11. Arumuga Nadar, P. K. S. A. ...	NOMINATED for Nadars.
12. Bhanoji Rao, A. V. ...	Vizagapatam, N.-M. Urban.
13. Biswanath Das Mahasayo, Sriman	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
14. Pracken, I.C.S., G. T. H. ^a ...	NOMINATED (Secretary to Government, Development Department.)
15. Campbell, D.S.O., M.V.O. R.I.M., Capt., C. R. ^a	NOMINATED for Cochin Port Trust Bill.
16. Chidambara Nadar, A. ...	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
17. Cruz Fernandez, Rao Bahadur.	Ramnad cum Tinnevelly, Indian Christian.
18. Davies, R. W. ^b ...	NOMINATED. (Secretary to Government, Finance Department.)
19. Davis, J. A. ...	NOMINATED for Anglo-Indians.
20. Devendrudu, N. ...	NOMINATED for Adi-Andhras.
21. Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Sahib S.	Salem, N.-M. Rural.
22. Ethirajulu Nayudu, Diwan Bahadur P. C.	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
23. Gangaraju, M. ...	Kistna, N.-M. Rural.
24. Ghouse Mian Sahib Bahadur, Muhammad.	Central Districts, M. Rural.
25. Gopala Menon, C. ...	S.I. Chamber of Commerce.
26. Gopalan, Rao Sahib P. V. ...	NOMINATED for Mukkuvans or Fishermen.
27. Graham, C.S.I., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. R. A.	EX-OFFICIO.
28. Guruswami, L. C. ...	NOMINATED for Arundhatayas.
29. Haji Qasim Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur Haji Abdulla (Chairman).	South Kanara, M. Rural.

^a Took his seat on the 27th March 1925.

^b Resigned his seat on the 29th March 1925.

Name of member.	Name of constituency.
30. Jourdain, P. F. G. ^a ...	NOMINATED for the Cochin Port Trust Bill.
31. Kesava Pillai, C.I.E., Diwan Bahadur P (Deputy President).	Anantapur, N.-M. Rural.
32. Khadir Mohiddin Elyas Khan Sahib Bahadur.	East Coast M.
33. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur P.	Madura cum Trichinopoly, M. Rural.
34. Knapp, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.B.E., I.C.S., The hon. Sir Arthur. ^b	EX-OFFICIO.
35. Koti Reddi, K. ...	Cuddapah, N.-M. Rural.
36. Krishna Rao Pantulu, Rao Bahadur A. S.	Nellore, N.-M. Rural.
37. Krishnan Nayar, Diwan Bahadur M.	Malabar cum Anjengo, N.-M. Rural.
38. Krishnaswami Nayudu, Rao Bahadur K.	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
39. Kuppuswami, J. ...	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
40. Legh, C.I.E., I.C.S., E. W. ^c ...	NOMINATED. (Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.)
41. Madhava Raja, V. ...	Malabar cum Anjengo, N.-M. Rural
42. Madurai, Hony. Lt. ...	NOMINATED for Adi-Dravidas.
43. Mallesappa, T. ...	NOMINATED for Lingayats.
44. Marakkavar Sahib Bahadur, V. Hamid Sultan.	Tanjore, M. Rural.
45. Marjoribanks, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. N. E.	EX-OFFICIO.
46. Marthandam Pillai, P. N. ...	Tinnevelly, N.-M. Rural.
47. Maruthavanam Pillai, C. ...	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.
48. Mathai, Dr. John ...	NOMINATED.
49. Moidu Sahib Bahadur, T. M. ...	Malabar cum Anjengo, M. Rural.
50. Moore, C.I.E., I.C.S., P. L. ...	NOMINATED. (Secretary to Government, Local Self-Government Department.)
51. Moosa Sait Sahib Bahadur, Muhammad.	Madras, M. Urban.
52. Muhammad Sahib Bahadur, T. N.	Ramnad cum Tinnevelly, M. Rural.
53. Muniswami Nayudu, B. ...	Chittoor N.-M. Rural.
54. Murugappa Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur A. M. M.	Nattukottai Nagarathars.
55. Muttayya Mudaliyar, C. ...	Chingleput, N.-M. Rural.
56. Muttayya Mudaliyar, S. ...	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.
57. Muttu Chettiyar, P. C. ...	Ramnad, N.-M. Rural.
58. Narasimhacharlu, Rai Bahadur T. M. (Chairman).	Cuddapah, N.-M. Rural.
59. Narasimha Raju, Rao Bahadur C. V. S.	Vizagapatam, N.-M. Rural.
60. Narayanan Nambudiripad, Rao Bahadur O. M.	NOMINATED for Nambudiris.
61. Narayanaswami Pillai, T. M. ...	Trichinopoly, N.-M. Rural.

^a Took his seat on the 30th March 1925. | ^b Resigned his seat on 30th March 1925.

^c Resigned his seat on the 28th March 1925.

Name of member.	Name of constituency.
62. Natesa Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C.	Madras, N.-M. Urban.
63. Nicholson, L. C.	Madras Trades.
64. Obalesappa, B.	NOMINATED for Maruthuvakulars (Barbers).
65. Pantulu Ayyar, V., <i>alias</i> Venkatarama Ayyar.	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.
66. Partridge, P. W.	Madras European.
67. Patro, <i>Kt.</i> , The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. (Minister).	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
68. Peddiraju, P.	Kistna, N.-M. Rural.
69. Ponnuswami Nayudu, C.	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
70. Ponnuswami Pillai, K. S.	NOMINATED for Protestant Christians.
71. Prabhakaran Tampam, K.	West Coast Landholders.
72. Premayya, G.	NOMINATED for Adi-Andhras.
73. Qadir Muhi-ud-din Sahib, Janab Muhammad.	East Coast M. Rural.
74. Raghuechandra Ballal, K.	NOMINATED for Jains.
75. Raja, Rao Bahadur M. C.	NOMINATED for Depressed Classes.
76. Raja of Kurupam	Northern Landholders I.
77. Raja of Panagal, The hon. the (Minister).	North Central Landholders.
78. Raja of Ramnad	Southern Landholders.
79. Rajan, P. T.	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
80. Rajappa Tevar, P. S.	NOMINATED for Kallars.
81. Rama Rao, Rao Sahib U.	South Kanara, N.-M. Rural.
82. Ramachandra Ayyar, T. R., Diwan Bahadur.	NOMINATED for Malabar Tenancy Bill.
83. Ramachandra Reddi, B.	Nellore, N.-M. Rural.
84. Ramachari, Rao Sahib K. V.	Madura, N.-M. Urban.
85. Ramalinga Chettiayar, Rao Bahadur T. A.	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
86. Ramalinga Reddi, C.	Chittoor, N.-M. Rural.
87. Raman, Rao Bahadur P.	NOMINATED for Tiyyas.
88. Raman Menon, K. P.	NOMINATED for Malabar Tenancy Bill.
89. Ramaswami Ayyar, C.I.E., The hon. Mr. C. P.	EX-OFFICIO.
90. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, A. (Chairman).	Chingleput, N.-M. Rural.
91. Rameswara Rao, G.	Anantapur, N.-M. Rural.
92. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, A.	Bellary, N.-M. Rural.
93. Ratnaswami, M.	Central Districts Indian Christian.
94. Rencontre, A. E.	Anglo-Indian.
95. Ross, Thomas McKenzie	Madras Chamber of Commerce.
96. Sagaram, P.	NOMINATED for Setti-Balijas.
97. Saldanha, J. A.	West Coast Indian Christian.
98. Samuel, J. D.	Northern Districts Indian Christian.
99. Sarabha Reddi, K.	Kurnool, N.-M. Rural.
100. Sarvarayudu, K.	Kistna, N.-M. Rural.

Name of member.	Name of constituency.
101. Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo, Sriman (Chairman).	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
102. Satyamurti, S.	Madras University.
103. Seetayya, M.	Kistna, N.-M. Rural.
104. Seturatnam Ayyar, M. R.	Trichinopoly, N.-M. Rural.
105. Simpson, <i>Kt.</i> , Sir James	Madras Chamber of Commerce.
106. Sitarama Reddi, K.	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
107. Siva Rao, P.	Bellary, N.-M. Rural.
108. Sivagnanam Pillai, The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. (Minister).	Tinnevely, N.-M. Rural.
109. Srinivasa Ayyangar, R.	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
110. Srinivasan, R.	NOMINATED for Adi-Dravidas.
111. Subbarayan, Dr. P.	South Central Landholders.
112. Subrahmanya Pillai, K. Chavadi.	Tinnevely <i>cum</i> Palamcottah, N.-M. Urban.
113. Sundaramurti, Rao Sahib P. V. S.	NOMINATED for Adi-Dravidas.
114. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu, Diwan Bahadur K.	Cocanada, N.-M. Urban.
115. Swamikannu Pillai, C.I.E., I.S.O., The hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D.	NOMINATED. (President, Legislative Council.)
116. Symons, O.B.E., I.M.S., Major-General Thomas Henry.	NOMINATED for the consideration of the Bill for the Registration of Nurses and Midwives.
117. Tangavelu Pillai, Rao Sahib T. C. (Council Secretary).	Trichinopoly <i>cum</i> Srirangam, N.-M. Urban.
118. Tanikachala Chettiayar, Rao Bahadur O.	Madras, N.-M. Urban.
119. Tyagaraya Chettiayar, <i>Kt.</i> , Diwan Bahadur Sir P.	Madras, N.-M. Urban.
120. Uppi Sahib Bahadur, K.	Malabar <i>cum</i> Anjengo, M. Rural.
121. Usman Sahib Bahadur, The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad. ^a	EX-OFFICIO.
122. Veerian, R.	NOMINATED for Adi-Dravidas.
123. Vellingiri Gounder, V. C.	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
124. Venkatachala Padayachi, K.	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
125. Venkatachalam Chettiayar, S.	Madras, N.-M. Urban.
126. Venkatapatirazu, P. C.	Vizagapatam N.-M. Rural.
127. Venkatarama Sastriyar, T. R.	NOMINATED (Advocate-General).
128. Venkataramana Ayyangar, C. V.	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
129. Venkataratnam, B.	Godavari, N.-M. Rural.
130. Venkatarreddi Nayudu, <i>Kt.</i> , Rai Bahadur Sir K.	Godavari, N.-M. Rural.
131. Vijiaraghava Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur W.	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
132. Virappa Chettiayar, Rao Bahadur P. K. A. Ct.	Ramnad, N.-M. Rural.
133. Windle, Capt. E. G. ^b	Madras Planters.
134. Vacant	
135. Vacant	

^a Took charge on 30th March 1925.^b Has not yet taken his seat.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

*Third Session of the Second Council under the Government of
India Act, 1919.*

VOLUME XXIII.

Monday, the 16th March 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur
L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI AVARGAL, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing
Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924 —*

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Agency.

Continuation of Mutta system in Gudem taluk.

* 422 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any necessity to continue the present mutta system and the reasons for its continuance;

(b) whether there are any muttas in which Revenue settlement was effected with individual ryots in the Gudem taluk and how the system is working; and

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce the settlement of Land Revenue in the Gudem taluk with individual ryots?

A.—(a) The Government consider the continuance of the muttadari system desirable at present. The position of the muttadar is intended to give him some local influence and authority.

[16th March 1925]

- (b) Yes. One at least, Chittampadu-Bandivalasa.
 (c) Not at present.

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" With reference to the answer to clause (a), may I know how the muttadars used their local influence and authority in the recent rebellion? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" My hon. Friend is aware that in one case we had to take action against a muttadar for not giving us the assistance that was desired. In other cases we did not get from the muttadar as much help as he was bound to give us; but that does not interfere with the general principle that the continuance of the muttadari system is desirable."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" May I know what is the nature of the help expected from the muttadars? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid I must ask for notice."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" May I know for what purpose the Government think that the muttadars should have local influence? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" They want local influence for the purpose of preserving law and order."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya :—" Are the Government creating new muttadars in the Gudem taluk? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I have no recollection of any move in that direction."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" May I know how many muttadars were prosecuted during the fituri operations for not giving necessary assistance to the Government? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid I must ask for notice."

Forests.

Grievances of ryots in the Salem district.

* 423 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the information called for with reference to interpellation No. 1274—vide Council Proceedings, dated 3rd December 1924—has been received;

(b) whether Government have considered the grievances of the ryots mentioned therein and passed orders; and

(c) whether the hon. Member will be pleased to lay the papers on the table of the House?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

(c) The information asked for in clauses (d) to (f) of question No. 1274 answered on 3rd December 1924 is appended.*

* Printed as Appendix I on page 75 infra.

[16th March 1925]

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" I am referring to the answers to clauses (e) and (f) in the appendix. I suppose the Government accept the theory that disafforested forests should not be quite close to ryots' cultivated lands? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I must refer my hon. Friend to the Proceedings of this Council in which he will find, at considerable length, the views of the Government on the subject of the proximity of forests to cultivable lands."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" The ryots of Salem desire that the area newly added to the reserve may be disafforested. As the Government admit that the area added to the reserve is of little value, I think there can be no trouble about this matter. May I also know whether it is not the policy of the Government that the reserve boundary line ought not to touch or be close to the patta lands of the village? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I have already referred the hon. Member to the previous discussion of this House in which the policy of the Government is given more fully than I can give it now in answer to a question."

Removal of green manure from reserve forests of North Arcot.

* 424 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report called for with reference to interpellation No. 1278 regarding the removal of green manure from the reserve forests of North Arcot—vide Council Proceedings dated 3rd December 1924—has been received;

(b) whether Government have passed orders on the same; and

(c) if so, whether the same can be placed on the table of the House?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes; but the Government have since called for a further report on forest matters in North Arcot including the question of the removal of green manure leaves.

(c) The question of placing the reports on the Council table will be considered after receipt of the further report.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether the Government are considering about the other districts also and whether any report has been received from districts other than North Arcot? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" A report has been called for from the Chief Conservator of Forests."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know if the report called for is about all districts generally? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The reference to the Chief Conservator of Forests is a general reference as a result of the resolution came to by this House; we are awaiting a reply."

[16th March 1925]

Amalgamation of the three blocks in Melarasampattu village.

* 425 Q.—MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has consulted the Conservator of Forests, as promised by him, regarding the amalgamation of the three blocks in Melarasampattu village referred to in interpellation No. 1398, vide Council Proceedings, dated 5th December 1924, regarding the permissibility of cattle being allowed to graze in all the three blocks comprised in that one range on a single permit; and

(b) whether he will lay the report on the table?

A.—(a) & (b) A report has been called for from the Chief Conservator of Forests. It has not yet been received.

Removal of thorny undergrowth from forest reserves.

* 426 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the action taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Chief Conservator of Forests that there is no reason why general permission should not be granted to the ryots to remove thorny undergrowth from reserves which are mainly or wholly grazing reserves; and

(b) whether such permission has been granted to ryots to remove the thorny growth from reserves which are really grazing reserves and are intended to be ultimately handed over to panchayat management?

A.—(a) & (b) Most of the reserves in question are or will shortly come under panchayat management, when the remedy will lie in the hands of the panchayatdars. In the meantime ryots will be permitted to remove thorny undergrowth under departmental supervision in all reserves classified as "Ryots' forests" if they choose to apply.

Civil Justice.*Observance of the communal Government Order by the High Court.*

427 Q.—THE hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I understand that the hon. Member, Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib, is not putting the question. The notice of his intention not to put the question was received too late after the papers had been printed. I think it is due to him that I should announce that he is not putting the question."

THE hon. SIR ARTHUR KNAPP:—"A point of order, Sir. If the question is not put, may I know whether the answer given by the Government will be published?"

THE hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It will not be published in the official proceedings."

[16th March 1925]

Police.*Graduate sub-inspectors of Police in the province.*

* 428 Q.—MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many graduates in arts joined the Police department in this province as sub-inspectors

(i) between 1905 and 1910, and

(ii) between 1920 and 1924;

(b) how many of these graduates left the department during the above two periods;

(c) how many graduate sub-inspectors have undergone the law course in the Law College, Madras;

(d) how many of them have finished their law course and are qualified to practise as pleaders;

(e) whether the Government are aware that many graduate sub-inspectors left the Police department for lack of better prospects and encouragement in the department;

(f) how many sub-inspectors were promoted as inspectors during the years 1923 and 1924 and how many of these are graduates in arts; and

(g) how many graduates were recommended for the posts of inspectors and of the number so recommended how many have not yet been promoted as inspectors?

A.—(a), (b), (c), (d), (f) & (g) The Government have no information.

(e) The Government have no reasons to think so.

MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know from the hon. Member who represents the Law Member to-day whether the Government have not been trying to attract better class of people, graduates, to the Police department; and if so, as there is a feeling among them that they are not encouraged and as the public also think that they are leaving the department in a great hurry, I am asking this question and may I therefore request the Government to call for the information?"

THE hon. MR. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"The Government are trying to get as good men as they can for the pay that they are able to offer; and they have no reasons to think that many graduates have left the department for want of prospects. There is no basis on which we can call for information."

MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"There is basis for thinking that graduate sub-inspectors have left the department for want of encouragement which they naturally expected to get at the time of their enlistment."

THE hon. MR. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I shall only be too glad if the hon. Member can give me information."

MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Is it so easy for a non-official to collect the information? The hon. the Law Member has all the resources at his disposal and he can collect the information as to the existence of this grievance."

THE hon. MR. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I wish to know the basis on which to suppose that there is a *prima facie* case."

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Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" I repeat we cannot get statistics with the same facility as hon. Members of the Government."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The Government evidently want the hon. Member to say that So and So left the department."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" I am not prepared to give out the names. But many people have told me at different times. I put the question for another reason also. The Government are blaming the people for not co-operating with the Police. I have a right to complain that you do not get the proper sort of people because you do not try to retain them when you get them. You make it difficult for us to co-operate by not attracting a better set of people."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not admit that we are not attracting the right sort of people by giving them higher pay. But there is a limit to the pay that can be given. In other respects, we cannot admit that they do not receive proper encouragement."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" The Government are not encouraging the proper men."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" We should not start a debate on this. When the hon. the Law Member comes, all these facts will be placed before him and if he thinks it necessary to take any action, he will do so."

Inquiry into the St. Thomas' Mount tragedy.

* 429 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the inquiry into the St. Thomas' Mount station tragedy case is at present;

(b) whether the Police have charge-sheeted the case and if so, against whom; and

(c) whether the present promised by the Government has been given to any one?

A.—(a) The case is still under investigation.

(b) No one has yet been charge-sheeted.

(c) No.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether a little more definite information cannot be given? If the hon. Member cannot give the information now, the question can be taken up to-morrow when the hon. the Law Member is expected to be here. It is said that the case is still under investigation. We should like to know where the matter stands."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I am afraid that in a case of this sort, it is not possible for the Government to publish whatever information they have."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Is there any proposal to increase the reward?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" There is no proposal at present."

[16th March 1925]

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it not possible to take the Council into confidence by informing it as to what steps have been taken in the matter of investigation and to say at least whether there is any chance of this much-discussed murder being found out?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The Government say that it will not serve any purpose to give the information."

Salt.

Issue of B.R. No. 479, dated 17th November 1923.

* 430 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that B.R. No. 479 of 1923, dated 17th November 1923, was issued to all local bodies on the Resolution No. C.R. 4564-Salt of 1923, of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th September 1923, calling for report as to the advisability of selling salt by weight;

(b) the weight of opinion in the matter as gathered from the replies received thereto;

(c) whether Government were addressed in the matter; and

(d) whether the resolution of the Board of Revenue was given effect and, if so, how?

A.—The Government have no information as to the details of the communications addressed by the various local officers to the local bodies. The Board asked the Deputy Commissioners for suggestions as to how to popularize the sale of salt by weight, but as the reports were not encouraging the matter was dropped.

Collectorates.

Alleged stopping of the time-scale increment to the Revenue subordinates in the Tanjore district.

* 431 Q.—Rao Bahadur CRUZ FERNANDEZ : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to call for and lay on the table—

(a) a detailed report from the Collector, Tanjore, as to why no annual time-scale increment has till now been sanctioned or disbursed to any lower or upper grade Revenue subordinates in that district for the past three years even after the issue of G.O. No. 711, dated 11th July 1921;

(b) a report from the Board of Revenue on the following points :—

(i) the number of appeals presented to them till now against the Collector's fixing their initial salary on the basis of their three months' pay drawn prior to 1st March 1921, and

(ii) whether the Board of Revenue has summarily remanded all such appeals to the Collector of Tanjore for disposal without dealing with them on their merits after an abnormal delay of three years; and

(c) if the answer to clause (b) (ii) is in the affirmative, whether the Government will be pleased to call for and lay on the table a copy of such arbitrary and ex parte decision of the Board of Revenue and also a copy of the Accountant-General's Circular No. 1-802 (Tanjore), dated 21st July 1924, with all papers connected therewith?

[16th March 1925]

A.—(a) A report has been called for from the Collector of Tanjore.

(b) (i) 24

(b) (ii) & (c) No. Fifteen appeals were disposed of by the Board of Revenue on merits, four being allowed and the rest dismissed. One appeal received in November 1924 has been held over by it pending receipt of orders of Government. The remaining eight appeals were cases in which the Collector wrongly fixed the initial pay. These appeals were returned by the Board to the Collector with instructions for the revision of the initial pay.

Education.

Municipal High School, Tiruvannamalai.

* 432 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that permission to open the VI form in the Municipal High School, Tiruvannamalai, was granted by the Director of Public Instruction in July 1923 and the application for recognition was received in time within six months of the date;

(b) whether the school has not been recognized yet and, if so, the reason for the delay;

(c) whether it is a fact that every municipal council is recommended to maintain a High School;

(d) whether it is a fact that Rs. 4,200 was given as subsidy for the High School building in 1917;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Council applied for additional subsidy for extending the building and whether the same was refused;

(f) whether it is a fact that in spite of the fact that the finances of the Council do not justify incurring larger outlay on this head, yet to satisfy the conditions for recognition, extensions to the building had to be made by the Council to the cost of Rs. 18,000;

(g) whether Government are taking any steps to ascertain what would be the reasonable subsidy which the financial condition of the Council can bear; and

(h) whether Government are taking steps to ascertain what would be the reasonable additional subsidy for the building also?

A.—(a) The answer to the first part of the clause is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) No such recommendation has been made by the Government.

(d) & (e) Yes.

(f) In September 1924 the Chairman of the Municipal Council reported that the total outlay on the building amounted to Rs. 18,028.

(g) & (h) No.

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Hindustani Sessional School, Trichinopoly.

* 433 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is not a fact that Hindustani Sessional School maintained by the district board of Trichinopoly has been ordered by the board to be closed;

(b) on whose recommendation it was done and for what reasons; and

(c) whether the Government have any intention of opening a well-equipped elementary training school for the Muhammadan students of the southern districts instead?

A.—(a) The District Board has resolved to close the school from 1st April 1925.

(b) The inspecting officers of the department report that the school has outrun its purpose.

(c) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (a) of question No. 389.

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—“With reference to the answer to clause (b), may I know for what purpose the school was maintained?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“For training teachers for elementary schools.”

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—“Arising out of the answer to the question, was it on the recommendation of the district board that the school was closed and the grant made by the Government was stopped or did the Government stop the grant themselves?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“The district board resolved to close the school. The Government did not stop the grant.”

The powers of District Secondary Education Boards.

* 434 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the recently constituted District Secondary Education Boards are purely advisory bodies and have no power to initiate schemes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in most cases the District Educational Officers who happen to be secretaries of the board do not place before the boards the facts connected with the distribution of grants; and

(c) if the Government have no information whether they will call for reports on this matter from the District Educational Officers of Coimbatore, Salem, South Arcot and Trichinopoly?

A.—(a) The functions of the boards are advisory. There is, however, no objection to the boards suggesting to the department or to the Government the desirability of adopting a new scheme. If such a suggestion is made, it will be duly considered.

(b) & (c) Under G.O. No. 24, Law (Education), dated the 5th January 1923, which has been placed on the Editors' Table, the advice and opinion of the boards are taken in the disposal of all applications for building and equipment grants to

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secondary schools and on such other matters relating to grants as may be specifically referred to them by the Government, the Director of Public Instruction or the District Educational Officer. The actual distribution of grants is made by the Director of Public Instruction.

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—"Have not District Secondary Education Boards been given the power to distribute the grants?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"The boards have not been given the power to distribute the grants; they have got only the function of advising. The power of distributing the grants is with the Director of Public Instruction."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Have they got the power of advising generally in all matters?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Yes, generally in all matters and specially with regard to the grant-in-aid."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know when the Grant-in-aid Code will be revised?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"That does not arise out of this question, Sir."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, in clauses (b) and (c) it is suggested that the District Secondary Education Boards should be given greater powers in the matter of these grants. Therefore I ask whether in revising the Grant-in-aid Code they will also take into consideration the enlargement of the powers of these boards with regard to the power of distributing the grants?"

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"May I ask the hon. the Minister for Education when he would think of placing these Secondary Education Boards on a statutory basis?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"When the question of the reorganization of secondary education was taken into consideration, some portions of the report dealing with the subject was referred to the Senate for its views. When these views are communicated to the Government the matter will be taken up for consideration."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Sir, may I know, how long it will take for the Senate to express its views?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"It is not possible for me to say how long it will take for the Senate to express its views."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"Sir, may I know whether District Secondary Education Boards were created for all the districts in the Presidency?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"I think, Sir, the district of Nilgiris has not got one such board and as such the information given by the hon. the Minister for Education is not correct."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"I am sorry it is so."

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Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know why members of the depressed classes who are really interested in secondary education are not nominated to these Secondary Education Boards?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"The question was already answered before."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I point out to the hon. the Minister for Education that he assured us that he would nominate some members belonging to the depressed classes and he has not yet done so?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"If there is a vacancy and if there is a member available, certainly I would consider that."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know the period for which these members are nominated, once in three years or five years?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Once in three years."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"When does the term of the present board expire?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"I am afraid I cannot give the date off-hand."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Why is the system of nomination resorted to in filling up the presidentship of these Secondary Education Boards?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"That is part of the constitution of the Secondary Education Boards?"

Teachers in private services and District Education Boards.

* 435 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that in cases where teachers in private services are served with notices to quit by the management, there is no appeal to the District Secondary Education Board?

A.—The answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—"Has the board control over all schools within its jurisdiction?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"All schools within its jurisdiction."

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—"Why should not such a power be given to these boards in cases where the management choose to dismiss arbitrarily any of the teachers?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"It will interfere with the judgment of the private bodies. They must have full freedom to making their own arrangements."

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—"Is the Board given the power of hearing appeals against the orders of private managements?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Yes, but the management will be consulted before any step is taken in the matter of allowing an appeal against their orders."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Will the hon. the Minister consider the advisability of consulting the Secondary Education Board and the Teachers' Associations also before consulting the management in the matter? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" That is what the hon. Member from Trichinopoly suggested. "

Linguistic division of the Province for purposes of Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Examination.

* 436 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government have in contemplation a division of this Province into four linguistic areas for purposes of Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Examination with different standards of efficiency according to the aforesaid linguistic areas?

A.—The Educational Reorganization Committee recommended against it.

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—" May I know the reason why the Committee recommended against it? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" When the report is published, I shall be glad to furnish a copy of the report to the hon. Member. "

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I know the names and the extent of the four linguistic areas? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" That is not the question, Sir. "

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Question 436 asks whether the Province is going to be divided into four linguistic areas for purposes of Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Examination and the answer says that the Educational Reorganization Committee recommended against it. I want to know, Sir, from the Government the names and the jurisdiction of these four linguistic areas which are recommended against by the Educational Reorganization Committee? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" They did not specify the areas but they only gave the number of linguistic areas. "

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—" What is the opinion of the hon. the Minister for Education in the matter? "

Co-operation.

Reorganization of Co-operative Department.

* 437 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the scheme regarding the reorganization of the Co-operative Department has been published and whether it has been approved of by the standing advisory committee;

(b) whether he will publish the proceedings of the said committee on the subject;

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(c) whether he will invite public opinion on the scheme before it is brought into force;

(d) whether it is a fact that the scheme provides for the gradual reversion of the Deputy Collector-Assistant Registrars and their substitution by new recruits;

(e) the qualifications prescribed for Assistant Registrars (vide interpellation No. 1335 of the last session of the Council);

(f) whether it is a fact that provision has been made in the scheme to recruit men for the post of Assistant Registrars from outside the Co-operative Department;

(g) whether such recruitment from outside adversely affects the prospects of the existing subordinates of the Co-operative Department;

(h) whether there are enough qualified men in the Co-operative Department for being appointed to the posts of Assistant Registrar;

(i) whether the scheme provides for two cadres, viz., Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars; and

(j) whether he is aware there has been public agitation in favour of appointing Deputy Collectors to be in charge of sections?

A.—(a) & (b) The scheme was placed before the Standing Advisory Committee. It has not yet been published.

(c) No.

(d) to (i) As the scheme has not yet been sanctioned, these questions do not arise.

(j) No.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, the answer to clause (c) is a laconic 'No'. May I ask the hon. the Minister whether it is due to the fact that the hon. the Minister thinks he is self-sufficient with regard to knowledge of co-operation or whether he does not care for public opinion? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" It is purely an administrative question and it has to be considered by consulting our officers. "

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, it is apprehended the Reorganization proposal will increase the charges of administration. If so, is it not a matter of public importance and is it not desirable that the hon. the Minister for Development should consult public opinion in the matter? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" Sir, as a result of the reorganization, there has been some decrease. "

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Will the hon. the Minister publish the scheme so that we can see whether there has been actually a decrease and how the decrease has been brought about? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" Orders have been issued two or three days ago. "

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" When will the scheme be published, and when it is published how will it be available to us? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" It is placed on the Editors' Table, Sir. "

[16th March 1925]

Resolutions of Provincial Co-operative Conference.

* 438 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Provincial Co-operative Conference at Madras on the 23rd December 1924 and also the Malabar District Co-operative Conference, in December 1924, passed resolutions advocating the discontinuance of the system of appointing Honorary Assistant Registrars and advocating the subsidizing of co-operative unions and propagandist agencies from the savings effected from the abolition of the system of Honorary Assistant Registrars;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal now before Government to appoint one Honorary Assistant Registrar for each co-operative union in the Presidency;

(c) the cost for the travelling allowance and the pay of the peons of the Honorary Assistant Registrars in the Presidency for the co-operative year 1923-24 and the estimated cost for the scheme if additional Honorary Assistant Registrars on the basis of one for each co-operative union were to be sanctioned; and

(d) whether the above resolutions of the two conferences named have not found favour with the Co-operative Department or with the hon. the Minister?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The Government have no information.

(d) The Government have yet received no report from the Registrar nor have they arrived at any decision.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have found the appointment of these honorary assistant registrars useful in any way?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"The question is under consideration, Sir."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"With reference to the answer to clause (d) stating that Government have not yet received any report from the Registrar, may I point out that the Conference was held in December last and the question has been answered in this way by the hon. the Minister more than once? Is it not rather unfair that the Registrar should have kept the hon. the Minister ignorant of the resolutions which were passed at those conferences?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"Unofficially he stated he has sent the report."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether any new honorary assistant registrar was appointed this year?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"No, Sir."

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Industries.*Inspector of Industrial Schools, Madras.*

* 439 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inspector of Industrial Schools under the Director of Industries, Madras, has no University qualifications and is the holder of certificates of the type issued by the School of Arts and Crafts; for what work he was originally recruited and why he was transferred from Educational to Industries department;

(b) the number of days the Inspector of Industrial Schools remained at headquarters during the current year and the work actually done by him whilst at headquarters;

(c) whether the hon. Member will place on the table his inspection notes, if any;

(d) the subjects on which this officer offers guidance to the Government aided industrial schools and the qualifications he possesses in those subjects in which he is supposed to offer expert advice;

(e) whether the Government is convinced that there is sufficient full-time work for such a costly officer; and

(f) whether the duties of this officer cannot be undertaken by the Director of Industries during his tours, assisted by the various highly qualified experts who hold British University qualifications, have considerable practical experience in the arts taught in the schools and are themselves Presidency touring officers?

A.—(a) & (d) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 709 at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 13th October 1924. A list of industrial schools and the subjects taught in them is appended to the annual administration report of the Department of Industries which has recently been placed on the Editors' Table.

(b) From 1st April 1924 to 1st February 1925 the Inspector was on tour for 76 days on inspection duty. The remainder of his time was spent at headquarters in the performance of the duties of his post which comprise inspection of four full-time aided schools and two part-time trade schools within the city, control of the Madras Trades School and its branch at Perambur, conduct of correspondence on behalf of the Director of Industries with the correspondents of schools and the Government Industrial Institute, Madura, and assistance to the Director in the administration of the four scholarship schemes sanctioned in the department.

(c) The Government do not propose to place the inspection notes on the table.

(e) Yes.

(f) No. The touring officers at the disposal of the Director are the Industrial Engineer and the Textile Expert who are fully occupied in their own duties.

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Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya:—"Sir, in answer to clause (a) I am referred to the answer to question No. 709 delivered at the meeting of the Legislative Council, dated 13th October 1924. May we pass over this question to-day and have it to-morrow?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"I have no objection, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member will be at liberty to put supplemental questions to-morrow."

[For further supplementary questions please see page 95 of the Proceedings of the 17th March.]

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Forests.

Number of acres of forest area disafforested.

440 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the number of acres of forest area disafforested in each district since the 1st of January 1924?

A.—The information is appended.^a

Jails.

Flushing system in jails.

441 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: With reference to the answer given to a supplementary question regarding the flushing system in jails in connexion with question No. 1237, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state if any decision has been arrived at and if so, to what effect?

A.—The flushing system has not been introduced in the jails in this Presidency partly on financial considerations and partly owing to insufficiency of water. Plans were prepared for the introduction of the system in the Penitentiary, Madras, but effect could not be given to the scheme for want of funds. Owing to scarcity of water a similar proposal in connexion with the Central Jail, Cannanore, had recently to be abandoned by Government.

Labour.

Labour unions in the Presidency.

442 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a list of labour unions in the Presidency giving full particulars about them as far as they are available?

A.—A list^b of labour unions in the Madras Presidency is placed on the table. In view of the difficulty experienced in getting information regarding the unions and owing to frequent changes in the personnel of their office bearers, the list may not be accurate and complete.

^a Printed as Appendix II on page 75 infra. ^b Printed as Appendix III on pages 76-77 infra.

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Irrigation.

Supply channel from Araikulam odai, Tinnevely district.

443 Q.—Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the scheme for the excavation of the supply channel from Araikulam odai to Periyakulam tank in Ottaipidaram, Tinnevely district, is;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scheme has been under investigation for the last 28 years;

(c) the reason for the inordinate delay in undertaking the scheme;

(d) the time even approximately within which the scheme will be sanctioned by the Government; and

(e) whether the Government received a petition from the ryots of Ottaipidaram in August 1924 regarding the reconstruction of a dam to regulate the supply of water between Periyakulam tank in Ottaipidaram and the Jemin Salikulam tank close by; and what order they passed thereon?

A.—(a) The preliminary report and estimate for a separate channel to Ottaipidaram Periyakulam drawn up by the Executive Engineer is under correspondence between him and the Superintending Engineer.

(b) & (c) No; the scheme was abandoned in 1913 as the scheme appeared unlikely to prove satisfactory. But on a further representation it was decided to take gaugings of the Araikulam odai to determine the supply of water available. These gaugings were being taken from 1914. Considering the doubtful nature of supply in the odai it was quite necessary to continue the gaugings for a number of years to arrive at satisfactory data for the supply available.

(d) Till the preliminary estimate and plans are received and scrutinized by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, it is not possible to say if and when the scheme will be sanctioned and taken up for execution.

(e) Yes. The petitioners have been informed that a scheme for a channel all to Periyakulam tank from the Araikulam odai is under consideration and that the proposals made by the petitioners cannot now be considered.

Public Health.

Certain remarks of the Collector of Bellary in the visitors' book at the Harpanahalli dispensary.

444 Q.—Mr. P. Srva Rao: Will the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. A. C. Duff, the Collector of Bellary, made the following insulting remarks in the visitors' book maintained in the dispensary at Harpanahalli when he visited the place in May last this year: "People here love filth and dirt; it would be a pity to deprive them of their pleasure" or some words to that effect;

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(b) whether the president of the union board of Harpanahalli has complained to the Government against the use of such language in the visitors' book; and

(c) if so, what action the hon. the Minister proposes to take in the matter?

A.—(a) The exact words used by the Collector were—

"I suggested that an effort might be made to collect funds to endow a hospital but the idea is obviously anathema to the local people. They would much rather die as they do at present from cholera which is in the town now, plague which visits it almost yearly and the filth diseases. They have no water in the place fit to drink and the local board and union are not enough interested to secure a protected supply. Guinea-worm is a local cause which could easily be prevented, but no one cares. I think the dispensary might as well be closed and the midwife sent elsewhere. Obviously neither institution is wanted. The union which is a large one is abominably filthy and the people seem to enjoy their dirt and their disease. It is perhaps a pity to deprive them or try to deprive them of their pleasures."

(b) No complaint has been received from the president of the union board, Harpanahalli, on the subject.

(c) The question does not arise.

II

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE TO DISCUSS THE REFORMS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, under Standing Order No. 20 I beg to move an adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of public importance, viz., the report recently made by the Muddiman Committee regarding the Reforms and expressing the opinion of the Council that the report is very unsatisfactory. I leave it to you to fix the time when this will be taken up."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The form of the motion must be 'to move an adjournment of the business of the Council' and not 'to move an adjournment of the Council'. Between the two forms there is some difference."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I shall make the necessary corrections in the copy of the motion I am submitting to you, Sir."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, a point of order which I wish to suggest for your consideration is whether the last few words of the motion of my hon. Friend are quite in accordance with the conventions of the Council. My recollection is that the motions of this kind we have had hitherto were merely for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance; they have never anticipated the particular opinion which the Council was to be asked to express, as my hon. Friend has done in the present case in the last few words of his motion. I want to suggest to you, Sir, the question whether the last few words might be omitted."

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* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I am entirely in your hands, Sir. Unless there is this last sentence, it may give the impression to the world that we are in favour of this report. We want to express our opinion that it is very unsatisfactory. I am not anxious that the report should be simply discussed, in which case it would not be possible to know whether the House was against it or in favour of it unless one goes through the debates."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" If the hon. Member has no objection, I would recommend him to omit the last few words stating that the report is very unsatisfactory."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" All right, Sir."

* Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I have also given notice of a similar motion for adjournment on the same subject."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have received the informal notice given by the hon. Member. If this motion is taken up, he will have an opportunity of joining in the debate."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I think that the words
11-30 a.m. 'unsatisfactory nature of the report' should go in in the adjournment motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The object of the adjournment of the business of the Council is to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance. I think it would be advisable not to prejudge the result of the debate."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I said I was entirely in your hands. However there is always this difficulty: supposing the House desires to vote by a majority that the report of the Committee is unsatisfactory, but that the motion is talked out, unless we say in the motion itself 'to discuss the unsatisfactory nature of the report', we cannot express our disapproval in any other manner."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It will be evident from the nature of the debate, what the House is inclined to do. If the adjournment motion is carried, it will *ipso facto* mean that it is carried in favour of those who have supported the motion. I do not think any other construction could be placed upon it."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" The motion to be discussed should be a matter of urgent public importance. The reason for bringing this motion under the category of public importance is its unsatisfactory nature. That is why I want that the words 'unsatisfactory' should be inserted before the word 'report'."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have no objection to the insertion of the word 'unsatisfactory' before the word 'report'."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Thank you very much."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order and I shall read the statement."

'To move the adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the

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unsatisfactory report that has been recently made by the Reforms Enquiry Committee and expressing the opinion of the Council that the report is very unsatisfactory'."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I suggest that the last few words 'expressing the opinion of the Council, etc., may be deleted and the motion then brought into conformity with the adjournment motions that have been moved previously in this House."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Those words may be omitted."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have to ask whether the hon. Member who has moved this motion has the leave of the House. (After a pause) Since objection is not taken I announce that the motion will be taken up at 2-30 p.m. this afternoon."

III

ACTS ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

The hon. the President announced that the following Acts which were passed by the Madras Legislative Council received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the dates specified against each:—

The Madras Civil Courts (Amendment) Act ... 27th February 1925

The Madras District Municipalities and Local
Boards (Amendment) Act ... 4th March 1925

IV

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

The Secretary laid on the table—

^a (i) G.O. No. 115, Finance, dated 13th February 1925, regarding the election of Mr. Muhammad Moosa Sait as a member of the Finance Committee;

^b (ii) G.O. No. 291, Development, dated 25th February 1925, recording balance sheet, etc., of the Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, for the quarter ending 30th September 1924; and

^c (iii) Proceedings of the seventeenth meeting of the Finance Committee for 1924-25 held on Tuesday the 3rd March 1925.

^d 2. With reference to the answer given to question No. 1036 at the meeting of the Council held on the 21st October 1924, the Secretary laid on the table a copy of question No. 187 asked at the meeting of 20th August 1924 with the answer thereto.

^e 3. With reference to the answer given to the last supplementary question to question No. 1279 at the meeting of the Council held on the 3rd December 1924, the Secretary laid on the table orders of Government, No. 3593, Law (General), dated 18th December 1924, on the enquiry conducted by the hon. Mr. Justice Wallace about the territorial readjustment of jurisdictions of civil courts in Chittoor and North Arcot districts.

^a Printed as Appendix IV at page 77 infra.

^b " Appendix V at pages 78-86 infra.

^c " Appendix VI at pages 86-88 infra.

^d Printed as Appendix VII at pages 88-89 infra.

^e " Appendix VIII at pages 89-90 infra.

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V

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Sir, I beg to move

'that with a view to the constitution of a committee on Public Accounts for the year 1925-1926, this Council do proceed on a date to be fixed by the hon. the President to elect seven members to be members of the said committee'."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I fix 2 p.m. on the 17th March 1925 as the time by which nominations of candidates should be sent to the Secretary with reference to Regulation II of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote."

VI

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Sir, I beg to move

'that in accordance with Resolution No. 17 passed at the meeting of the Council on 1st April 1921 regarding the constitution of a Finance Committee this Council do proceed on a date to be fixed by the hon. the President to elect six persons to be members of the Finance Committee for the year 1925-26'."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I second it."

MR. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I think it would be convenient if I were to offer a suggestion to the hon. the Finance Member as regards the proceedings of this Finance Committee and I believe this is the proper place at which it would be relevant for me to offer any such remarks. We are all aware that the proceedings of the Finance Committee are published and circulated to hon. Members of this House. In these proceedings only the bare subject-matter is given, viz., whether the vote given on a particular item of business was a majority vote or unanimous vote. I have observed the procedure adopted elsewhere and hon. Members who have had an opportunity of looking into the proceedings of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Assembly would have been particularly struck by the very voluminous reports which are published by that Committee time and again. That Finance Committee performs functions somewhat similar to those performed by our Finance Committee. I am aware the Finance Committee of the Legislative Assembly publishes, not the bare subject only; but a full extract of all the papers placed before the Committee is incorporated in the body of the report and in a very rapid manner these proceedings are printed and circulated to the other Members of the Assembly. It seems to me that it is somewhat a handicap to those who are Members of the Finance Committee that their bare opinions should be circulated to their Colleagues in this House without giving them an idea of the functions which the former had to perform and the circumstances under which they were induced to vote in a particular manner. Without these materials it is not possible for a Member of this House who is not a Member of the Finance Committee to find out the circumstances in which his Colleague voted on a motion in a

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particular way. I am aware that there has been discussion in the last Council on this subject when I believe the Government raised the objection that it might not be possible for them to publish certain confidential papers which are placed before the Finance Committee, and it would be very undesirable to place before a large Council and the world at large those confidential papers. I venture to think a great many papers placed before the Finance Committee cannot even by a stretch of imagination be called confidential and I do think it would be in the interests of the Members of the Finance Committee especially of the Finance Department and the administrative department as well if some papers which cannot be considered to be strictly confidential were incorporated in the proceedings of the Finance Committee. In any case that is the practice obtaining in the Finance Committee of the Legislative Assembly. An extract of all the papers placed before the Finance Committee might, I venture to think, profit the Finance Department as well as the administrative department concerned. That is all I have to offer by way of suggestion to the hon. the Finance Member."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I am perfectly prepared to consider the question. As a matter of fact most of the papers which are placed before the Finance Committee are concerned with schemes for which, if they mature, funds have to be provided and they are formally explained to the House by the Members in charge. There may be occasions on which the Finance Committee wish to have the reasons for their decisions published to the Council and I think it is quite reasonable to consider such cases. But it is difficult for me on the spur of the moment to give an absolute and definite answer to the hon. Member's proposal."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I would suggest to the hon. Member from Chingleput to raise the question again at question-time after the Committee has been constituted."

The motion was put and carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I fix 2-30 p.m. on 17th March 1925 as the time by which nominations of candidates should be sent to the Secretary with reference to Regulation II of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of single transferable vote."

VII

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT FOR 1924-25.

11-45 a.m.

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"Sir, I beg to move

that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 4,58,000 under "Pensions—Superannuation allowances and pensions" for the year 1924-25.

"I may explain, Sir, that it is extraordinarily difficult to anticipate what the expenditure under this head in the year will be. There are many causes which have brought about a large increase in the pensions in the last few years and it has been found impossible to make very accurate estimates at the beginning of the year. We are guided entirely by the figures which the Accountant-General gives us and we base the estimates on the expenditure in the previous year, making provision for what may be regarded as normal growth in the pension list. In the last few years the pension rules

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have been altered very considerably and a good many persons have become eligible for larger pensions than before. Also there have been increases in pay and the introduction of time-scales of pay has automatically raised the amount of pension to which officers are entitled. To a smaller extent, in this year, the increase is due to additional pensions having been granted with retrospective effect to certain sub-judges who became eligible for the concession under the orders of the Secretary of State. The revised estimate, as hon. Members will see at page 348 of the Budget Estimate, is for Rs. 4,60,000 in excess of the original estimate for the year. A small portion of this amount has been found by reappropriation and therefore the supplementary grant asked for is Rs. 4,58,000."

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"May I know from the hon. the Finance Member whether this includes gratuities and compassionate allowances too? They are detailed under 'pensions' here. These allowances are not to be called, strictly speaking, as compassionate allowances, for when an officer serves the Government he earns not only his salary but also his pension. If an officer serves for 30 years and retires he gets his pension. If after a service of thirty years he dies, his family ought to get his pension, and ought to have a claim on the Government for it. That is what we allow in the Corporation of Madras. Moreover, when an officer serves us for one year we give him a gratuity of one month's pay. This custom is followed in all the Native States, for instance, in the State of His Exalted Highness the Nizam, which ensure the deceased officer's pension being paid to his widow and children. In our case, the allowance is called compassionate allowance and it is left to the Government to give it or not. I request the Government to include the compassionate and gratuity allowances under the demand and I think the Council will, if necessary, vote for a larger sum."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I am afraid, Sir, that the question hardly arises on this motion. It is now the 16th of March and the supplementary demand only refers to the anticipated additional expenditure in the year 1924-25. If the hon. Member will look at page 348 of the Budget he will see that the excess of Rs. 4,60,000 occurs entirely under the head 'Superannuation and Retired Allowances'. It is hardly possible now to consider such a complete revolution in policy as the hon. Member suggests. I am afraid that if a system of gratuities and widows' pensions were added the demand on the Council would come to something very much larger than what is here stated. At present I am only asking for a sum of Rs. 4,58,000 to make up the deficit under Superannuation and Retired Allowances."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"My complaint is that there are a number of applications from members of the families of deceased officers for the allowance which have not been disposed of. In fact provision is made for gratuities and compassionate allowances only to the extent of 0.92 lakhs and only an amount of 0.87 lakhs has been spent. Even the whole amount has not been spent. I refer to page 58 of the Budget Memorandum."

Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—"I have just got a doubt, Sir. If I remember right, the memorandum that was circulated by the hon. the Finance Member to us closed the Budget with 32 lakhs *minus* balance and now, the hon. Member is asking us to vote for an additional

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amount of Rs. 4,58,000. I wish to know whether the hon. Member is going to add this amount to the *minus* balance or whether there is any provision from which this amount could be drawn."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" This amount is included in the anticipated deficit of 32 lakhs."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" As regards the question raised by the hon. Member, Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar, I think, it is better for him to take another opportunity of raising it."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

VIII

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1925-26.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Before taking up the motions on the Budget, I have to inform the House that the Local Government have, under section 72 D (3) of the Government of India Act, indicated in italics in the Budget Estimates for 1925-26 those items in regard to which they are not submitting proposals to the House. They are ordinarily called non-votable items.

" Under sub-rule (2) of rule 29 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to fix one day as the minimum for the discussion of the motions on each of the following demands, viz., Land Revenue, Demand I; Education (Transferred), Demand XVII; and Civil Works (Transferred), Demand XXVIII; and half a day as the maximum for motions affecting each of the other demands. In working this allotment I propose to treat a day ordinarily as equivalent to five hours and half a day as equivalent to two and a half hours. But that definition will not apply to the total of ten days allotted; they are to be taken as ten ordinary days of sitting of the House.

" Neither the Rules nor the Standing Orders prescribe any time-limit for speeches to be made at this stage. I have, however, following the precedents of previous years, resolved to fix ten minutes as the time limit for an hon. Member who moves the omission or reduction of a grant or of an item of a grant and also ten minutes for the hon. the Member of the Government who has to answer the motion. All other hon. Members will have five minutes each.

" Hon. Members will kindly remember that under rule 29 (3), it will be my duty at 5 p.m. on the 27th March to put every question necessary to dispose of all outstanding matters in connexion with the Demands for Grants. The 30th March 1925 will be the day for the presentation of the supplemental, additional or excess demands."

Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—" May I know, Sir, when an adjournment motion intervenes, whether you treat it as extra or include it in the period of five hours?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The adjournment motion will not affect the subject then under discussion. To-day, for example, it will not affect the Land Revenue Demand. We shall probably have done one and a half hours of the time allotted for it by the time we take up the adjournment debate and three and a half hours will therefore be devoted to Land Revenue to-morrow."

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Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Will not the ten days limit be affected?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The ten days limit cannot be exceeded on account of any adjournment motion."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Supposing, Sir, there is a motion every day. It means four or five days."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Yes, it fully means that." (Laughter.)

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I make a suggestion, Sir, that we shall go on without lunch all these days? (Cries of 'No'.) I want the President's ruling."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The President has a very poor opinion about lunches. (Laughter.) But I should say as a matter of compromise that if there is any particular day on which we may want time, we may go on either without rising for lunch or with only half an hour. But, as a rule, I do not think that during this long sitting we should oblige the hon. Members of Government—for it is they that are particularly affected by this self-denying ordinance—to go without lunch."

Mr. P. L. MOORE :—" May I point out, Sir, that the lunch interval is not devoted entirely to lunch? But we use that interval for considering the very important points raised in the speeches of hon. Members in the forenoon. It is this fact that hon. Members should bear in mind."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar has my entire sympathy. But I am afraid the House is against going on every day without lunch."

DEMAND I—LAND REVENUE.

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move
"that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 254.51 lakhs under the head *Land Revenue Department*."

Motion No. 1.

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I move

"that the allotment of Rs. 10,800 for subdivisional establishments (on page 42 of the budget) be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

" Sir, in making this first motion for a cut in the budget estimates, I feel rather reluctant to speak more than a few words. For I remember this Council was described as a glorified debating society and my fears are that all the powder and shot that we charge against the Government might end in smoke. That, Sir, was the case with a large number of our important motions during the budget debates last year.

" Therefore, there will be no fear of my talking beyond the ten minutes fixed for my speech now. Secondly, I beg to observe that
12 noon. I make this motion in the interests of both the poor and the rich, more in the interests of the poor than of the rich. But my fear is that there is not much sympathy from the Government for the rich nowadays. This fear arises from the fact that recently we have been hearing so much said against the Bombay cotton magnates. Some seem to

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think that the rich are a curse to the country; that is a socialistic doctrine, but I am afraid that it has been propounded in this Council that we do not want the rich and that for the rich we must do as little as possible. However here I am concerned more with the poor of South Kanara, the poor peasants who have lost immensely through the floods of two years. I want to draw the attention of the hon. the Revenue Member to the resolution that was passed by this Council almost unanimously, without any contradiction, on the 19th of November last. It is printed in volume XI, page 454. The resolution is this:

'That in view of the extensive damage to crops caused in several parts of South Kanara and Malabar during the recent rains, this Council recommends to the Government that in case of single crop lands on which the crops have been destroyed, by the floods and in the case of double crop lands which have become unfit for the growth a second crop after the first crop is destroyed the land revenue be wholly remitted, and where a second crop has been grown after the destruction of the first crop the remission should be granted to the extent of three-fourths of the land revenue and that these remissions should be granted without any restrictions such as are embodied in the Board's Standing Orders, etc.'

"Now, this resolution was supported by several members from South Kanara, Malabar and elsewhere, and I may express the hope that this resolution will be carried out by the Government not only in cases where the whole crop has been destroyed but also in cases where the first crop is destroyed and a poorer second crop is raised. Now this principle stands to reason. The principle on which the land revenue assessment is fixed in Malabar and South Kanara is that the second crop is as a rule a poorer crop. The bumper crop is the one that is raised in the rainy season. Therefore the principle is that the assessment for the first crop is double that of the second crop and anybody who knows the conditions in Kanara and Malabar will see that this principle is based on facts and upon equity to the cultivator. Therefore when the first crop has been destroyed, even if a second crop is raised and though it is as good as the usual second crop, I submit that the remission should be to the extent of three-fourths or at least two-thirds. I want therefore to know whether the Government is going to carry out this resolution or not."

Khan Bahadur HAJI ABDULLAH HAJI QASIM SAHIB:—"I second the motion."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"Sir, though we passed a resolution in the Council in the month of November last, five months have passed and nothing has been done. The first flood came and submerged the crop only for a day or two, whereas for the second crop season, the flood continued to remain for 10 or 12 days, and so the damage done to the second crop is much more than that in the case of the first crop. I hear from a very reliable source that up to this time the officers concerned have not recommended even a pie of remission to the poor ryots. From my information I gather that people are not able to raise even 10 per cent of the crop. Such being the case, it is very unfair that no such remission has been granted, and the officers here are depending entirely on the officers on the spot, and the information that the latter have supplied may not be very accurate. So, I wish that the Government would make a statement to this House as to the reason why they have not granted any remission whatsoever and whether the facts of the case have been taken into consideration."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I wish to support this motion. The resolution was carried by this Council five months ago, and

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what is the use of this Council passing any resolution if the Government do not make even an attempt to give effect to that resolution? And after all, the resolution that was passed by the Council with reference to this particular matter was one that affects both the rich and the poor, the cultivators who form the backbone of the people as well as of the Government. And it is a very reasonable and modest resolution. I wish to know what attempts, what efforts, the Government have made to give effect to this resolution. There is no use in this Council passing pious resolutions and the Government ignoring them altogether."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Sir, I beg to associate myself with what has been said by the previous speakers in regard to this matter. We have passed a resolution in this Council to this effect nearly five months ago and we find that the assessment is being collected in the districts. So far as Malabar is concerned, I can speak with a certain amount of knowledge. The Government themselves admitted that the district has suffered very much owing to the floods. About 30,000 houses have been destroyed and the crops on 30,000 acres of land were destroyed; and about 5,000 acres of land were either silted up or washed away on account of the erosion of the floods. They also expressed their sympathy with the cultivators, but what do we find now? The Government are merrily collecting the assessment on these very lands that were destroyed by the floods and have not been improved. Most of them are still unfit for cultivation. It is therefore highly necessary that some relief should be given to those ryots. I would strongly recommend that the assessment on these lands should be remitted. It has also to be noted that the kist season is practically over and unless the Government make up their mind to render some help immediately, there will be no use. What the Government generally do under similar circumstances is this. If any assessment is recovered this year, and the Government subsequently make up their mind to give any remission, the Government adjust it at the next fasli. That sort of help won't do. The tenants find themselves unable to pay the assessment now. What is wanted is immediate help. It won't do if the assessment is recovered now and given credit to at the next collection season."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Sir, I may assure you that I have no feeling against the rich or against cotton princes or magnates, though I may say that that is not quite relevant to the question now before the House. We are accused of having done nothing, but on the contrary the Government has acted on the resolution of this Council and given remission on single wet crop lands on which the wet crop has wholly failed or lost on account of floods; on double crop lands on which the first crop has been destroyed by the floods and the second crop cannot be raised owing to sand or silt, we have relaxed the rule in the Board's Standing Orders and directed that remission should be given on portions of survey fields more than one acre in extent. So, Sir, I am rather surprised at Member after Member getting up and saying that we have done nothing, when these orders have been issued."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"As a matter of personal explanation, I may say that I am one of those who suffered from the floods and the Government have recovered all the assessment that is due from me."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am very reluctant to interrupt the hon. Member, but may I know the total amount that has been

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remitted both in Kanara and in Malabar? I wish to know the amount remitted in South Kanara and Malabar."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"It is impossible, Sir, now to say how much has been remitted. The remission is to be given by the Collector and the amount of remission cannot be known before the end of the year. We cannot say what the amount is that is remitted. We issued certain orders and the result can only be known after the year closes. I only wish to suggest that the Members should not so hastily assume that Government has done nothing at all. As to what has been said by the hon. Member who has just now spoken, I did not know from the speech that he owns any land in South Kanara."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I say that the motion relates to South Kanara and Malabar? I thought the hon. Member had read the motion."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I am replying to the hon. the Mover, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I say that the hon. Mover referred both to South Kanara and Malabar?"

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Well, Sir, I would first deal with the case of South Kanara and then come to Malabar. The only respect in which the Government has not met the recommendations contained in the resolution was in regard to the grant of remission on lands where the second crop was successfully grown. The reason why they did not do that was that in South Kanara there is no second crop charge. The whole assessment is compounded for the two crops, at the very favourable rate of one and a quarter the single crop rate, and this is done for the express purpose of doing away with the need for any remission. And during all these years the holders of these double crop lands—lands on which two crops are usually grown—have enjoyed the benefit of this rate. Really it is a question whether under ordinary circumstances they would be entitled to any remission at all. But owing to the damage done on the last occasion by the floods, the Government thought that concessions might be made, but where a crop has been grown successfully they did not see that it was fair to the general taxpayer that those who had the benefit of this extremely favourable rate all these years should be let off this year."

"As regards Malabar, the case is somewhat different; because in Malabar there is a charge for second crop and there the ordinary remission rules apply. Wherever there has been loss of crop, they will get the remissions ordinarily admissible. In reference to the circumstances of this year Government have sanctioned the grant of remission to lands rendered unfit by the deposit of sand or silt until such time as they are reclaimed, and the concession is also extended to portions of survey fields, provided the portion is not less than one acre in extent. The Government also made a further reference as to whether any further concession was necessary beyond the remission rules; the Collector replied that the second crop grown has been generally a bumper one and that there was no need for any further special concession. Lastly in regard to the complaint that the orders press hard on poor people in any way, I would suggest that the holders of double crop lands in South Kanara and in Malabar do not in any way appear to be poor people though I admit the word 'poor' is only a

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relative term. But still the people who suffer most are the labourers and remission will not benefit them in any way. I hope that the House will note that both in regard to Malabar and South Kanara we tried to do as much as we could with due regard to the holders of lands elsewhere who pay much higher rates. I would ask the House to remember that the rates of assessment in both these districts are very low as compared with those in other districts. The highest rate paid on double crop land in South Kanara is Rs. 8-12-0 and in Malabar Rs. 8."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"Sir, I have given notice of a similar motion. I just want to know from the hon. the Revenue Member what action has been taken on the resolution which has been unanimously passed by this House regarding the remission of the assessment in South Kanara and Malabar. I would like to know what amount of money has been remitted and what is the basis on which remission was granted. The hon. Member can give me information on this point. I shall consider it as sufficient."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I have already given the exceptional cases in which Government have ordered a remission in South Kanara. In other cases the ordinary rules of remission apply. The actual figure, we cannot have until the accounts are closed for the year."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"Cannot the hon. Member tell me at least the basis on which the remission was granted or at least the percentage on which the remission was made?"

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"If the crop was lost in a whole field, the total assessment was remitted."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"Sir, my information was to the effect that some of the janmis in South Kanara, who have actually lost their crops and who have been paying, for example, a sum of Rs. 384 as a sort of gift to the Government, had only a remission of Rs. 16. And so it is that I want some definite information."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I can only say, if the hon. Member can give me particular cases where such order was passed, inquiries will be made. We do not know of any such case."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"I referred to the rich because some of the landholders in Malabar are rich."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"May I say, Sir, that these assessments are borne by the tenants and not by the janmis? Though the patta stands in the name of the janmis, the assessment is paid by the lessee or tenant and not by the janmis who are supposed to be very rich."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"I referred to a case wherein I did not mention the name. That is the case of a landlord who has paid a large kist, and I know his lands were practically flooded and the crops destroyed. He has paid an assessment of rupees three hundred and odd. That is the case I mentioned to my hon. Friend, Mr. Gopalan. Out of those three hundred and odd rupees, he got a remission of only Rs. 16. That is a typical case that has happened in South Kanara. The majority of the people who have suffered are the poorer classes, either tenants or property-holders. My own point is with reference to the crops that have been destroyed. In the first instance, there are cases where the first crops are destroyed. Then we have cases in which second crops have been grown both in South Kanara and

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Malabar. We got certain amount of remission so far as Malabar is concerned. The hon. the Revenue Member admits that the assessment there is fixed so far as the second crop is concerned. With regard to the condition of South Kanara, we have normally good seasons. There may be little less rain or more. But, Sir, we have had floods of almost a devastating character for the last two years. This is an exceptional circumstance which should be treated with exceptional consideration and in the name of clemency and justice we claim this remission. I would therefore press for this resolution."

* Mr. E. W. LEEH :—" Sir, as I understand the hon. Member, he seems to complain not against the orders that were passed but that they have not been properly and adequately administered by the officers of the district. Then, if I may say so, if any case is brought to the notice of the Government where he thinks the rules have not been properly administered, I am quite sure that the hon. Member will be prepared to make intention of the orders clear."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" It is not a case of local officers not having carried out the orders but it is a case of remission being granted to double crop lands where the first crop has been a failure and there is raised the second crop which is admittedly a poorer crop and therefore we are asking for the reduction of the assessment in proportion. We have, for instance, two-thirds or three-fourths of the crops destroyed during the year and for the whole year we get only one-third. What I urge is that remission in such cases should be granted in proportion to the crop yielded. Therefore more as a principle to be adopted in all these cases, I say that the Government should grant proportionate remission. In support of this above principle a resolution was also passed five months ago, but the Government have refused to grant the concession. I would therefore press this point for the consideration of this House and ask the Council to vote in favour of my motion."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Well, Sir, now that my hon. Friend has told us that his case for granting proportionate remission is one of principle and not dependent on special circumstances, I hardly think the House will agree with him that people who have accepted and have been paying for so many years a compounded rate of one-quarter, a lower rate than elsewhere, can now demand this concession as a matter of principle. Government granted the other concessions in view of the very exceptional circumstances of the year and not on grounds of principle."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" The Government are in full possession of the details as to where all the crops were destroyed, what lands were washed away, and what lands have been silted up. Therefore instead of waiting for the ryots to put in their applications, for remissions, the Government can themselves ask the district authorities to give instructions to the tahsildars and other people to give remission in such cases as really deserve it."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I suggest that if a vote is to be taken, it can be done on the next motion for a reduction of Rs. 10; because it is after all only a token motion. This reduction by Rs. 1,000 is, I fear, a substantial reduction and if there is the idea of taking any vote at all that can be done on the next token motion for reduction by Rs. 10."

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* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" It is only a token reduction."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I point out, Sir, the spirit of it? What is the effect, whether it is Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 10? Whenever we reduce, the Government certify. Even if they do not certify, they do not give effect to the spirit. I would rather say that it is better that there is a reduction of Rs. 1,000. It will be a large sum. The larger the better. Reducing Rs. 10 is absolutely useless. The Government do not care a copper pie. They go on certifying. If it is a small amount, they are satisfied."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The Government do not certify; it is His Excellency."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" The departments concerned do certify. His Excellency is not going to certify without the advice of the Member. I do not think it wise to waste time in these petty things. Time after time, month after month, we are coming here and are wasting the public money, the people's money. I appeal to Government once for all to be serious over all these things. When the motion is carried, which I hope will be carried by a very large majority, it is for them to say afterwards through the mouth of His Excellency or, it does not matter through whom. Whether they accept the motion or not it is sure that they are going to come again with a supplementary demand. In the absence of such a declaration, I appeal to Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, to Mr. Gopalan and others to pass this substantial motion. After all, it is nothing. I therefore appeal to the Members of this House to vote for the reduction of Rs. 1,000."

"The motion for the reduction of the allotment of Rs. 10,800 for sub-divisional establishments by Rs. 1,000 was then put to the House and declared carried."

12-30 p.m.

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks demanded a poll.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" On a point of order, Sir, I thought you ruled that between your first statement 'I think the Ayes have it' and your second statement 'the Ayes have it', it was due to the House, if any one wants a poll to be taken, to keep shouting 'poll', 'poll'. If I am not mistaken, I thought that between the two statements that you have made now there was some interval, just for any one to demand for a poll if one is wanted. If no such demand is made, your declaring the result the second time decides the matter. I am raising this matter simply because I want a definite procedure to be adopted in all these matters."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The object of repeating it is not to enable hon. Members to call for a poll, but it is to enable them to know definitely what conclusion has been arrived at, whether it is the Ayes or the Noes that should have it. The repetition may be properly made when there is any doubt at all and it need not be made when there is no doubt. But as a matter of fact, it is always made. But that does not affect the right to call for a division as soon as the declaration has been made; because, the call for a division is not merely for the purpose of ascertaining whether the balance of the collective voices was for 'Aye' or for 'Nay'; but for ascertaining the views of individual Members of the House."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I was in fact thinking of a statement that you made to this effect on this matter."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I doubt very much if there was any such statement."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I shall be able to give the verification presently."

The poll was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

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| 1. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar. | 27. Mr. G. Rameswara Rao. |
| 2. " P. V. Gopalan. | 28. Sriman Sasi bhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 3. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 29. Mr. M. Seetayya. |
| 4. Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 30. " M. R. Seturatham Ayyar. |
| 5. " P. N. Marthandam Pillai. | 31. " J. A. Saldanha. |
| 6. " K. Prabhakaran Tampan. | 32. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 7. Rao Bahadur P. Raman. | 33. " V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. |
| 8. Mr. J. D. Samuel. | 34. " Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar. |
| 9. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 35. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 10. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 36. " K. Sarvarayudu. |
| 11. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 37. " K. Sitarama Reddi. |
| 12. " C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 38. " Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai. |
| 13. " T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 39. " M. Ratnaswami. |
| 14. Mr. P. Siva Rao. | 40. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 15. " K. Uppi Sahib. | 41. " K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 16. " P. C. Venkatapathiraja. | 42. Mr. R. Veerian. |
| 17. Dr. P. Subbarayan. | 43. Diwan Bahadur W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 18. Mr. A. Ranginatha Mudaliyar. | 44. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimbachari. |
| 19. " S. Satyamurti. | 45. Mr. T. M. Narayanawami Pillai. |
| 20. " T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. | 46. Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-Jah Sahib. |
| 21. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. | 47. " Haji Abdulla Haji Qasim Sahib. |
| 22. Mr. A. Chidambaram Nadar. | 48. Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib. |
| 23. " C. Gopala Menon. | 49. " T. M. Moidu Sahib. |
| 24. " S. Muttayya Mudaliyar. | 50. " Muhammad Quadir Muhi-ud-din Sahib. |
| 25. " P. Peddiraju. | |
| 26. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. | |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 8. Mr. P. L. Moore. |
| 2. " Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 9. " S. Arputhasami Udayar. |
| 3. " Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivaganam Pillai. | 10. Rai Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. |
| 4. " Mr. R. A. Graham. | 11. Mr. P. W. Partridge. |
| 5. " Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks. | 12. Sir James Simpson. |
| 6. Mr. R. W. Davies. | 13. Mr. T. M. Ross. |
| 7. " E. W. Legh. | 14. " H. B. Ari Gowder. |
| | 15. " N. Devendrudu. |

59 hon. Members voted for and 15 against. The motion was carried

Motion No. 2.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"I beg to move

'for the reduction of the allotment of Rs. 7,300 for allowances by Rs. 2,000.'

"Sir, the budget for 1924-25 provided for the revision of adangals for the three districts of South Kanara, Malabar and Kistna. This year they intend to revise the adangals of South Kanara only. For that I think a sum of Rs. 5,300 only is necessary. That is the object of my motion, Sir."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Sir, the demand of Rs. 7,300 is to pay the allowances of the officers employed on the revision of registers in South Kanara. I do not quite understand the ground on which the hon. Member proposes the reduction. After all, it is a very small staff and there

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are only one or two parties and it does not seem to be too large a staff for the whole district. But it is a matter for the House to decide."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"I do not press the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 3.

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Sir, I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 2,24,900 for pay of establishments--Central Survey office--be reduced by Rs 100'

"I commend the motion for the consideration of the House and I want to bring it to the notice of the hon Member in charge of Survey and Settlement the immediate necessity of undertaking the survey of Bodokhimidi estate in the Ganjam district. I want to bring to notice also the fact that this estate has been under the management of the Court of Wards for the last two and half years and more. Under section 164, sub-section (1), it has been laid down that the Government have to undertake the survey of an estate whenever it happens to be under the Court of Wards. I am sorry to say that it has been under the Court of Wards for such a long time and nothing is done. We have represented and the ryots of the estate have also represented and still the wheel of the Government has not moved in the direction in spite of promises that they would undertake it as soon as possible. Again, Sir, a survey should not be effected without effecting a record of rights. I would therefore request the hon. the Member in charge to think for himself the necessity of effecting a record of rights along with the survey operations.

"I would in this connexion bring to his attention a representation made by the District Zamindars and Ryots Association, Ganjam, on this question to the Estates Lands Act Committee that was appointed last year. In page 2 of the memorandum they say that 'survey alone should not be granted without its necessary concomitant the record of rights'. Mere survey helps the zamindar to ascertain the extent of lands and it brings a lot of trouble and inconvenience to the ryots and they are therefore exposed to the harassment of the landlords. I would therefore request the Government to effect a survey and along with it sanction the preparation of the record of rights'

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Sir, although this is an item that appears under Revenue this is a matter which in fact comes under my portfolio. My hon. Friend has given us his reasons why the consideration of the question of survey and preparation of a record of rights in a certain estate, viz, the Bodokhimidi estate in Ganjam, is desirable. But he omitted to refer to the essential factor in the whole matter as to who is to pay for it. He refers us to the Estates Lands Act under which the Government, not 'shall' but 'may' order a record of rights to be made. A survey and record of rights have to be made under the Madras Survey Act, chapter III, and I would invite attention to section 19, which lays down that the charges incurred in that connexion 'shall be recoverable from the estate.' Now, Sir, it is true that we have begun to make a survey. After three years we are faced by the unfortunate fact that the estate has not got money to pay for the rest of the survey. That being so, it is impossible to suggest that the Government should undertake the survey at the expense of

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the State. As soon as the estate's finances are such as to allow them to undertake this work, Government will be prepared to go on with the work already begun; but until that is the case, it is quite out of the question to suggest that the survey should be proceeded with."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"Sir, it was said that the Bodokhimidi estate has not got money enough for going on with the survey operations. From a recent Government communiqué I understood that some money of the Bodokhimidi estate was being lent to some other estate under the Court of Wards. If that be a fact, I do not understand why that money should be given over as loan to another estate. I wish to know whether there is not enough money in the Bodokhimidi estate to go on with the survey operations."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am sorry my hon. Friend is not able to refer me to the sources of his information. He may be right; but I have no recollection that any money of the Bodokhimidi estate was lent outside. I am going on the statement of the Agent to the Court of Wards, the Estate Collector Mr. Crombie who tells us that the financial position of the estate is at present not so flourishing as to allow him to undertake the expenses of survey. As I have already stated, the only obstacle in the way is want of money. But if as my hon. Friend suggests we have misunderstood the financial position of the estate, and if it is a matter of fact that it is in that happy financial position of lending money to other estates, I am quite prepared to look into it and if the money is available we will continue the survey."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"If there is money, and if, instead of lending it to other estates, the Government agree to undertake to continue the survey, we will be satisfied and will withdraw the motion."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"We have every intention of going on with the survey already started which was only stopped for want of money. So I need hardly repeat that as soon as money is available, we have every intention of going on with it."

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"The plea of want of money has been set up as an excuse."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I would suggest 'as an explanation'."

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"It may be an explanation and a plausible explanation too for the hon. Member. I may say, Sir, that when the zamindar died, he left about Rs. 2 lakhs—I am speaking subject to correction—and very little of it has been spent on irrigation works even in spite of representations both by ourselves and by the people of that estate to the hon. Member in charge of the Court of Wards branch as also to the Board of Revenue and to the District Collector. Nothing has been done. Now, we are told that there is no money for undertaking the survey. If that is the case, I would ask the Leader of the House whether he is not in a position to lend some money to the estate, and undertake the survey and the preparation of record of rights, as was done in the case of the zamindari of Sivaganga. If that is not done, when the estate is under the Court of Wards, the zamindar may not at all take it into his head to get the land surveyed or the record of rights prepared. I would therefore request

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him just to see whether it is not possible, whether it is not desirable, that Government should be a model zamindar, instead of going lower down and not doing things which any good zamindar would have done."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid I have not the information at hand which will throw light on the question of money that was available when the late zamindar died. My hon. Friend says that no irrigation work has been done. I am surprised to hear it. (Sriman Biswanath Das: 'Very little.') So far as I can see at present, the difficulty which faces the Court of Wards is want of money, and if that problem of want of money can be solved either by improvement in the condition of the estate, or as my hon. Friend suggests by the borrowing of money, I am perfectly prepared to go on with the survey."

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"With the assurance given by the Leader of the House I withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 4.

* Rao Bahadur C. NAIESA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 2,24,900 for pay of establishments be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"Sir, my only object in tabling this motion was to get information as to how vacancies are filled up in those offices. There are about 200 employees who are thrown out as a result of retrenchment; most of them have put in a service of 10 or 15 years and have large families to support; some are actually starving. I only request Government that in filling up vacancies they will see that men already thrown out are taken in according to their seniority."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"If that is the purpose of my hon. Friend's motion, I have no objection. At first I mistook the purpose of the hon. Member's motion. I thought he was going to enter into the communal question. I shall obtain the figures of those thrown out of employ and see whether they cannot be taken in as vacancies arise."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 5.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Sir, I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 28,800 for two Assistant Directors be omitted.'

"Sir, at page 45 of the Budget Estimates, the permanent Assistant Directors have been increased by two in the current year while the temporary Assistant Directors have been reduced by two. But though the number may be the same, still the reduction is under temporary Assistant Directors. The two temporary Directors may at any time be made permanent. If they be made permanent, there will be a recurring expenditure. I therefore object to the conversion of temporary Assistant Directors into permanent ones."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Perhaps I may clear the apprehensions of my hon. Friend if I explain that there has been no increase in the number of permanent Assistant Directors. Last year, two Assistant Directors were employed on the survey of estates—see page 46 of Civil

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Budget Estimate. They have been transferred from the survey of estates to the survey of Government villages. There has been no increase in the total number."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" That means that the money which under the last year's arrangement they were getting from the estates will not be paid now, and that the expenditure under ordinary revenue will be increased by these two Directors being put on regular work instead of survey of estates."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" They are on the permanent cadre."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Supposing there is a vacancy, will Government not fill it up? I do not want them to go away. Supposing by some chance there occurs a vacancy or these people go as deputy collectors, will Government not fill up that vacancy?"

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" It is with that object we are abolishing the leave reserve as opportunities occur."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 6.

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 1,99,700 for pay of officers (Survey and Settlement) be reduced by Rs. 1,111.'

"Sir, my object in doing so I have briefly explained in the note below. In the *Fort St. George Gazette* of 11th December 1924, some draft by-laws have been published under the Survey and Boundaries Act. I want to know whether these by-laws have already been given effect to, and I also wish to know whether this House will or will not be given an opportunity to discuss those rules. I myself have given notice of my intention to move certain amendments to these by-laws, e.g., with reference to the size and the fixing of the stone. I find also an attempt made to levy 4 annas for every stone planted by the Revenue officers. If I remember rightly, that was definitely objected to by the House and rejected. But it is re-introduced in the form of incidental charges for fixing the stones. I wish to know therefore whether this House will be given an opportunity to discuss these by-laws and express its opinion before they are given effect to by the Government."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" The rules have not been given effect to. Before they can be given effect to and become an Act, they must be laid on the table of the House, for two months, I believe. Meantime, suggestions and criticisms of the hon. Mover will be considered before the rules are placed on the table."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Now that I am assured that these rules will come up once again before this House, I withdraw."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 7.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 7,56,700 for pay of establishments (Survey and Settlement) be omitted.'

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"Sir, I have given notice of this motion, mainly for the purpose of raising the question of the introduction of a satisfactory Land Revenue Settlement Bill. I think I have already mentioned it, but still I may mention it again, in order to clear misapprehensions on anybody's part in this House. The object of my motion is to draw the attention of the Government and of this House to the urgent need there is for the introduction of a satisfactory Land Revenue Settlement Bill. If a Bill which is acceptable to this House is introduced and is passed, it will be readily granted there will be no need for the expenditure which is now being incurred by the State on those Settlement parties. So far as the history of this Bill is concerned, it is rather an unfortunate one. Sir, this House will remember that as early as 1919, the Joint Committee of Parliament recommended that a Bill should be introduced having certain features about it. The hon. the Leader of the House, throwing into the waste paper basket the spirit, if not the letter, of the recommendations of the Joint Committee, introduced a Bill and the Bill got the treatment which it deserved at the hands of the House—it was summarily rejected, every section of the House practically voting against it. The hon. the Revenue Member, speaking the other day on this matter, referred to the Joint Committee Report and told us that it simply contemplated the reducing into the form of a statute the existing rules. I have to join issue with him, and I have got also the paragraphs in the Joint Committee Report which contain those recommendations. They say 'They consider that they are impressed by the objections raised by many witnesses to the manner in which certain classes of taxation can be levied upon the people of India by executive action.' I take it, Sir, that it will be rightly understood that what they want is sanction of the legislature as opposed to the sanction of the executive. Then they also want a statutory limitation of the rates of assessment. More than all this, what the Joint Committee say is this: 'They consider that the imposition of new burdens should be gradually brought more within the purview of the legislature.' That is the main sentence in that recommendation on which I rely.

"The Joint Committee contemplated that the imposition of new burdens of taxation should be brought more within the purview of legislature. Therefore no Bill which merely seeks to give statutory sanction to executive orders can satisfy this House. Moreover, the Joint Committee also pointed out lower down in their report: 'The people who are most affected have no voice in the shaping of the system.' I take it therefore that what they want is that the people who are most affected should have a voice in the shaping of the system and it is therefore that they say that 'this is a matter which must be brought under the control of the legislature'. They wind up this paragraph by saying: 'The subject is one which probably would not be transferred to Ministers until the electorate included a satisfactory representation of rural interests—those of the tenants as well as of the landlords'. Sir, the point there is that this important branch of public finance, viz., land revenue, should be under the control of the people who have got to pay the revenue. The Joint Committee contemplate that before the subject is transferred this should be laid on a firm basis by a statute. At that time, I did not understand why they insisted upon its being laid on a firm basis by a statute. But in view of the enclosures to this Government's memorandum to the Reform Inquiry Committee which have recently been published, I find that the hon. the Minister for Education has made out this case, viz., that the fate of the Land Revenue Bill at the

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hands of this House was due to the fact that it was a Reserved subject; whereas if it was a Transferred subject it would have met with a better fate. I join issue with him there. I may say that even his party would not support any Bill granting that it is a Transferred subject, if it did not carry out the recommendation of the Joint Committee either in letter, or at least in spirit. Sir, I think therefore that the Joint Committee was right in saying that until this control of the people was made effective this subject ought not to be transferred. I do not know what the present Revenue Member's intentions are. But I think this House ought to tell him that he would be wasting his time and the time of this House if he is coming, as he said, next August, with a second edition of Sir Arthur Knapp's Bill. It is not going to be accepted by this House. We want, among other things, that the Bill should provide for a real statutory control of the assessment and the conditions under which the assessment could be increased. Whether it should be in the form of a permanent settlement in favour of the smaller ryots and periodical increases only in the case of the larger ryots is a matter which should be considered carefully, if and when the Bill comes before this House. In the meantime, I am making this motion for the express purpose of giving the Government an idea of the opinion of this House in this matter, viz., that we shall be satisfied only with a Bill which provides for an effective control by this House of the conditions under which assessment can be imposed or increased on ryotwari lands in this Presidency. For this purpose, I beg to move the motion which stands in my name to omit the allotment of Rs. 1,56,700 for pay of establishments."

* Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Mr. President, I take this opportunity of saying a few words on this motion. More than once this House by an overwhelming majority almost unanimously, if I may say so, have passed a resolution that until and unless the land revenue settlement policy is codified and put on a statutory basis, no resettlement proposals should be made and no increased rates should be introduced in any part of our Presidency. Now, Sir, I am very much grieved to observe that these unanimous resolutions of this House have been set at nought and increased rates of resettlement have been introduced in several parts of our Presidency—in Bellary, Anantapur, Tanjore, Trichinopoly and other places. I do not see any reason for this delay in codification. When all this round of settlements is completed, there is absolutely no need for any such legislation at all. What we were anxious most was that in the case of the pending resettlement, the principles of land revenue settlement should be applied and placed on a statutory basis. Sir, the Government on my humble suggestion appointed a committee to determine the principles on which the land revenue settlement should be based and that committee came to a unanimous conclusion. The Chairman of that Committee was the then Revenue Member, the hon. Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib. We came to the unanimous conclusion that resettlement proposals should hereafter receive the positive and affirmative approval of this House. But I am sorry, for some reason or other best known to himself, that most salutary provision was omitted in the draft Bill introduced by the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. It was introduced in that bald condition, and, as was observed by the hon. Member for the University, it rightly met with the fate it deserved. Now, I would ask the Government to consider how this policy of introducing resettlements has been carried out in our Presidency. First, I would speak about my own districts of Anantapur and

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Bellary. It is only in December last that we passed a unanimous resolution regarding the resettlement proposals in the Bellary district that the increase should be only 12½ per cent in the case of lands under the Tungabhadra channels and only 6½ per cent in the case of other lands. This was not seriously opposed by the Government, but on the other hand accepted by them. Now, I would ask what has become of the resolution of this House? Have the Government considered it and if so, what orders have been passed on it? I wish also to suggest that the same principle which we sought to apply in the case of the western taluks of the Bellary district in December last should be applied to the eastern taluks as well."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Sir, I do not know whether this is the suitable occasion for discussing the principles of the Settlement Bill. Of course, I am indebted to the hon. Mover for so clearly stating the views of the section of the House he represents and I assure him that the Government will give due consideration to them. I do not think that the Bill when it is introduced will show that there is quite so much difference between us as he seems to anticipate. I would suggest that we might reserve discussion on the subject till it is introduced. I may also add that I think he is rather misapprehending the purport of the remark which I made the other day. I do not want to pursue that subject, but I would merely point out to the House that so long as we have the ryotwari system, that is, the system in which the Government deals directly with so many small proprietors, it will be necessary for us to have an accurate survey in very considerable detail and that even if we are to have a permanent settlement of the ryotwari assessment, I do not think we can diminish the amount of survey work that we have got to do. As the question of revenue settlements is coming up separately, I would reserve my remarks on that subject to that occasion."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, the hon. the Revenue Member has made no allusion whatsoever to the resettlements recently introduced in some parts of the Presidency. As my hon. Friend Mr. Siva Rao pointed out, this House has in no uncertain terms indicated its view in the matter of the enhanced rates which the Government propose to introduce in regard to Bellary, Anantapur . . ."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"May I ask if the hon. Member is in order in discussing certain matters which are not included in this vote for survey?"

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, we are discussing the question of the introduction of the Land Revenue Bill and while on that matter I must point out that this House has almost unanimously resolved that until such legislation had been passed no resettlement rates should be introduced in any of the districts in the Presidency. I think this House has definitely stated that so far as the Bellary and Anantapur districts are concerned there should be no revision of the rates of assessment until a Land Revenue Bill has been passed. I would go further and say that the then Member in charge of the Revenue portfolio did say that the resettlement rates which had been introduced in these districts would be modified in the light of the Bill he had submitted to the House for consideration. I wish to know now from the hon. the Revenue Member whether he adheres to that opinion or not, viz., that when the Bill comes up before the House for discussion

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and for being passed into law he will revise the rates of assessment which have been submitted to him by the several Settlement parties in the light of the new Bill."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"In view of what has been stated by the hon. the Revenue Member, may I know whether we can discuss that question of settlement now, or only later on?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It would certainly be more convenient to discuss it when we come to the portion of the demand relating to settlement."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"In view of the statement of the hon. the Revenue Member that when the new Bill is introduced there would not be much difference between his point of view and mine, I would rather reserve my criticism to that occasion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 8.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"Sir, I move that the allotment of Rs. 30,000 for fixed travelling allowances be reduced by Rs. 5,000. Sir, under the head 'Fixed Travelling Allowances' I find an increase of Rs. 10,000 over the allotment of the previous year. The budget estimate under this head for 1924-25 was only Rs. 20,000 and that of the revised estimate is Rs. 23,000. There is thus a clear increase of Rs. 10,000. I want to know the reasons why the *fixed* travelling allowance is raised to Rs. 30,000. Is there any new principle introduced in the Travelling allowance rules or is this necessitated by the appointment of new officers? Further, just above this item, under the head 'Travelling allowance' the budget estimate for 1924-25 was Rs. 80,000 and the revised estimate is Rs. 1,07,500 and then again, the budget estimate for 1925-26 is Rs. 1,00,000."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It would have been better if the hon. Member had stated his intention in giving notice of his motion. Evidently, the Government had no notice of his intention."

* Mr. E. W. LEGH:—"If I understand rightly the hon. Member is objecting first of all to raising the provision under Fixed Travelling Allowance from Rs. 23,000 to Rs. 30,000. Is that correct?"

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"Yes."

* Mr. E. W. LEGH:—"I would point out to the hon. Member that although the amount shown is only Rs. 23,000 it has already been found necessary in the current year to obtain additional funds by appropriation for the sum required under this head."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"So the revised estimate is wrong, I suppose?"

* Mr. E. W. LEGH:—"The estimate was correct when the Budget was framed but since then more money has been allotted under that head."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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Motion No. 9.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"Sir, my motion reads thus:

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,05,000 for miscellaneous by Rs. 5,000.'

"Here again, under the head 'Miscellaneous' for the year 1924-25 only Rs. 60,000 had been provided though the revised estimate shows the figure as Rs. 1,20,000 which is double that of the budget estimate. This year a provision of Rs. 1,05,000 has been made. I wish to know why from that low figure of Rs. 60,000 it has reached this immense sum of Rs. 1,05,000? Is it also due to a mistake in the revised estimate or is it due to anything else?"

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"The provision in the budget estimate is to meet the charges debitable to the Government on account of survey of porambores and wastes."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member wishes to know why the revised estimate rose from Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 1,20,000."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I find that they did not anticipate that so large a sum would be required. They found afterwards that the sum required was larger than they expected it to be. Probably they should have budgeted for more."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"What are the different items of expenditure?"

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"The amount was required to meet the charges on account of the survey of porambores and waste lands and demarcation thereof."

* Mr. E. W. LEGH:—"The cost of survey of porambores and waste lands not given out to anybody cannot be charged upon any pattadar because there is no pattadar. That is one of the reasons for increase of charge under that head."

"It was not possible for us to estimate how much will be expended. A part of the increase is due to unforeseen expenditure under that head."

"Another reason is that we have to survey some lands which are receiving water from Government irrigation sources in Kistna district and those survey charges under the new Act fall entirely upon the Government and not on any estate. We cannot charge the estate-holder unless we survey at his request. This survey is done for the benefit of revenue. I think these two items explain the increased expenditure."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 10.

Mr. J. D. SAMUEL:—"I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 12,31,600 for Revenue Survey be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"I shall not say anything connected with settlement as it will be discussed by this Council later on. With regard to survey, most of the survey done is in connexion with resettlement or revenue operations. Now, this survey, land record, and all these put together, come to about Rs. 36 lakhs for year, and if for 30 years you continue them in order to get an increase of

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18½ per cent or 25 per cent, what does it work out? At the rate of 36 lakhs per annum for 30 years, it is 10½ crores. Ten and a half crores of establishment have to be kept up for about 30 years in order to get an increase of 18½ or 25 per cent of your land revenue which is about 7½ crores. Even if we get about 26 per cent we will get about 1¼ crores. In order to get that, we have to keep an establishment of about 36 lakhs of rupees per annum, most of it for the purpose of revenue operations. That is a matter which may be discussed more to the point when we come to 'settlement'.

"With regard to 'survey', I am informed by an important authority that the survey which is going on from year to year in so many districts has been done more than once and yet we are having survey again. One Collector remarked humourously 'the dacoits are coming.' A new scheme is put up. Nobody knows what is being done. The ryots do not know where they are. The karnams are in the same position. The subordinates have their own way, and it is the poor ryot that has to pay for all these.

"Moreover, I am informed by an important authority that this kind of survey is not accurate at all. It is not as accurate as the Imperial Survey and if the Imperial Survey took up the duties of making survey whenever it is necessary for the Government, we could have a much better survey and it would also be much cheaper. This is my humble suggestion and I hope that the Government would give us some information."

"The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Sir, the suggestion is that the work of the survey that is required to be done in Madras and that is now being done by the Survey department should be done for us by the Government of India Survey Department and it is said that it will be cheaper and better. I do not quite know on what data the hon. Member assumes that it will be cheaper even if it should be better. It is difficult to be brief in this matter; so the House will excuse me if I go into some details.

"The Madras survey is for the purpose of making a survey of lands, whether public or private. It is a cadastral survey. We have to make a survey of each revenue holding and we have to prepare a map for each field showing its area. From this, we prepare village and taluk maps and so on. The whole record is intended to be the basis of a record of property.

"The Government of India survey, on the other hand, is entirely different. It is a geographical survey. It is a topographical survey for making a picture of the country. They do not survey the boundaries of properties at all. They survey the natural features of the country.

"Our survey is entirely of a different nature required entirely for a different purpose and it is quite impracticable that one should, in any way, be attached to or form part of the other. I do not know if the Government of India would be willing to form survey parties to do our work; but I feel pretty certain that the Imperial party would certainly cost us a great deal more if they went into the same details, because we have got the benefit of the assistance of our village staff and local officials. I think my hon. Friend will see that whatever improvements may be possible in our survey, it would not do to go to a department which is doing topographical survey and ask them to do our work. I hope I have satisfied the hon. Member on that point."

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Mr. J. D. SAMUEL :—"Mr. President, Sir, a word in reply. When one party surveys plots *a, b, c*, and *d* and another party surveys plots *a, b, e* and *f*, I think the survey of plots of *a* and *b* will be much cheaper if it is done by one person.

"If this question is referred to the Imperial Department, I think the response will be against the hon. the Revenue Member because it is certain that it can do it cheaply; and it is also certain, I am informed by a responsible member of that department, that there is a proposal that the survey should be done by that department so that what is done here may be of use to them. Otherwise, this survey is of no use to the other and they have to do it again. I do not accept the remarks of the hon. the Revenue Member. But I do not wish to press the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The House then adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

II.—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE TO DISCUSS THE REFORMS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT.

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, as I have already given notice, I move the adjournment of the business of the House with a view to express the opinion of the Council on the unsatisfactory nature of the report submitted by the committee presided over by Sir Alexander Muddiman. I must be thankful to the House and to you, Sir, for having granted me permission to move this adjournment, especially when we are in the middle of the discussion of the budget. I may also express my gratitude to His Excellency the Governor for not having disallowed the motion on an important subject like this. Let us see what has been done in the Legislative Assembly and the Councils of the other Provinces regarding this report. In Bombay the Council passed a unanimous resolution, condemning the report, the Government members remaining neutral, practically immediately after the report was published. In the Punjab a similar motion has been made and no objection has been raised against it. Only for the sake of convenience the discussion on the motion has been postponed to the 18th instant. In the United Provinces also the same will be the case. But in the Legislative Assembly, Sir, we are nowadays getting curious things. The cart is placed before the horse, and the matter has been postponed to be discussed in August. As usual the Government of India is getting a little stiff; I do not know whether it is due to despair or to any other cause. Anyhow they seem to think that no purpose will be served from their point of view by having a discussion before August, by which time the Government of India will make up their minds practically as to what should be their attitude and by which time also the Viceroy would have had consultation with the Secretary of State regarding this report. It is rather curious, Sir, that the Government of India should have taken that attitude. I hope to carry this motion fairly unanimously in this House so that His Excellency the Viceroy may have an idea of the feeling of this Provincial Council with regard to this matter, and so that he might make it clear to the Secretary of State that so far as this Council is concerned at any rate, we will not be satisfied with anything short of complete provincial autonomy.

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"Coming to the report itself, I think it is superfluous for me to deal with its various recommendations at great length, because I am sure every one would have read it—both of the minority and of the majority. It has been published in the various newspapers and has now become more or less a matter of universal knowledge. It is therefore a mere waste of time to spend any long time over this question and I would also implore hon. Members on all sides of the House to express their opinion strongly though not necessarily at great length. It is only with that view that I have ventured to submit this motion to the House to-day.

"Sir, we need not go into the ancient history of the committee and its subsequent career. The Assembly and the country as a whole were against it. What the Assembly wanted was a thorough enquiry into the whole Act so that the whole Act may be amended and some advance made in the path of the reforms. What was wanted by the two resolutions of the Assembly on this subject is not given. I have heard of a legend about God Brahma. He has got a good aspect and a bad aspect. The good aspect always creates good things; the bad aspect always adds bad things. The good aspect of Brahma created the beautiful cobra, but the bad aspect of him added the poisonous fangs to it. The good aspect of Brahma created the beautiful scorpion, but his bad aspect added the venomous sting to it. The Assembly wanted some kind of committee or a conference which would help us in taking the next forward step in the path of the Reforms and they passed resolutions to that effect. The Government of India said, 'Alright, the Assembly and the country want some further reforms and they want a committee. Let them have a committee, but we will add a poisonous sting to it.' As a result, the unsatisfactory recommendations of the committee have far exceeded the anticipations of even the Government of India. As a result, instead of having anything which could be called an advance in the path of the reforms, we see recommendation after recommendation of this committee which take away even the little usefulness—if at all there is any—of the reforms that we are now having.

"I do not want to go in detail into the recommendations of the committee; but I may take one or two instances to show how they are of a retrograde character. This committee consisting as it does of lawyers and ex-lawyers seriously recommend that the High Court should have no jurisdiction over the Provincial Councils and the Presidents of the Councils and the Assembly. So far as the public are concerned it is always desirable—I say this with due respect to you, Mr. President, and to this House—to have such a jurisdiction though necessity may not arise in Madras and in other provinces for the intervention of the courts, in the exercise of the discretion of, or the interpretation of law by, the President or other important personages connected with the Council. It is desirable that there should be some provision by which the High Court and the other courts or at least the High Court can to a certain extent control the jurisdiction of these persons. The mere fact that there is some control will, with due deference to you and to many others I have mentioned, act as a check over their actions. Therefore, Sir, I submit, it is a highly retrograde recommendation to say that the courts should have no jurisdiction over these persons. I shall mention one other recommendation which, so far as its retrograde character is concerned, is of the highest magnitude.

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"The committee have recommended that the Ministers should receive the same salary as the Members of the Executive Council unless there is some special legislation for that in the Council modifying the salary of the Ministers. I submit, Sir, that so far as the Ministers are concerned the result has been fairly satisfactory. Wherever the Ministers have enjoyed the confidence of the Council their salaries have not been cut down except in the case of Madras and probably some other places where the hon. Ministers themselves have agreed to take a lower salary than what was allotted to them. I do not see any reason why, as a matter of principle, the Ministers in any Council should not abide by the wishes of the majority of the Council. The salary that is paid to the Executive Councillors is very high, considering the poverty of the country. Somehow or other their pay should be cut down, dignity and other questions apart. It will be setting up a good precedent in that direction if the hon. Ministers begin in this Council—and certainly others also in other Councils must follow—by agreeing to take a lesser salary. Then the Indian Members of the Executive Council also must be content to take a lower salary. Anyhow, there is absolutely no reason why the Ministers should not, for the time being, agree to receive a reduced salary if the Council unanimously or practically unanimously passes a resolution or indicates its will at any stage of the budget discussion whatever. I do not see any reason why the Ministers should not abide by the wishes of the majority of the members and why they should be precluded from accepting a lower salary without going through the formality of having a Bill introduced and passed into an Act. I would submit, therefore, that that recommendation of the Committee is of a highly retrograde character.

"I pass over the various other things. It may be said that even in this report there is one thing, viz., that if this Government were to take advantage of the recommendations of the majority of that Committee, this Government may have the department of Forests transferred to the Ministers. From my experience I am not sure whether any benefit will accrue as a result of this transfer. No doubt many of us have considered the question of transferring the department of Forests to the control of Ministers. There is no reason why Madras Ministers should suffer so far as the transfer of the Forest department is concerned, while Bombay Ministers enjoy this benefit. But I very much doubt whether a mere transfer of one department from one side of the Cabinet to the other would be of much use. I have been carefully looking into the Act and the rules and after all, if I may be permitted to say so, the whole thing is a mere difference in words and is nothing but a jugglery. His Excellency the Governor has practically full control over the Ministers and the Executive Council Members who are larger in number than the Ministers practically control the action of the Ministers. Over every department the Executive Councillors have got the authority. Above these Executive Council Members there is the Governor and above the Governor there is the Viceroy and above all these people there is the big gun, the Secretary of State. We have had a very sad experience of some subjects such as excise. I am told the Government of India has been dictating to this Government as to what it should do. I am informed by my friends in Delhi that the Government is taking an unfair step in controlling even the

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transferred subject. Anyhow I am afraid in the present state of our finances and in the present state of that most supreme, commanding and all powerful Finance Member whether our Ministers can do anything at all even if they get some more subjects transferred to their control. Therefore what might be said to be the only redeeming feature of this report is that it suggests the transfer of some subjects in various other provinces and if in this Province the Cabinet agrees to that proposal it is probable that the Forest department might be transferred to the control of Ministers. The Committee says that it shall ordinarily be possible that many subjects may be transferred to the control of Ministers. From this we may understand it is a mere change of words and nothing else. Therefore from any point of view this report is a great retrograde step and it is a slur cast upon us. It goes to show that even the people of the Madras Presidency are not fit to get any additional powers of autonomy."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Why 'even'?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, the majority report is very unsatisfactory. The Committee itself was appointed against the wishes of both the Assembly and the Provincial Legislatures. The terms of reference according to both the majority and the minority are very unsatisfactory. When the country wanted a little change in progress so far as the Reforms were concerned, the terms of reference show that there could be no real advance. It is therefore to announce to the country at large and also to the Viceroy and the Secretary of State that this Council are entirely against this report and there is absolutely no use taking action on any part of the report that I want to make this motion. I hope this motion will receive support practically from all sides of the House and from what fell from my hon. Friend Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar this morning I am becoming more and more optimistic. I have been saying, since the time when the Reforms were first introduced, that apart from the Act itself and the rules framed thereunder, the framers of the Act might have a good mentality and I was one of those who thought that after all, restricted as the powers given under the Act were, we might be able to do something good. In the second Council new Members were coming in and we thought that some tangible benefit would be done to the country. But unfortunately we see the same mentality even now and I may be permitted to say a worse mentality. Sir, we may sit here, pass resolutions unanimously and communicate them—to higher powers, and yet what is to be their effect? Perhaps they will be put into the gilded waste-paper basket of His Excellency the Viceroy and that of the Secretary of State. From all sides of this House opinion should be expressed strongly to the effect that if we are treated with contempt like this we shall think of taking a stronger step to prove our disapprobation of the action of the Government both in Delhi and in England. I think the only thing that we can do is—that is my personal opinion—that all the leaders should join together and that the Ministers should resign at once on condition that no other member of any party takes his place. Sir, it is not a question of any individual, it is not a question of party feelings, but it is a matter concerning the whole country. We can wait for our individual advancement. I think the whole House must arrive at a decision like this: that if the Government fail to act up to our recommendations and throw out the recommendations of the minority as

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a whole, there will be no Ministers so far as Madras Presidency is concerned. If only some such strong action is taken, we may expect something. We are aware that our Ministers have got strong feelings regarding this Report but what is the use unless they do something practical? Unless something tangible is done there is no hope of getting any further instalment of reforms. I appeal to the other side of the House to express themselves strongly in this matter and to place it above all communal questions. Curiously enough the majority report gives this communal question as one of the reasons which stand in the way of our getting further reforms, and that until this question is solved they cannot think of extending their concessions. Sir, communal questions always crop up everywhere. The Roman Catholics were unemancipated for centuries in England and yet it was no obstacle for the grant of representative institutions in England. So I appeal to the several members of this House and also to my Adi-Dravida and Muhammadan friends to express themselves very strongly in this matter that there should be no communal jealousies so far as this question is concerned. Apparently such jealousies should be treated as family matters and they should not stand as obstacles in the way of our demand for further Reforms. With these few words, I would strongly recommend this resolution for the acceptance of this House."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHEITIKAR:—"I believe none is so inexperienced with the political obstinacy of the Britisher in India as to feel disappointed with the recommendations of the majority report of Sir Alexander Muddiman's Committee. Indeed I would have been disappointed if the report were otherwise. I have neither heard nor known of the recommendations made by any Committee instituted by this Government at least approximated to the national demands and Sir Alexander Muddiman's Committee is fortunately no exception to that rule. It is perhaps necessary to recall under what circumstances this Committee was instituted. Without running the risk of traversing the chronological events which marked the birth of that Committee, let me say that in response to the insistent demand of the people of this country both in the Provincial Councils and in the Legislative Assembly and outside and also in view of the fact that the Dyarchical system of Government was at the point of breaking in some provinces while in some other provinces there was considerable dissatisfaction as to the manner of its working, that the Government agreed to institute a committee of enquiry to investigate into the defects and the difficulties in the working of this Act. Sir, it is an ancient complaint that the Government officials when they are forced to accede to any request of the people of this country begin with very high sounding declarations in the first part of the announcement and when they come to the second part they very cleverly and carefully hedge and circumscribe with a catalogue of halting phrases and expressions. With reference to the terms of reference to this Committee, while according to the first clause the Members are permitted to roam about and find out the defects in the working of this Act, in the actual recommendations they are compelled to restrict themselves to making recommendations in respect of things which are not opposed to the structure, the policy, and the purpose of the Act. Yet it is against the structure, the policy and the purpose of the Act that the country is revolting. It is therefore highly regrettable that the Members of the Committee who were responsible for this majority report did not foresee the effect of the recommendations on the public opinion

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of the country. Taking the recommendations as a whole they can be classified under three heads. Most of them are of a very indifferent nature and of very minor importance. One or two recommendations are reactionary to the extent that they strengthen the bureaucratic grip over this country and there are certain other minor recommendations which need not find room in this report. Sir, let me refer to the very first recommendation they made. They recommend that the powers of the Secretary of State and his Council over the Government of India should be relaxed.

“It was believed and it is the practical experience of every one here that whoever might be the party in power in England so far as Indian matters are concerned their influence is practically nil. Yet, I believe there is a section of my countrymen which still believes in petitions and appeals. To have this relaxation of the Secretary of State’s powers over the Government of India will be a certain step to make the Government of India more autocratic in that they are neither responsible to the Indian Legislature nor responsible to the Secretary of State for India who is in turn responsible to the great Parliament, whatever the effect of that Parliament may be on this country. To that extent it is a disappointment—to those who believe that we can get salvation by appealing to the party in power in England. Other recommendations pertaining to the immunity of the members of the Legislative Council from civil arrests and not from the security sections and relieving them from sitting as jurors or assessors, and granting franchise qualifications to women are in my opinion too minor to be recorded in this report. The suggested removal of the jurisdiction of courts over the powers of the President is, I submit, of doubtful utility in so far as we have now elected presidents in place of official. Hitherto whenever Indian interests were considered, whenever there was an attempt to give further powers to this country, it was the interest of the British trader in general that was consulted before the grant of any such privileges. For the last four or five years, however, the venue of interest has changed from the British trader to the civil servant. I have not come across any document published for the last five years which deals with reforms and which does not fortify the position, the emoluments, the increments and what not, of the civil servant. I submit, Sir, that so long as there is a tendency to strengthen the already strong position of the civil servant, there is no hope for this country in the matter of further reforms. It is true that when the committee come to the recommendations of transfer of one subject here and one subject there, they do so with great reluctance. Their reluctance is evidenced by the fact that their recommendations are circumscribed by appeals to the Local Government to find the possibility of a transfer here or a transfer there.

“I now come to the two recommendations, namely, of relieving the Finance Member of other duties, of being in charge of any other department and the recommendation to appoint a Financial Adviser to the Ministers. The first is at best an attempt to create an additional seat to another civil servant. The second is to increase the number of the C.I.D. inspectors over the Ministers. Beyond that, I see practically no usefulness in these two recommendations. I therefore have no hesitation in saying that the country feels sorely aggrieved at these recommendations and unless there is a genuine attempt

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made at conciliating public opinion by grant of further reforms, I believe the Government will have to face a very awkward situation.”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—“Mr. President, Sir, I think that this committee has practised a capital joke on the country at large by the publication of their report. The country wanted something substantial towards attaining responsible government. But the committee gave the country or recommended that the country shall get some exemptions, as that from serving as jurors or assessors. I say it is a capital joke in more than one sense. It is capital because there has been no worse joke practised on the country by the Government as yet than the present one. It is capital in another sense, namely, that there was a capital expenditure of Rs. 46,000 over this committee. So that the general taxpayers’ money has been spent—I will say wasted on this committee—for coming to such a conclusion and recommending to the Secretary of State and the Government of India seriously that these alterations shall be made. What the country really wanted was at least provincial autonomy for the provinces. That means that the reserved subjects shall be made fewer in number, that the number of Executive Councillors shall be reduced, that their subjects shall be transferred to responsible Ministers and that the Ministers shall so administer the subjects as to be responsible to the representatives of the country in this Council. What do we find in the report? We find nothing of the kind. We only have some eyewash here and some eyewash there. Is that what the country expected? Certainly not. And, Sir, we also wanted that provincial Governments shall be free from the financial control both within and also from without. The Finance Department is certainly a drag, I may say, on the further progress of the country in what are called the nation-building departments. From my limited experience on the Finance Committee, I found always that schemes recommended for the benefit of the people were put down as No. IV schemes which meant that they would not fructify in the near future. Again, Sir, the provincial Governments are also controlled by financial experts from outside, not only in the matter of their expenditure on capital works but also in their expenditure from the revenues. This was the minimum that was demanded as satisfactory in the present state of affairs. We find nothing of the sort conceded to us. So far as the Central Government is concerned, the matter seems to be even worse. As regards the actual recommendations, the recommendations are before the country; they are quite fresh in our minds and I ask whether any reasonable person who has got any interest in the welfare of this country, who has got any stake in this country and who thinks that this country should advance, will be satisfied with the recommendations. There can be only one answer to that question and that will be that the report and the recommendations are quite unsatisfactory. It is not necessary nor desirable that we should go into details of these recommendations. They are, I may say, not recommendations which can be considered very seriously at all. I therefore very heartily, and wholeheartedly support the motion made by my hon. Friend from Coimbatore.”

*Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“Sir, I shall speak only a few words on the motion before the House. And I shall confine myself to only two points. They are the two objections raised in the report which can be aptly called a muddy report. These two objections are, that India is an illiterate country and hence unfit for representative government and that India consists of

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several races, religions and castes which are always in conflict with one another. As to the first objection I have only to refer, by way of refreshing the memory of my hon. Friends here, to the history of the British constitution. Englishmen when they preach to us about the progress of the British constitution forget to tell us the fact, at least in this report—for there are historical books by dozens in our library which tell us the fact—that the first Parliament called the Model Parliament in English History was established so early as 1295, in the Middle Ages when England was far less literate than India is at present. From the statistics, which I am afraid are not referred to at present, I find that one in a thousand could read in those days. That is to say 999 out of 1,000 were illiterate. The country in spite of this large mass of illiteracy had established a Parliament in the Middle Ages. Judged by that standard, I think it must be admitted that we are far in advance to deserve parliamentary institutions and constitutional government. The full constitutional government, with all the powers which the English House of Commons now enjoy, with Ministers responsible to the country through the Parliament, was established towards the close of the reign of William III, during the seventeenth century and what was the standard of literacy in England then? One in one hundred was literate. At present in India 8 or 10 per cent of the population is literate. The argument therefore that India being illiterate is not fit for constitutional government which England had obtained by the close of the Middle Ages, does not hold good.

“The other argument is that we are a people of different races, castes and religions at constant feuds with one another. If we read history correctly, if we read the constitutional history of even modern nations, we find that unity in caste or religion is not an indispensable factor for a united National Government. We have only to look at the history of England during the time of Elizabeth and even later when the Catholic section of the population was constantly at war with the Protestant. And yet, we find that when the Spanish Armada invaded the shores of England, the Catholics and the Protestants all joined together in defending the country against the foreigner. They had at the same time a constitutional Government though we know that Elizabeth was left quite free by the Protestants to set at naught for the time being many of the constitutional principles. We must admit, however, that constitutional Government in theory at least was obtaining in England during the Tudor period. Even looking at modern history, we have got a country like Switzerland which consists of different nations speaking different languages, French, German and Italian, Catholics and Protestants till recently at feud with one another and yet having a united constitution, a common Swiss constitution. Coming to the United States of America, what do we find there? We have got there all the European nations represented, Spaniards, Englishmen, Irish, Dutch and so many others who were at war in Europe, but still they are a united

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nation. Though speaking so many languages, though professing conflicting religions, for there are Quakers, Catholics, Unitarians and Protestants holding different opinions conflicting with one another, still they are all one nation having one constitutional Government. So I say that these two objections must fall to the ground if we read history correctly. Though trammelled by so many forces of disruption, by what have been

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called centrifugal forces in India, still we can be united for common purposes. Look at past history. Look at the history of the Rise of the Mahratta Power. We find for two centuries the Mahratta Government was holding together all sorts of different peoples with different religious systems and conflicting castes, the Mahars and Chamars and other depressed classes working side by side with the Brahman Peshwas; the Mahratta Government sustained an Empire for more than two centuries, for a period greater than that of the British Empire; though the former did not cover the whole of India, still it was a very vast Empire. And so taking this example of the Mahratta Empire not to speak of our more ancient Empires like Vizianagar and others, we have got an example in India itself to show that we can be a united nation in spite of the fact that there are so many conflicting races, religions, languages and castes. These are all imaginary objections that are raised in the report as well as by so many other people. We hear those arguments raised every day, especially by Anglo-Indian papers, that is, the arguments urged in this report. But the study of history and facts, the study of national development, outside and in India itself proves that these arguments must fall to the ground. With these few words, I strongly support this motion.”

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON:—“Mr. Deputy President, Sir, when the first instalment of the Reform Act was conceded to us the people of India, for the purpose of teaching the people of this country the art of real self-government and training the Ministers in the art of self-government, while retaining control of the Government of India, a certain section of the people of this country received the reforms with great exultation. At that time there was a certain section of the people in this country who said: ‘We shall not have anything to do with this reform.’ And they, I mean the Congress people, kept aloof from taking part in the working of that Act. Later on, a certain section of the people thought that it was no use of keeping aloof without taking part in the government of the country and they decided to get into the Councils; these are the people known by the name of Swarajists. There was another section of the people who said: ‘We shall take part in the reform conceded to us in its right spirit and we shall work it up.’ They are called the Independents; people of the type of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Mr. Chintamani and other moderate leaders not only took the oath that they would work up the reforms but even accepted places as Ministers. But after working the reforms for some time these very Ministers said that the system of Government nick-named Diarchy was no good and that it was not possible to work it; and some of them decided to give up their Ministerships and others decided not to accept Ministers’ posts. These were some of the reasons which led to the appointment of a committee. The cry in the country was very great that this system of Government was not one suited to train the people in the art of self-government, and that what they want is complete self-government with dominion status; and it was perhaps thought therefore that a committee might be appointed by the resolution passed by the Assembly, and Sir Alexander Muddiman’s Committee sat to consider whether any improvement could be made on the Reforms Act of 1919. Not only that but the very people who said that they would work up the reforms passed a resolution at their federation held in Poona last February in the following terms:

‘That this meeting of the all-India Liberals is emphatically of opinion that full responsible government in the provinces and complete responsibility in the Central Government except in

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the Military, Political and Foreign Departments should be established without delay and for this purpose urges the immediate appointment of a Commission similar to that provided for in the Government of India Act of 1919 for making a full enquiry into the working of the present constitution and making recommendations in respect of future constitutional advance.

"Of course, that was a resolution passed at a meeting of the people who said that they would work up the diarchical system of government; and finding that it was not possible for them to make any progress, they passed this resolution. You will find from the report now issued, one, the majority report, and the other, the minority report, that there is a complete cleavage of opinion, one standing up for the diarchical system, and the other consisting of the people's representatives, Sir Sapru, Sir Sivaswami Ayyar, Dr. Paranjpye and Mr. Jinnah, saying that it is difficult to work diarchy. We can, however, see a silver lining in the cloudy horizon; we find it at least evident from that liberal organ, the *Daily News*, which says that probably when the Liberal Viceroy visits England he would support the minority report. Of course, this is a thing which yet remains to be seen, but if we look into the tradition of the Liberal party, their attitude towards India, we have every reason to believe that the Liberal Viceroy will support this attitude, because it was the Viceroy Lord Ripon who first laid the foundations of Local Self-Government in India; it is the name of Lord Morley which will always be remembered in connexion with the political advancement of this country; and thirdly it was the late Mr. Edwin Montagu who passed this Reform Act in 1919 through a Coalition Cabinet when he was Secretary of State for India. These are all evidences to show that probably the Viceroy may view the minority report with some favour."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, what we expected from the report of the committee was a constitutional advance towards Self-Government or rather provincial autonomy, but this constitutional advance cannot be achieved without a change in the Government of India Act. In the report of the majority of the committee we find that there is no effort made in this direction, but on the other hand we find some changes are suggested with regard to the rules. However, whatever changes we may make under these rules, they come under the Government of India Act. So whatever changes may be made under these rules, I must say that it cannot be any forward step towards constitutional advance in the Government of the country. Moreover, diarchy was considered as only a transient stage and as an evil which may be put up with only for some time. On the other hand, the committee seems to take diarchy as a permanent one and thinks that we can make an advance only under this system. Again, Sir, the report of the committee belies the evidence given before it. For the recommendations which have been made by the committee, it is not necessary that the committee should examine so many people such as ex-Ministers and other great men. I think it is only waste of public time and of public money. Without taking this evidence, the committee might have recommended in accordance with the proposals which it has made in the report now under discussion. With these few words, I support this motion."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, in the very nature of things, it is impossible to subject a report of this kind extending over about 150 pages to any detailed criticism. It is admitted, and the admission is absolutely true, that this Muddiman Committee was forced against our will, and I do really apprehend that the recommendations

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of the majority are likely to be forced down our gullet, whether we will it or not. And that is the reason why immediately after the publication of this report it has been considered necessary to move for the adjournment of this House so that the representatives of the people in this House may have an opportunity of expressing their views upon some of the broad and outstanding features of the recommendations made in this report.

"We have an outstanding complaint against the structure, policy and purpose of the Government of India Act. I am tempted to characterise the majority report as more or less a kind of patch work. Our sores are too many and far too deep. Instead of healing these sores, what the majority report has done is they have put up patches here and there, which, instead of going to the root of the disease, have unfortunately kept the sores open and in some places made the sores deeper. We have been asking for provincial autonomy. On going through the report, I do not find any the nearest prospect of the provinces getting what is called provincial autonomy. It seems to me that a feeling of mistrust runs through every page of it, a feeling that this country is not fit for self-government. It seems to be taken for granted that this country is practically unfit for self-government. These two proposals seem to emerge from a careful consideration of the majority report of this committee. It is true that there are recommendations here and there which may be regarded as tending in the direction of progress, but so far as the fundamentals are concerned, it seems to me that they are of a retrograde character. A provision is made, placing the actions of the President above the jurisdiction of the civil courts. This was occasioned by the defeat sustained by the Bengal Government about this time last year at the hands of one of the Judges of the Calcutta High Court, Mr. Justice Ghosh, and the rule formulated by the Viceroy with a view to prevent that also seems to have received some confirmation from the recommendations of this committee. I think it is better that the old state of things continue and that the powers are allowed to remain. Then let me turn to one of recommendations. Members of this House may know that it is open to His Excellency to pay the same salary to the Ministers as is paid to the Members of the Executive Council. And that section, if I remember right, it is section 52 of the Government of India Act, empowers the Council to move for a reduction by means of a vote. But turning to one of the recommendations the proposal seems to be to place the salary of the Ministers on a statutory basis, giving power to the Legislative Councils to cut it down or to reduce it only to three-fifths or in other words so far as this Ministry is concerned the last limit to which we could cut down their pay is about Rs. 3,200 and odd. For, it says that the constitution should provide that the Ministers should get the same salary as the Executive Councilors in some provinces. But this may be varied by an act of the local legislature. Then why should there be such a minimum? The other day an elected Member in the Central Provinces cut down the salaries to Rs. 2. To make such a situation impossible, it seems power is to be taken and a sort of restriction is sought to be placed upon the Legislative Council by limiting it only to three-fifths of the pay drawn by Members of the Executive Council. And the recommendation is that Rule 30 of the Provincial Legislative Council Rules and Rule 48 of the Indian Legislative Council Rules should be amended so as to secure that motions may not be

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moved when a demand is made for the omission of a whole grant. I fail to understand as to why motions ought not to be made for the omission of the entire grant. This seems to be rather invidious and there is absolutely no reason why a recommendation of this retrograde character should be allowed to go in. And then it is true that power is given to members to bring a motion for reduction of the Ministers' salary at the time when the demands are made. This is exactly consistent with the present procedure and cannot be recorded in the light of any amendment. As regards the transfer of some subjects, I would say that—

- (1) Law and Order, and
- (2) Land Revenue

may be in the hands of the Ministers, instead of Forests. 'Forests' may be allowed to take care of itself. Forest does not produce any substantial income. People will consider it better if these two subjects are placed in the hands of their representatives. The further recommendation that the local Governments may have Stores, Stationery, Presses, etc., transferred to the Ministers is not of much use. It is immaterial which branch is in charge of them. I am not at all enamoured of this idea. The existing state of things may continue. On the whole the report is certainly unsatisfactory and everyone knows that this Report deserves condemnation. For if you just go through this Report you will note the feeling of mistrust in our capacity and potency for self-government."

* MR. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, I must confess to a feeling of unreality in having to take part in this debate. My hon. Friend the Mover of this motion congratulated me and this House on the fact that I have given notice of a similar motion which indicated that the opinion on this side of the House was fairly clear on the subject of the debate. I am sure my hon. Friend had no justification for the special pleasure which he appears to have felt this morning. The attitude of those sitting on the Ministerial benches had been made clear for some months past at innumerable public meetings and party conferences and if my hon. Friend had not the time to read the proceedings, in any case, the documents published specially recently, the appendices to the Muddiman Committee Report, must have shown clearly and beyond all doubt what the attitude of the ministerialists can be on the question of the subsequent stage of political advance. There can be no possibility of equivocation or any mental reservation as my hon. Friend suggests on our part with regard to the next instalment of reforms. Now, Sir, those of us who have time after time felt that the experiment ought to be given a fair and free trial; those of us who contested the last elections, the first election under the new reforms, when the forces of disorder were violently predominant, when there was an agitation that nobody should sit in the Councils or partake in the working of the new reform scheme, those of us who later contested the second elections in spite of the peculiar tenets preached by a certain section of our politicians, those of us who have all these years believed in constitutional agitation and against numerous odds maintained our position as constitutionalists—we have come to the conclusion that there must be a change, and that we cannot get on as things stand at present for a much longer period. There can be no equivocation or mental reservation on that point. We

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had taken to the new constitution with exuberance of spirits and with delight. We knew that it was not all that was desirable. We were aware that what we got was not what we pleaded for and asked for. Some of us who had the opportunity, a very rare opportunity indeed, to press the cause of our country before the Joint Committee of the House of Lords and House of Commons, have, in spite of the fact that there were several disappointing features of the reform scheme, taken a larger view of the situation and have tried to understand the feelings of the bureaucracy and the principles which the House of Commons and House of Lords then advocated and the difficulties which the Government of the day had to face both in the Provincial and in the Central legislatures. We tried to understand their point of view and to appreciate their difficulties. And it was that appreciation that led us to attempt to work the diarchic system. It was not because the diarchic system was a perfect system, not because it was a system which was suited for all time about which no reproach and no fault could be found that we tried to work it up. But it was rather because we tried to look at the other side of the question and tried to understand their position in making this experiment. Now, Sir, we ask for fair treatment in these matters. We ask that those who are at the helm of affairs in this country, those who are feeling the burden of office in the administration of the country, ought to take a larger view and a longer vision of these matters, and they ought to realize their position with reference to the public life and political life of the country and with reference to the feeling that has permeated the masses in regard to the fresh requirements of reforms. The Muddiman Committee has not denied that political consciousness in this country has developed to a remarkable extent during the last few years. Whatever might have been said in the days when Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford were conducting their roving enquiry, of the placid, pathetic contentment of the masses, you cannot say that the situation continues the same. Instead of the placidity we have now got high fermentation. Instead of contentment we have acute discontent everywhere. I don't mean to imply that that discontent is akin to sedition, that it is a feeling of resentment that will really hinder progress. But it is that healthy discontent which is said to be the mother of all genuine progress, the discontent which merely means that it is a better appreciation of the position which this country occupies in the comity of nations, a better appreciation of the position which Indians should occupy among the nations of the world. You go to any European country and you will find that even there that discontent exists. You have had the great war which as we were told was waged for great principles. That great war has brought into existence several countries, Czecho-slovakia, Jugo-slovakia, countries which were unknown and people whose civilization was of a very questionable character. I have seen them at close quarters—men of low status, men whose culture cannot certainly be said to be greater than the culture of the Indians, men whose general view of life, whose outlook on life, cannot certainly be said to be anything more civilized than that of the Indians; what is their place at that great hall in Geneva? And what is ours? You are surprised that we Indians like Oliver Twist of old are asking perpetually for more and yet more reforms. You are surprised that we have not taken into consideration the difficulties that exist amongst ourselves, the differences between community and community, class and class, creed and creed. You are surprised that we have not given thought

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to the barriers that exist between the masses and the classes, between the urban and the rural population. I am perfectly willing to consider these questions. I have proclaimed the fact on the floor of this House once, and more than once, in all humility that there could be no true progress towards nationalism, no real advance towards the uplift of my country if there should continue to be this bitterness between communities, creeds and castes. But in emphasising all these differences are you really doing justice to your selves and to this country? Have you not studied the history of your own country? Can you in fairness say that there is no difference between man and man, between class and class, between higher and lower strata of society, between the rich and the proletariat? Go to the slums of England. What sense of homogeneity is there between the dwellers of Miles End and the magnates of May Fair? Go to the docks of Clydes Dale Scotchman, if there are any here, you know and understand me perfectly. Go to Ireland—Catholics and Protestants, the men of Dublin and the men of Northern Ireland. Do you suggest that they have less differences, less antagonisms, less trouble than we have in this country? We are painfully conscious of the fact that there are differences between the Muhammadans and the Hindus, the depressed classes and the higher classes, the Brahmans and Non-Brahmans and some of us are trying our level best day after day to reduce the points of friction and to increase the points of agreement. We are trying to put an end to these differences by bringing up to the same common level all the backward communities and by infusing by action not merely by speech that trust and confidence in the minority communities which will make them realize that they have a safe and certain position in the body politic, whatever turn events may take. You speak of the depressed classes and of their unenviable position in this country and time after time you fling at our face our conduct towards these unhappy classes and their position in the public life of the country. But may I not ask what 150 years of British Rule has done towards lifting their position? It is only now, within the last few years, that you are also trying to improve their position and is it not obvious that the one great impetus to the cause of the elevation of the depressed classes is the very grant of the reform scheme? I don't suggest that you were less sympathetic to the depressed classes in days of yore, but I do suggest that you had not that active sympathy of the Hindu community with you in your efforts in those days as you have now. And I venture to suggest to you also that that sympathy of the general Hindu community is largely due to the consciousness among them that political advance is only possible by the elevation of these classes. Therefore I say with some confidence that it is arguing round a vicious circle if you were to suggest that there could be no reforms without the elevation of these classes and there could be no elevation without adequate political reforms. The consciousness of the masses, the desire to bring about the union between the different communities, the desire to elevate those who are depressed and oppressed, all these things will come into existence only by a lively realization of their connection with the political advance, only if you make a move towards that political uplift. They are not obstacles. But the very redemption of these differences can only be done if you make that advance towards greater political freedom. To point to them as obstacles therefore in the progress of a nation is merely and totally to misread the history of the past.

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“ Now, Sir, I am a constitutionalist. I do not believe in non-co-operation; I do not believe in obstructive tactics; I do not believe in that bastard theory of obstructing Government from within the Cabinet; I don't know what other alternatives are going to be proposed by these ingenious set of politicians. Unlike these gentlemen, I believe in working the constitution as much as possible, so that all possible advance may be made from within the constitution. I don't believe in direct action. The most forward and the most democratic of countries have given up the theory of direct action. I have not put forward a programme of mass disobedience or programmes similar to that, for I know what havoc such ill-considered and lightly undertaken schemes will work on my country and community. But we are nearly going to despair of asking constitutionally. You ought not to make the constitutionalist's position, difficult as it is at present, well nigh impossible by your lack of imagination, by your stolidity and by your stubbornness. We have been trying to work as constitutional men to stem the strong current that is at present retarding progress. We have been trying to impress on our countrymen that constitutional advance is the only possible way of advancing and promoting the interests of the country. We have been trying to make them understand that the position of the constitutionalist is the right position. And after all these, if the factors that are working to-day are not going to be taken into consideration, then we constitutionalists must for a time disappear from the political life of the country. (A voice—‘This is your fate’). That is not my fate and that was not my fate in the past. I think that is rather going to be your fate. I know you will soon come to realize it. You have been already driven out of existence as non-co-operators. You have been swept out of the country as Swarajists and you are attempting to get into those comfortable or uncomfortable seats on the Treasury Bench with your no-confidence motions thus finally giving up all the mighty principles you proclaimed from house tops and you are going to eat the humble pie. You have been shown up as mere opportunists time after time. I know not why these interruptions should be made to provoke me which I thought on an occasion like this at least could and ought to be avoided, and shall not be tempted to pursue the matter further.”

“ Now, Sir, with the great volume of evidence before them pointing to one direction only, the Muddiman Committee have still come out with a report that has roused the feelings of the country, from one end to the other. Who are those gentlemen that appeared before the committee? Who are those that have given evidence before this committee? Who are those who have tried to expound what the country stands for and what the people want? Not persons who have no stake in the country, not those who take delight in merely addressing beach meetings, not those who have neither name nor fame and who are mere vapourers talking by the hour. No, Sir, it was none of these, but those who had taken the responsibility of life on themselves. Men who have sat as heads of administration, men who have taken an active part in public life, men like Sir Surendranath Bannerje, Sir Parvosh Chander Mitter, Mr. Chintamani, Mr. M. V. Joshi, the Raja of Panagal, Sir A. P. Patro, and my hon. Friend Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu there, a galaxy of stars of the first magnitude the weight of whose evidence cannot be counteracted. They have actually tried to work the constitution. They have made every endeavour to see the Government

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point of view. They have appreciated the difficulties of the Government as far as possible and with the full consciousness of the weight of their evidence have espoused the cause of further reforms. It is not possible for any committee to ignore the great current of public opinion in the matter and the deliberate opinions expressed by these illustrious representatives.

"Now, Sir, if all this is going to be brushed aside what is the position? It is not right that these eminent men should be discouraged in their attempts to help the Government. I do not want to suggest that a feeling of despair is gaining ground and spreading over those who have hitherto been firm believers in constitutional agitation. I certainly do not want it to be realized by them that the constitutionalist has at present no place in the country between the bureaucracy on the one hand and the non-co-operator conscious only of his vacillating mind. I am conscious that there should be a better feeling prevailing amongst my countrymen. Let us try to understand each other better. Let us try to meet the occasion properly, fairly and squarely. There is no use in ignoring the strong opinion that is prevalent in the country. There is no use in saying that the Forests here, and Law Reporting there, and some other trivial affair somewhere else, may be Transferred subjects. The cloud that hangs about us at present is thick with misunderstanding and suspicion and I am anxious to remove that cloud. The Muddiman Report has undoubtedly been a great shock to the country. I am willing to concede whatever extenuating circumstances can be urged in favour of the view that the majority have taken in that report. Probably the terms of reference to the committee were too narrow. Probably the members were obsessed with certain phases of obstructive political tactics in the country. But, whatever it may be, I wish to impress in all seriousness on the minds of the Government here and at Delhi that the Muddiman Committee report cannot be the last word on the subject of reforms. You ask for the full ten years' period to be got up which will mean that we are not to open the question of amending the Act till 1929. You say that until then no fundamental change could be made in it. May I humbly ask you one question: Are you not yourself trying to reopen the question? Why? There is going to be brought a Bill before the Parliament, next month which will have the effect of very materially amending the Government of India Act of 1919. There are already influential men going about lecturing in England who are working in the direction of amending the Act so as to restrict the powers, the very limited powers given at present. I hope to be there myself very soon and to take a hand in the fray and I hope also that some few friends of mine also will be there with me. Well, Sir, I am asking a very plain question: Are you not yourself attempting to amend the Government of India Act before the year 1929? And is it fair for you then to suggest that the question of political progress in this country could not be examined before that date and that no attempt should be made? If there is any definite understanding to that effect, I believe that both of us are parties to that understanding. Both of us are parties to the terms of that covenant. The contract should either bind both of us or each of us should be at liberty to plead for further modifications. Your Secretary of State is introducing a Bill shortly in the Parliament for a substantial modification of the Government of India Act. I do not wish on this occasion to go into the very controversial question regarding the recommendations of the Lee Commission report on the position and

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emoluments of the services. But I am anxious to point out to you that if you are going to open the Act for one purpose you cannot say that it should be inviolable for other purpose. If you are going to lay down the principle with regard to one section of the parties that the Act cannot be touched, I am merely suggesting to you in all fairness that the other party is as much bound to a policy of non-interference. You cannot be an iconoclast yourself and make inroads into the provisions of the Act and when the other set tries to plead for similar amendments you cannot raise the specious cry of 'hands off the Act till 1929'. Either both of us are bound by the obligations which you say were entered into in 1919, or both of us are at liberty to make alterations providing for the necessities that each one of us have by experience found to be urgently required. If therefore an amendment is found to be necessary for certain purposes, may I ask you again respectfully, but equally fairly, is it fair for you to say that it shall not be considered necessary for other purposes? Let us try to understand the constitution perfectly frankly. We have tried as we have already said to work the constitution in the past and we are trying to work it in the present. There is no use in vain rancour. There is no use in keeping up vulgar abuse. It will not help us a bit as it has never helped us in the past. I do suggest that the time has come when in our mutual interest you must try and make some little attempt to understand the position of those who are leaders and representatives of the people. They should be made to discharge their duty by the side of their electors and you cannot expect them to forswear either their principles or their promises to their constituencies. Nobody is satisfied with this diarchy system. Least of all yourselves. 'The ten years' period is not an inflexible period like the laws of the Meads and Persians. It has been temporarily settled as is abundantly clear from the preamble itself. Nobody dreams for a moment that diarchy has come to stay for ever. It is a temporary evanescent period in our constitution. Why, Sir, one of your own Prime Ministers has declared that it is a huge experiment. In any case, diarchy has never been liked by anybody and at best is only a transient stage. Therefore why stick to this period of ten years when we have already got sufficient experience of the working of the Reform Scheme within the last five years and know and realized its defects and its limitations? I am aware that the progress of the constitutionalist to-day is beset on one side by the obnoxious, unfair and unholy criticism and on the other side by a want of proper appreciation of the hard efforts on his part. Between the Scylla of the irresponsible politician and the Charybdis of the irresponsible bureaucrat the position of the constitutionalist is as hard as it is unenviable. We are however trying to make some little headway and we are trying to see even through this dark, thick, black cloud, some ray of sunshine, some glimmer somewhere, a little silver line which will encourage us in our efforts and I believe that howsoever depressing the present may be the future is not without hope. In that faith I work, in that faith I ask others to work. After all I believe in Providence, and there is a Providence which shapes not only my ends, not only the ends of the Government and the bureaucracy, but which shapes the ends of all of us in its own inscrutable way. The darkest hour they say is before the dawn and the very consciousness of darkness of this hour makes me hope that the dawn is not far off. (Cheers)."

Rai Bahadur. Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, I thank you, Sir, for having given me this opportunity of associating myself

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with all that has been said in this House, not merely in the disappointment created throughout the country by this somewhat unfortunate report but also in the belief engendered by its publication in the mind of all, not merely the educated section of the country but in that pathetic contented section to whom reference has been made by the previous speaker. As one of those who have had the opportunity and the fortune to work these new reforms by putting his shoulder to the wheel of administration in pushing on this somewhat heavy car of diarchy, I feel it not merely a duty to myself but a duty which I owe to the country to give expression to my views on an occasion like this. As I have said, the report is a most disappointing document. It is disappointing almost in every respect and I, for one, do not and could not find fault with my hon. Friends over there when it was said that it was a huge joke. Ordinarily, I would be the very last person to use strong language. But so disappointing is this document that language fails and the heart is crushed and when in our despair we are obliged to use language which it was not our intention to use, it is because the cause is great and the injury is greater. What did we ask and what did they give? We asked for a reduction in the powers of the Secretary of State and the Government of India over the Transferred subjects in the provinces; the committee said that was impossible. We asked for lessening the control of the Government of India over the provinces; of course, that could not be. We asked that the powers for the Ministers should be revised and that again was one that was too much for them to grant. We asked for freedom in our legislatures for legislating and for the removal of the restriction placed over the legislatures with regard to getting the sanction of the Government of India; but we are told that it is not yet time. I can multiply like this various instances in which this committee considered that nothing could be done. In one word, they have said for all that we have asked that nothing can be done.

"No doubt, Sir, we are told that the question of transferring the law reports is under their consideration. We are told that because forests were transferred in Bombay, that might be transferred in this Province also. We are told that fisheries have been transferred in Madras, and therefore it might also be transferred in little Assam. Therefore, Sir, that word 'joke' which my friend used, cannot be more properly used than when you think of these transfers. Often have I pointed out both in this House and elsewhere that it would not be possible for a Minister of Agriculture to carry on the administration of this subject without a transfer of irrigation. As Minister for Industries I asked for the transfer of electricity, I asked for the transfer of labour and I asked for the transfer of factories. They said 'No: your industries must be carried on without factories, without labour—no doubt with boilers, but subject to the control of the Government of India—and without electricity. Disappointment cannot go further. The only thing that they did was—some one said that credit should be given to this committee for doing that—that they did not go back, but honestly it cannot be said that they have moved forward (laughter).

"Then, we are told, Sir, that the atmosphere in which these reforms were inaugurated in this country was not very favourable because the non-co-operation movement was started then. This may be an excuse, Sir, in the Central Provinces or in Bengal, but certainly not in Madras.

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It has been acknowledged, not merely by those who represent the people but by those confidential advisers to the Government, the Executive Councillors and the Governor in Council, that so far as this Province is concerned, the Ministers with their majorities have not only supported the Government in fighting non-co-operation in this Council, but have by their conferences, their meetings, their tours, maintained the dignity and prestige of the Government in this land. Did not this Province deserve a more generous treatment? Let me take this opportunity, Sir, however much I may differ from the hon. Ministers, to express our sense of thankfulness, for the courage and boldness with which they have dissented from the Executive Councillors and submitted their own report to the Government of India in this matter. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Then, Sir, the next thing was that the period that was allowed was too short. Reference was made by the previous speaker, the Member from Chingleput, that in the matter of the Lee Report and in raising the salaries of the services—with which we to-day have no quarrel—the Government of India and the Secretary of State did not think that it was too early. But it was of course too early for giving us further reforms. Well, Sir, we need not depend on analogies, on what they have done or what they are going to do. Even in the Parliament itself, that great man, that great friend of India, the late Mr. Montagu, clearly stated that the ten years' period mentioned in the Act was certainly not the minimum period, but that even within that period, if this Government and the Government at Home and the India Government were satisfied that certain changes should be made, they could be made not merely under the existing Act and Rules but also by amending the Act itself. Now, it is too late at this stage to tell us that it is not yet time. This 'not yet time' is not a news to me. We were told this at every stage; whenever any attempt was made to take a step in advance, whenever any reform was granted to this country, we were told that the people in this country were not ripe for it. We were given these reforms as a first instalment, and were told that if we worked them satisfactorily like good boys, the next instalment would come. So great a man, so honest a man, the honest John himself—the late Mr. Morley—said that this country was unfit for parliamentary government, that the people in this land were constitutionally not fit to govern themselves but must be governed by others. Well, Sir, Mr. Montagu did not believe it; the Parliament of 1919 did not believe it, and we have it in the most solemn document, in the preamble of the Act itself, that an attempt would be made and the first instalment of reforms would be introduced in this land. Now, Sir, we are told that the electorate has not realized its responsibility, that the representatives of the electorates in this Council and other Councils in the country have not educated their electorates, that the sense of responsibility has not been created, that in certain legislatures oppositions have been formed with the idea of attacking the reforms, that they are betraying a lack of responsibility, and so on. But unfortunately, this argument, if I may say so, is an argument in a vicious circle. There is an old proverb in my language (Telugu) which says that when a young man is supposed not to be of sound mind he cannot be married until his madness is cured, and his madness cannot be cured until he is married. Which is to begin first? That is the unfortunate position in which we are placed at present. The Government of India, the Muddiman's report and the Government at Home all tell us that the electorate

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is not educated. How is it possible to educate the electorate, when there is no sense of responsibility, when the responsibility itself is not cast upon them (hear, hear). What is the responsibility we are enjoying? What is it we are expected to carry out? Here, we come to this Council as people's representatives under the reformed Government—in which the responsibility is cast upon the people—we come here, make speeches and pass resolutions; our resolutions are cast to the winds—not intentional it may be (they may have the best of intentions) but the fact is there. Our resolutions are thrown to the winds, because we have not the power to enforce them. If we go to the country and say that we have carried this motion, compelled Government's defeat in that matter, and so on, the man in the street, the commonsense man would coolly ask 'What is the effect of all those things, Sir?' (Hear, hear.) You are compelled to admit that unless the Act is altered, unless in the so-called Reserved subjects also some responsibility is introduced in the sense that those that administer the departments should be bound by resolutions passed in this Council, you are powerless and you cannot do any good. They do not give any power to the people, they do not cast any responsibility upon the people; they give them a sort of vote to send certain people here. No doubt they give them first-class batta, and allowances and treat them as first-class men and most honourably, but when they come forward and pass resolutions and express their will in a particular manner, they (the Government) are not bound by them. That, I submit, is not the fault of the electorate. A great difficulty is felt by the Muddiman Committee. We are told that provincial autonomy is an item of Central Government. Whoever denies it? It implies that there is something above, that there is a Central Government, that there are a number of provinces all of which will have to be controlled by a central body. Then we are told that the financial circumstances must be different. Is it for a moment suggested that these obvious things are not understood by those who have already worked these reforms for three or four years? Is it seriously suggested by the members whose conclusions have just now been given out and others who have given written and oral evidences, that these people have not understood what is meant by provincial autonomy?

"Well, Sir, my hon. Friend from Chingleput said that he would not say that this report implied any insult to the people. With great respect to him I must say that, when those who gave evidence, when those who worked the reforms in the spirit in which they were conceived, those that stood the arduous times, those people that when pressed or driven to a corner (a situation under which any other person would have resigned), kept their places, not for the salary, not for the post but to impress upon the Government that they are there to do their level best for the successful working of the Government, when these men are to be told that they have not understood even the meaning of the words provincial autonomy, it is an insult which they cannot meekly submit to. Well, Sir, provincial autonomy was understood to be—and in fact the committee say that it was used in this sense—namely, that all the subjects that are since now provincial subjects, should be treated as Transferred subjects. I was telling just now that the people outside, the taxpayer, the person who has got the right to call for the tune, that man is helpless there, because his representatives in these Councils have absolutely no power, they cannot press the will of the nation represented by the House upon certain sections of the Government. I only want my

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Friend, Sir Arthur Knapp, to be a representative of the people, I want him to be a Minister of Finance or a Home Minister; all the Members of Government must be our representatives. It does not in the least matter whether his colour differs from mine. What I want is that they should be responsible to the House, in the sense that those next to them are responsible. It is only that which we mean when we say that there should be provincial autonomy."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I interrupt the hon. Member to ask one thing? I want to know whether the caste system will be abolished before we get provincial autonomy; because the system has destroyed all union and brotherhood."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"That is quite outside the issue; the hon. Member will please resume his seat."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I am one of those that fought for communal representation not only in this country but in England also; and I do not yield to any one in the House—not even to my Friend there (Mr. Veerian) in my advocacy of equality of treatment for all communities in this land. In fact, on a previous occasion, on the 2nd of this month, I believe I stated in this House, and I stand by it now, that if this country is ever to attain its place among the nations of the world, equality should be attained first; there shall be no distinction between a Nayudu and a Paraiya—(turning to Mr. Veerian) excuse me for the expression—there shall be no difference between the highest Brahman and the lowest Hindu or Adi-Dravida. I am one of those who believe in this equality between man and man, not merely in the councils, not merely in the various centres of public activity but even in social, and religious matters and every conceivable thing in this country. Unless that equality is attained, there will be no salvation for this land."

"Sir, here again it is an argument in a vicious circle. I say, if you go on at this rate with your Government, if you do not give that responsibility which the people deserve, they will go on quarrelling amongst themselves; these dissensions will continue and, that long-desired unity among the people—unity which cannot be expected without having equality among themselves—will be denied. On the other hand, give us provincial autonomy, make all these hon. Gentlemen sitting on the Treasury Bench responsible to the people and then you will find this caste system going out. My hon. Friend, Mr. Veerian, will notice that it is only in the last three or four years with the little step taken in the direction of responsible government that something substantial has been done for his community. Let him weigh in the scale all that has been done to his community during the hundred and fifty years of British administration and all that has been done during the last three or four years and he will find the latter outweighing the former."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I ask the hon. Member to state what all he has done? Is it that he has given us two or three nominations? Will that satisfy us? (Laughter). If nominations were made to two or three taluk boards or other local bodies I do not think it is salvation to us. I do not think he has amply justified our expectations of him. All that we want is . . ."

[16th March 1925]

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"Please allow the hon. Member to finish his speech."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"I do not want to enter into the details of all that has been done."

"Sir, there are two matters on which some stress has to be laid. Every one of the hon. Members of this House must have read the Joint Report and everyone of them must also be acquainted with the name of a certain gentleman associated with that report,—I mean the gentleman who is now the head of the administration in the United Provinces. I crave the indulgence of the House to permit me to read what he says about this Reforms Act and what the expectations of the people in this country are. So far as the United Provinces Government is concerned I would quote what His Excellency Sir William Marris says. But before I do so I would like to point out that if the name of any one civilian can be mentioned as the first person who has elevated India, as the person who has not merely risen to the highest position a civilian can hope to rise, but as one who can be said to have grasped the principles not merely of politics, not merely of statesmanship but of the art, the practical art of the government of a foreign people, I think, Sir William Marris must be that person. This is what he says :

"The Governor-in-Council concludes that the answer to the whole enquiry may be summed up in the statement that there is no halfway house between the present and the new constitution."

"He expresses no opinion on the details of the report. But he is clear that concessions which fall short of complete provincial autonomy will placate no party and certainly not the opponents of the present system. Now, Sir, when opinion of that kind has been expressed by one who has been associated with these Reforms from the very start, by one who cannot be said to be an enemy of the bureaucracy—for, he himself is a bureaucrat—I should think, Sir, some greater weight should have been attached to it than what has been done by the publication of that report. Herein it is clearly stated that nothing will satisfy the educated sections and the other sections as well unless complete provincial autonomy has been granted. Now, this report completely denies it. Not only that, it even questions our knowledge of the meaning of the words 'Provincial autonomy.'"

"Then, as regards the transfer of more subjects I have already stated my views. Under the Act it is not denied that certain subjects could be transferred. Even the Government of India have mentioned in their memorandum what subjects could be transferred and under what orders certain modifications are possible. This memorandum is published along with the report as appendix II thereto. Even that memorandum is a little more liberal than the majority report of this Muddiman Committee. That a body like this consisting of expert administrators, men who knew India so long, should come forward with this report is a circumstance which is not merely very disappointing, but one of great sorrow and sadness. It creates in us a feeling of the coldness of the tomb. Is it for this purpose that this committee was appointed ?

"Sir, I will not encroach more upon the time of this House. I will finish with one more remark."

"Reference to what I am going to say has already been made by some of my friends and so I will only echo their opinion once more. There are

16th March 1925] [Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu]

many among us who, from the very beginning, had no faith in the British sense of justice in this land. Why, for that matter, Sir Francis Young-husband has published an article in which he has stated a good deal about that faith—faith not merely among ourselves but faith among the Englishmen themselves and their mutual relations in this country. We have lived long as my hon. Friends have stated, and we are going to live long, not as individuals but as a nation. Therefore, if this is all the solution that is to be had, if this kind of report and this kind of concessions and grants is all that is going to be extended to this country then, Sir, even in the case of men like myself who believe honestly that this country should attain its salvation only through the British guidance, it will not be much long before we change our opinions." (Cheers)

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I did not want to speak on this motion, but certain words which fell from my hon. Friend from Chingleput made me do so. Sir, when he addressed the opposite benches, did he mean all the hon. Members on the opposition or did he mean only a certain number of them? (Laughter.) Sir, we on this side of the House, a portion of us at least are as great loyalists as the Ministerialists and as great constitutionalists as the Ministerialists. In fact, some of us are the founders of the loyalist movement (laughter) and, let our friends understand that all the political parties in the land have a common goal, that is, self-government. Some of my friends wish to achieve that goal by some means while we want to achieve it by some other means. Why should we cry against them ?

"Again, Sir, were it not for the fact that my hon. Friend Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu laid so much stress on Provincial autonomy I would not have been on my feet. Sir, the report of this committee is a very disappointing one. One is forced to ask why such a committee sat at all, and as Mr. Narasimhaচারী said, why so much money as 46,000 rupees was spent on it. Sir, some hon. Members were mentioning things which the committee did not do. I would mention one thing which they ought to have done. My Friend, Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu, was laying so much stress upon the words 'Provincial autonomy'. What is the use of Provincial autonomy? We want provincial autonomy, swaraj or self-government only as a means to an end and that end is our economic salvation. That has been the case with all the countries in the world. But for that, there would not have been so many wars in the world. For our economic salvation we must have a responsible Central Government with Provincial autonomy. In order to improve the economic condition of our country, we would have to improve our industry. For the expansion of our industries we should have control over the tariff. So, unless the Central Government comes to our rescue there is no use. Now, according to the Montagu-Chelmsford report the Central Government has got control over the tariff. Because it is not a responsible government, what does it do? It has not removed the excise duty. It is showing us some financial difficulties as to why cotton excise duties cannot be removed. It will be seen that if cotton excise duties are removed, there will be reduction in the revenues of only Rs. 3 crores. On the other hand, the Central Government has got money enough to set apart Rs. 3 crores for meeting a loan, Rs. 11 crores for the Loan Redemption Fund and, Rs. 57, crores for the military defence of the country

[Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar] [16th March 1925]

When they are providing for all this huge expenditure they have not got the wisdom to abolish the cotton excise duty. Sir, if they do not remove the cotton excise duty, let them at least impose more duties upon the cotton goods imported into our country. That will be satisfactory. For instance, now they have imposed duty upon matches. We have got a number of companies to be started in our own land for the manufacture of matches. Now our steel industry has been protected, there are a number of American companies coming to India, I learn, to start the manufacture of steel. Whether they are American companies or Indian companies which are starting factories here, there is the satisfaction that India will be self-contained. So to attain this end there ought to be a *responsible* Central Government. It is because there is a responsible Government in America, America has become industrially great in fifteen years. It was so with Japan. It was so with Germany. Even industrially developed England has got a law protecting its industry. So, let us have a Central responsible Government with autonomy in the provinces. This report goes behind the expected political aspiration of the country, viz., that Provincial autonomy should be immediately given. That is expected even by the most reactionary of the parties in the land. This report goes even behind it. Sir, we should agitate. Of course we are disappointed at this committee's report. We ought not to stop here. We ought to agitate and agitate till India becomes a free India under the British Crown and till it becomes a part and parcel of the Indo-British Commonwealth. Then alone the saying 'the East is East; the West is West; and never the twain shall meet' can be falsified and the East and West can live together."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I move for closure ? "

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" If the Government is replying, closure need not be applied."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" The Government is silent."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" The Government merely wishes to hear the views of hon. Members."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" The question may be put."

The motion for closure was put and carried.

The adjournment motion was then put and carried.

The House adjourned at 4-50 p.m. to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

16th March 1925]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 423 asked by Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 16th March 1925, page 10 supra.]

1274 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(b) whether it is a fact that Adi-Dravidas and other poor ryots of the hamlet of Sethukuttai were cultivating portions of the land north of Jalluth reserve for twenty years up to the year 1905;

(c) whether the Collector of Salem transferred the abovesaid unreserve to reserve in 1906;

(d) whether in consequence of reserving as above, the reserve boundary line touches the patta lands of the village and causes the ryots great hardship;

(e) whether the land newly added to the reserve as stated above is bereft of trees and yielding almost no income to Government; and

(f) if the facts are as stated above, whether he has any objection to consider the advisability of conceding the prayer of the ryots as stated above?

A.—(b) A few survey numbers of Sethukuttai hamlet were under cultivation before 190 .

(c) The area was transferred to " Forest poramboke."

(d) The reserve boundary line touches patta lands in some places.

(e) The area added to the reserve is of little value

(f) The question of disafforesting the area is under consideration.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 440 asked by Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 16th March 1925, page 24 supra.]

District.	Area in acres.	District.	Area in acres.
Vizagapatam ...	730	Chingleput ...	1,912.29
Godavari ...	93	North Arcot ...	3,147.17
Kistna ...	2,602	South Arcot ...	41.00
Guntur ...	20,630.92	Salem ...	97.75
Kurnool ...	9,682.72	Trichinopoly ...	3,296.50
Bellary ...	2.84	Madura ...	9.29
Anantapur ...	9,635.40	Tinnevely ...	5,155.00
Cuddapah ...	226.90	Coimbatore ...	94.65
Nellore ...	1,489.95	Malabar ...	4.80
Chittoor ...	40.00	South Kanara ...	79.40

[16th March 1925]

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 442 asked by Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 16th March 1925, page 24 supra.]

List of trade unions.

1. The Madras Labour Union, DeMellow's Road, Perambur Barracks—
 Mr. G. S. Arundale President.
 „ B. Shiva Rau and } Vice-Presidents.
 „ Natesa Nayakar }
 „ Selvapati Chetti and } Secretaries.
 „ Thangavelu Mudaliyar }
 Number of members about 2,000.
2. The Madras Southern Mahratta Railway Workshop Employees' Union, Perambur—
 Mr. C. Panchaksharachari President.
 „ S. Rajagopal Nayudu Vice-President.
 „ Jnanamuthu Secretary.
 „ Govindaswami Nayudu Treasurer.
 Number of members 5,600.
3. The Corporation Workshop Employees' Union, Napier Park, Madras—
 Mr. V. L. Sastri President.
 „ Sriramulu Secretary.
4. The Corporation Scavengers' Union, Napier Park, Madras—
 Mr. V. L. Sastri President.
 „ Sriramulu Secretary.
5. The Madras Tramwaymen's Union, 3/24, Ayya Mudali street, Chintadripet, Madras—
 Mr. Shafi Muhammad President.
 „ V. Venkeshwarulu Vice-President.
 „ Sriramulu Secretary.
6. The Central Labour Board, Ayya Mudali street, Chintadripet, Madras—
 Mr. V. Chakkarai Chettiyar, B.A., B.L. President.
 „ E. L. Ayyar, Bar-at-Law Secretary.
7. The Coimbatore Labour Union, Coimbatore—
 Mr. N. S. Ramaswami Ayyangar, B.A., B.L. President.
 „ Ernest Kirk Secretary.
 Number of members 300.
8. The South Indian Railway Labour Union, Podanur—
 (Has branches at Calicut and Salem.)
 Mr. Appadurai Mudaliyar Secretary.
 Number of members 2,000..

16th March 1925]

9. The South Indian Railway Labour Union, Negapatam—
 Mr. V. P. Pakkiriswami Pillai President.
 „ K. Sourirajulu Nayudu, High Court Vakil Secretary.
 (There are branches of the South Indian Railway Labour Unions at Villupuram, Mayavaram, Tanjore, Tinnevely, Madura and Trichinopoly.)
10. The Cordite Factory Labour Union, Aruvankadu, The Nilgiris—
 Number of members 800.
11. The Welfare Committee of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Perambur Barracks, Madras—
 Mr. K. O. Antony, B.A. Secretary.
12. The South Indian Railway Employees' Central Association, Podanur—
 Mr. Ramanatha Sarma Secretary.

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide item IV Communications to the Council at page 28 supra.]

G.O. No. 115, Finance, dated 13th February 1925.

READ—the following paper:—

G.O. No. 426, Finance, dated 31st May 1924.

ABSTRACT.—Committee—Finance—Constitution of — 1924-25.

Order—No. 115, Finance, dated 13th February 1925.

Mubammad Moosa Sait Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C., has been elected as a member of the Finance Committee by the non-official members of the Legislative Council in place of Muhammad Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur who has ceased to be a member of the said Committee by reason of the acceptance by him of an office under the Crown.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

T. A. SRINIVASARAGHAVA AYYANGAR,
Assistant Secretary to Government.

To all Departments of the Secretariat.
 „ the Accountant-General.
 „ all Secretaries of Departments.
 „ all Members of the Finance Committee.
 „ the Secretary, Legislative Council (for communication to the Members of the Legislative Council).

3th March 1925

Property and assets.

Capital and Liabilities.		RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.
Capital—					
Government of Madras—					
Balance as per last balance sheet.	..	2,85,023	1 2		
Less—Adjustments of the previous quarter for drawings and remittances as per last balance sheet—					
Drawings ..	84,062	8 8			
Remittances ..	27,778	0 2			
Less—Remittances	..	56,284	8 6		
		2,29,738	8 8		
		200	0 0		
Less—Refund of Permanent advance.	..	2,29,538	8 8		
		50,000	0 0		
Add—Working Capital ..					
Add—Provision for expenses credited to Government—					
Morty of Director's salary, etc.	16,458	0 0			
Interest on capital ..	36,876	7 2			
Fire insurance ..	4,416	7 9			
Audit fee ..	3,700	0 0			
		61,450	14 11		
		37,948	15 7		
Add—Accumulated profits as per last bal nos sheet.	..	20,000	0 0		
Add—Temporary accommodation.	..				
Reserve for bad and doubtful debts.	..				
				3,98,938	7 2
				1,143	11 3

ENCLOSURE

THE KERALA SOAP INSTITUTE, CALICUT.

Balance sheet as at 30th September 1924.

Capital and Liabilities.

Capital—	
Government of Madras—	
Balance as per last balance sheet.	
Less—Adjustments of the previous quarter for drawings and remittances as per last balance sheet—	
Drawings	
Less—Remittances	
Less—Refund of Permanent advance.	
Add—Working Capital ..	
Add—Provision for expenses credited to Government—	
Morety of Director's salary, &c.	
Interest on capital	
Fire insurance	
Audit fee	
Add—Accumulated profit as per last bal. nos sheet.	
Add—Temporary accommodation.	
Reserve for bad and doubtful debts.	

I have the honour to submit herewith a copy of the balance sheet of the Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, for the quarter ending 30th September 1924 received from Messrs. Fraser and Ross. It will be observed that the net profit on the working of the factory during this period amounts to Rs. 5,683-1-10 against Rupees 1,214-5-1 during the previous quarter. My remarks on the balance sheet will be submitted separately.

Balance sheet as at 30th September 1924—cont.

Capital and Liabilities—cont.

	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Liabilities—						
For Goods supplied	8,993	8	9			
For Expenses	2,994	8	5			
For Customers Credit balances.	804	1	5			
Accountant-General, Madras.	155	2	4			
				12,947	4	11
Security deposits invested as per contra—						
Store-keeper	1,000	0	0			
Late traveller—Kasi-pathy.	2,000	0	0			
Firewood contractor ..	200	0	0			
				3,200	0	0
Profit and Loss Account—						
Profit as per last balance sheet.	1,214	5	1			
Profit for the quarter as per Profit and Loss account.	5,683	1	10			
				6,897	6	11

Property and assets—cont.

	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Stores and raw materials—						
Soda ash at Rs. 5 per cwt. ..	11,192	3	8			
Perfumes, Essential oils and colours	4,477	10	0			
Other raw materials ..	37,436	8	10			
Packing materials and sundry stores.	5,074	6	0			
				58,180	12	6
Soap basis—						
Vegetol	15	0	0			
Washwell	5,959	1	5			
Toilet	916	6	3			
Yellow Bar Soap	7,488	0	0			
Fish Oil Rosin Soap ..	130	8	0			
				14,508	15	8
Stock in Trade—						
Vegetol	962	7	3			
Washwell	5,113	10	6			
Toilet	1,010	0	3			
Yellow Bar Soap	92	14	9			
Cheap Bar Soap	918	6	0			
Deepa Brand Soap	53	8	5			
Fish Oil Rosin Soap ..	140	6	3			
Fish Oil Sott Soap ..	216	2	5			
Experimental Bar Soap ..	413	2	3			
Glycerine Lyes	1,069	9	4			
				10,010	3	5
Book debts—						
Considered good	99,119	10	1			
Considered doubtful ..	574	3	0			
Considered bad	521	7	0			
				1,00,218	4	1

Total .. 4,23,126 14 3

Deposits and advances—			
Fixed deposit receipts of the Imperial Bank of India held as security deposits of employees as per contra.	3,200	0	0
Travelling advance ..	123	15	0
			3,323 15 0
Cash and other balances—			
No. 1 Personal Ledger Account.	5,956	10	10
No. 2 Personal Ledger Account.	48,858	7	3
Cash on hand	482	13	9
			55,297 15 10
Total ..	4,23,126	14	3

N.B.—Provisions for "Interest on Capital" and "Fire Insurance" will be reversed during the next quarter as per G.O. No. 1941, Development, dated the 13th November 1924.

Examined and found correct

MADRAS,
24th December 1924.

FRASER & ROSS,
Chartered Accountants, Commercial Accountants and
Auditors to the Government of Madras.

Manufacturing account for the quarter ending 30th September 1924.

	Vegetol soap.	Washwell soap.	Toilet soap.	Yellow bar soap.	Deepa brand soap.	Fish oil rosin soap.	Fish oil soft soap.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
To stock in process of manufacture.	..	25,469 11 11	1,437 1 6	11,998 4 2	53 8 5	..	31 8 9	38,993 2 9
„ raw materials, fire-wood, etc., used.	1,351 0 2	212 15 11	38 1 1	34,306 6 3	..	366 8 1	454 7 11	36,729 7 5
„ wages ..	39 4 5	464 3 0	43 2 7	703 14 0	..	10 1 6	8 7 5	1,269 0 11
„ factory overheads.	215 0 10	..	..	5,969 7 7	..	123 14 3	214 7 8	6,522 14 4
Total ..	1,605 5 5	26,146 14 10	1,518 5 2	52,978 0 0	53 8 5	500 7 10	708 15 9	83,511 9 5
By scraps, etc., used for other soaps.	382 12 5	9,265 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	9,647 12 5
„ finished soaps sent to stores.	1,207 9 0	10,922 13 5	601 14 11	45,490 0 0	53 8 5	369 15 10	708 15 9	59,354 13 4
„ stock in process of manufacture	15 0 0	5,959 1 5	516 6 3	7,488 0 0	..	130 8 0	..	14,508 15 8
Total ..	1,605 5 5	26,146 14 10	1,518 5 2	52,978 0 0	53 8 5	500 7 10	708 15 9	83,511 9 5

[16th March 1925]

Trading Account for the quarter ending 30th September 1924.

	Deepa brand soap.	Vegetol soap.	Washwell soap.	Toilet soap.	Yellow bar soap.	Cheap bar soap.	Fish oil rosin soap.	Fish oil soft soap.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
To Stock on hand ..	..	3,712 6 0	4,404 12 0	1,583 5 9	84 15 0	1,112 10 0	336 15 0	44 7 0	11,309 6 9
„ Cost of soaps received from Factory.	53 8 5	1,207 9 0	10,222 13 5	601 14 11	45,490 0 0	..	369 15 10	708 15 9	59,354 13 4
„ Packing charges, etc. (Cart-hire and Railway freight).	..	163 11 4	813 9 5	219 9 1	4,795 15 7	0 14 0	46 2 2	120 6 0	6,160 3 7
„ Perfumes and Essential oils.	..	..	..	253 8 5	..	..	..	..	253 8 5
„ Gross profit carried to Profit and Loss Account.	..	956 13 1	5,404 1 10	691 15 1	9,160 3 3	82 15 1	214 8 0	316 14 4	16,817 6 8
Total ..	53 8 5	6,070 7 5	21,545 4 8	3,350 5 3	59,521 1 10	1,196 7 1	967 9 0	1,190 11 1	93,895 6 9
By Sales less returns.	..	4,375 3 11	16,380 13 9	2,141 7 2	59,413 14 4	275 0 8	825 12 6	940 0 0	84,332 4 4
„ Free samples issued.	..	10 14 3	70 12 5	198 13 10	14 4 9	3 0 5	1 6 3	4 8 8	303 12 7
„ Soap issued for reboiling.	..	721 14 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	721 14 0
„ Stock on hand ..	53 8 5	952 7 3	5,113 10 6	1,010 0 3	92 14 9	918 6 0	140 6 3	246 2 5	37 7 10
Total ..	53 8 5	6,070 7 5	21,545 4 8	3,350 5 3	59,521 1 10	1,196 7 1	967 9 0	1,190 11 1	93,895 6 9

[16th March 1925]

Profit and loss account for the quarter ending 30th September 1924.

	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
To Expenses—						
Establishment charges ..	2,738	6	1			
Rates and taxes ..	9	0	0			
Travelling expenses ..	183	1	0			
Adv. fitment charges ..	1,339	14	8			
Printing and stationery ..	388	0	10			
Postage and telegrams ..	193	14	0			
Despatching charges ..	301	1	0			
Su. dry office and factory expenses ..	94	1	5			
Laboratory experimental work ..	17	11	10			
Free samples issued ..	437	7	7			
Discount and exchange ..	1	13	0			
Legal expenses ..	31	12	0			
				5,736	3	5
To Depreciation on—						
Office buildings ..	89	0	0			
Laboratory apparatus ..	566	0	0			
Office furniture ..	119	0	0			
Library ..	60	0	0			
				834	0	0
To Reserve for expenses credited to Government—						
Dice for supervision charges ..	562	8	0			
Fire Insurance ..	27	15	0			
Interest on capital ..	4,038	7	2			
Audit fee ..	375	0	0			
				9,003	14	2
To net profit for the quarter ..				5,683	1	10
				17,257	3	5

N.B.—This account includes 'Interest on Capital' and 'Fire Insurance' as in the previous quarter. These charges will be eliminated from the accounts for the next quarter.

	RS.	A.	P.
By gross profit from trading account ..	16,817	6	8
By sundry sales ..	391	15	9
By house-rent ..	47	13	0

[16th March 1925]

16th March 1925]

II

Endorsement of the Accountant-General, No. H.A. Comml. 7-534, dated 24th January 1925.

Forwarded.

2. It has been ascertained from the Director of Industries that no separate report on the accounts was received from the Auditors.

3. The actual charges on account of audit for the first two quarters of the current year amounted to Rs. 377-5-0 and Rs. 326-0-9 respectively, against Rs. 375 charged in the profit and loss accounts in each of the quarters. The difference may be adjusted in the profit and loss accounts of the succeeding quarter.

4. The adjustments necessary in the Government accounts in respect of supervision charges and of contributions for leave and pension as directed in clause 2 (iii) of G.O. No. 2187, Press, dated 24th December 1924, in respect of the first three quarters of the year and for audit of the accounts of the first two quarters will now be made in this office and the figures advised to the Institute.

M. SUBRAHMANYAM,
Deputy Accountant-General.

To the Secretary to Government, Development Department.

III

Letter from E. F. THOMAS, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Director of Industries, to the Secretary to Government, Development Department, dated Madras, the 27th January 1925, No. 443-E/24.

In continuation of my letter No. 443-E/24, dated the 15th January 1925, I have the honour to forward my remarks on the balance sheet of the Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, for the quarter ending 30th September 1924.

The book debts outstanding collection on the 30th September 1924 were Rs. 1,00,218-4-1, of which a sum of Rs. 80,177-1-1 has since been realized leaving a balance of Rs. 20,041-3-0 still to be collected. The chief reason for this large increase at the end of the quarter in question over the book debts at the end of the previous quarter was due to the fact that two invoices for Rs. 59,238 and Rs. 940 rendered to the Deputy Assistant Controller of Military Accounts for yellow bar and soft soap supplied to the Controller of Stores were pending collection. These bills were outstanding on the 30th September 1924 and the amounts were fully realized subsequently.

[16th March 1925]

A sum of Rs. 4,038-7-2 has been debited in the profit and loss account on account of interest on capital for the quarter in question. If the interest item is deleted in accordance with G.O. No. 1941, Development, dated 13th November 1924, the expenditure will be reduced and the net profits will increase to Rs. 9,721-9-0. Similarly the profits will be increased by Rs. 27-15-0 being the insurance premia for the quarter which has not been actually incurred.

Order—No. 291, Development, dated 25th February 1925.

Recorded.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

G. T. H. BRACKEN,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Industries,
„ the Accountant-General (through Finance),
„ the Finance Department,
„ Messrs. Fraser & Ross,
„ the Auditor-General (with C.L.),
„ the Secretary, Legislative Council Office, for placing on the Council Table.

APPENDIX VI.

[Vide item IV, Communications to the Council at page 28 supra.]

*Proceedings of the seventeenth meeting of the Finance Committee
1924-25 held on Tuesday the 3rd March 1925 at 2-30 p.m.
in the Cabinet Room, Fort St. George.*

PRESENT:

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM, C.E.I., I.C.S. (Chairman).
M.R.Ry. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI Avargal, M.L.C.
„ M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR Avargal, M.L.C.
„ C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR Avargal, M.L.C.
Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU Garu, *Kt.*, M.L.C.
MUHAMMAD MOOSA SAIT SAHIB Bahadur, M.L.C.
R. W. DAVIES, Esq., I.C.S., M.L.C.
Messrs. M. R. Kharegat, Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, V. T. Krishnama Achariyar, Secretary to Government, Law Department, and E. M. Gawne, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary to Government, Public Department, were also present.

16th March 1925]

Supplementary Demands.

“45. Superannuation allowances and Pensions”—Increase in pensionary charges—Rs. 4,58 000.

The Committee recommended that a supplementary demand be moved.

2. “33. Public Health—Grants for public health purposes”—Grant to the Municipal Council, Ootacamund, and the District Board, the Nilgiris, for a campaign against relapsing fever—Rs. 16,700.*

* Includes a sum of Rs. 9,167 already recommended by the Finance Committee.

The Committee recommended that a supplementary demand be moved.

Schemes.

3. Permanent retention of two temporary upper division clerks in the Law Department—

					Permanent establish- ment.
					RS.
Present cost per annum	..	..	..	..	58,496
Proposed cost	..	..	..	..	61,808
Extra cost	..	..	..	..	3,312

Savings under temporary establishment Rs. 3,312.

Net extra cost per annum—Nil.

The Committee recommended the proposal for acceptance.

4. Raising the Government Victoria College, Palghat, to the first grade—

	Ultimate annual cost.	Cost for the first year.
	RS.	RS.
Total—Recurring and non-recurring.	37,565	31,782
Additional fee income	10,944	5,472
Net extra cost of the scheme	26,621	26,310

A majority of the Committee expressed the opinion that the adoption of the scheme was not a matter of immediate urgency.

5. Employment of a Personal Assistant to the Executive Engineer, Madura division—

	RS.
Cost for six months	672

The Committee recommended the scheme for acceptance.

6. Purchase of silk reeling machinery—

	RS.
Cost of the scheme	2,650

The purchase of two machines was recommended.

[16th March 1925]

7. Malabar Rebellion—Write off of Malabar loans and payment of compensation to a rubber company—

	RS.
Total cost	7,44,874

The Committee observed that they were unaware of the extent to which the actual damage had been checked. They did not object to the principle, but in the absence of further information than that contained in the note were unable to recommend an exact figure.

8. Appointment of a Special Officer to set the scheme of control of expenditure in operation—

	RS.
Cost of the scheme for four months .. .	5,600

The Committee recommended the scheme for acceptance.

FORT ST. GEORGE, }
4th March 1925.

R. A. GRAHAM.

APPENDIX VII.

[Vide item IV, Communications to the Council at page 28 supra.]

Assignment of disafforested tracts in Vriddhachalam taluk to the Adi-Dravidas.

187 Q.—MR. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the disafforested tract in Nallur, Vriddhachalam taluk, the ryots were permitted in 1921 to cultivate about 30 acres lying west of the Kothanur pathway, the remaining extent being reserved for assignment to Adi-Dravidas;

(b) whether it is a fact that the ryots spent about Rs. 800 in repairing and bringing the land under cultivation and paid assessment for two years;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said ryots were given notice to quit and the Collector assigned the whole extent to Adi-Dravidas;

(d) whether it is a fact that out of 100 acres assigned to the Adi-Dravidas only 20 acres have been brought under cultivation and the others are lying waste;

(e) whether it is a fact that in the limits of A. Sithur which lies next south of Nallur considerable extent fit for assignment exists; and

(f) whether in view of the ryots of Nallur having spent about Rs. 800 on 30 acres of land and the greater part of the land assigned to the Adi-Dravidas lying waste, the Government propose to treat these 30 acres separately and assign them to ryots who improved them?

16th March 1925]

- A.—(a) The answer is in the negative. The whole block has been reserved for Adi-Dravidas.
- (b) The caste ryots reclaimed only about 13 acres at a cost of about Rs. 25 per acre, and cultivated them in faslis 1331 and 1332. Assessment was charged in fasli 1331 and both assessment and penalty were charged in fasli 1332.
- (c) It is true that caste ryots were served with notices under section 7 of the Land Encroachment Act as they occupied the land reserved for Adi-Dravidas. No land has yet been assigned to Adi-Dravidas in this block.
- (d) No assignment has been made to Adi-Dravidas yet.
- (e) Yes. The total extent available is 955.77 acres of which about 440 acres have been, or are to be reserved for Adi-Dravidas. The rest is available for cultivation either by caste ryots or by Adi-Dravidas.
- (f) The caste ryots have vacated the lands originally in their occupation and they have since been occupied by the Adi-Dravidas. The extent available for cultivation in Nallur is hardly sufficient for the Adi-Dravidas themselves

APPENDIX VIII.

[Vide item IV, Communications to the Council at page 28 supra.]

G.O. No. 3593, Law (General), dated 18th December 1924.

READ—the following paper:—

From the Registrar, High Court, R.O.C. No. 565/23, dated the 29th October 1924.

Order—No. 3593, Law (General), dated 18th December 1924.

The Government have carefully considered the proposals of the Hon'ble the Judges for the re-adjustment of territorial jurisdictions of the North Arcot and Chittoor districts and have come to the conclusion that it is essential for the present to retain the two District Courts as well as the Chittoor and Vellore sub-courts. They are further of opinion that it is immaterial for the present to decide which of the two sub-courts should continue on a permanent, and which on a temporary, basis and are accordingly not inclined to alter the present status of these courts. The further retention up to 31st March 1926 of the temporary appointment of Subordinate Judge, Vellore, with his establishment, is accordingly sanctioned. The Hon'ble the Judges are requested to be so good as to forward in due course proposals, if necessary, for the continuance of the court beyond that date.

[16th March 1925]

2. The Government accept the High Court's recommendation for the transfer of the Kangundi zamin for purposes of civil litigation from the North Arcot revenue district to the Chittoor civil district. The following notification will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*:—

NOTIFICATION.

Under the provisions of section 10 of the Madras Civil Courts Act, 1873, the Governor in Council directs that, with effect from the 1st February 1925, the area comprised within the limits of the Kangundi zamin be excluded from the local jurisdiction of the District Court of North Arcot and included within the local jurisdiction of the District Court of Chittoor.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

V. T. KRISHNAMA ACHARIYAR,
Secretary to Government.

To the Hon'ble the Chief Justice.

„ Finance Department.

„ Accountant-General.

„ Superintendent, Government Press, for publication of the notification in the Gazette.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 17th March 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI AVARGAL, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council, with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Forests.

Inspection of forests, etc., in Cuddapah.

* 445 Q.—Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) if the Chief Conservator of Forests visited Cuddapah district and inspected the work of the Forest Panchayat Officer in the district and also of the forest panchayats;

(b) the number of forests in Cuddapah district disafforested and reserved respectively during the years 1922 to 1925 and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is necessity for three District Forest Officers in the district; and

(d) whether the forests in the district were working at a loss or profit during the years 1922 to 1924 and the reason therefor?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The information is given in the appended statement.*

(c) The Chief Conservator is examining the question

* Printed as Appendix I on page 162 infra.

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(d) The figures of receipts and charges are as follows :—

				Receipts.	Charges.
				RS.	RS.
1921-22	...	...	...	1,46,520	3,00,926
1922-23	...	...	...	1,73,940	2,82,034
1923-24	...	...	...	1,82,474	2,60,724

The Government are not aware of the reasons for the excess of charges over receipts; a report has been called for.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—“ With reference to the last sentence of the answer that ‘ a report has been called for,’ may I ask whether the Government will be pleased to place the report on the table of the House after it is received? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am afraid I cannot give any promise of that kind until the report is received.”

Civil Justice.

Status of private vakils.

* 446 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state, with reference to the article on page 9 of *Swarajya*, dated 16th January 1925, headed ‘ Status of Private Vakils,’ whether any representations have been received by the Government from Mr. C. N. Krishnaswami Ayyar, private vakil practising in the Town Sub-Magistrate’s Court, Coimbatore, to the effect that all the existing private vakils should be given the same legal status as that given to mukhtars in Northern India to practise in all the existing criminal courts of the district?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ With reference to the main question, may I know whether at least any representation has been received by the hon. the Law Member addressed to him personally and if so, whether he is prepared to consider the question? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ The Law Member is not prepared to consider any question contained in any merely personal representation received by him.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask the hon. the Law Member what is the policy of the Government with regard to this matter? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ The policy of the Government, speaking offhand and entirely on the spur of the moment, is to insist that every person who practises in any of the courts in this Presidency should be duly qualified by academical qualifications.”

Public Works.

Secretaries to Chief Engineers.

* 447 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : With reference to the answers given to supplementary questions connected with question No. 1225 given on the 17th November 1924 that the matter about having the Secretaries different from the Chief Engineers was under consideration, will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether any decision has been arrived at and if so, to what effect; and

[17th March 1925]

(b) whether it is a fact that much delay is being caused in the disposal of papers by the Government and much inconvenience felt by the Chief Engineers being Secretaries also and thus depriving the Government of the benefit of having some notes prepared by the Secretaries on the opinions expressed by departmental heads as in other departments of the Government?

A.—(a) Government consider that separation of functions is necessary.

(b) In view of the answer to (a), no answer is required for (b).

Education.

Principles governing the constitution of Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Board.

* 448 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the principles followed in the constitution of the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Examination Board; and

(b) whether only headmasters are eligible to be members of that Board?

A.—(a) The Board consists of five officials and five non-officials. Two officials and two non-officials are appointed on the recommendation of the Syndicate. The members are so chosen that the principal subjects of the public examination under the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate scheme are ordinarily represented on the Board. Care is also taken to see that the majority of the members have as much experience of secondary school work as possible.

(b) No.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ With reference to the first portion of the answer, may I ask the hon. the Education Minister to say whether the recommendations of the Syndicate are usually accepted? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ They are generally accepted.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ With regard to lines 3 and 4 of the answer that ‘ the members are so chosen that the principal subjects of the public examination under the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate scheme are ordinarily represented on the board,’ may I know what exactly it means first with regard to the subjects under Groups A and C; and secondly what is meant by ‘ subjects being represented on the Board’? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ Subjects under each group, A and C, compulsory as well as optional, are represented by various representatives.”

Agriculture.

Agricultural Department and sale of manures.

* 449 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Agriculture greatly advertises and pushes the sale of manures made by a particular European firm;

[17th March 1925]

(b) whether he is aware there are a number of co-operative societies manufacturing bone-meal and other scientific manures;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Agricultural Department does not render any help for the sale of manures manufactured by co-operative societies and Indian firms of manure-manufacturers; and

(d) whether any efforts are being made to push the sale of manures manufactured by co-operative societies and indigenous firms?

A.—(a) No.

(b) As far as Government are aware there are only three co-operative societies which deal in manures.

(c) & (d) It is not the function of the Agricultural Department to promote the sale of manures manufactured by any particular society or firm.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"As regards the answer to clauses (c) and (d) of the question, may I know whether the Agricultural Department purchases or gets manures from any European firm to be sold to the agriculturists?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"The question has already been answered in the negative."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Is the hon. the Minister aware that the head of the Agricultural Department, Mr. Anstead, is reported to have said at a conference of co-operators in the Nellore district some time back that he was in favour of ryots encouraging manures manufactured by Messrs. Parry & Co.?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"That question was put some days ago and a definite answer was given."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"As regards the answer to clauses (c) and (d), does the Agricultural Department get enquiries from the ryots about the places and the quality of manures that are available?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"Whatever information people ask, the Agricultural Department furnishes."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Is it not possible for the Agricultural Department to recommend manures manufactured by co-operative societies and Indian firms?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"The Government place the manures manufactured by co-operative societies and those manufactured by Messrs. Parry & Co. on the same level, and they give all the information they have at their disposal to people who apply for such information."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"May I know whether the Agricultural Department is not getting fish manure from Messrs. Parry & Co. and selling it to the ryots?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"It is not a fact."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"Is it not so, now? Or was it so even last year?"

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"I should like to have notice if you want a definite answer as I have not got the papers here."

Supplemental Question to Question No. 439 (vide page 24 of Proceedings, dated 16th March 1925).

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"As regards question No. 439 about the Inspector of Industrial Schools, Madras, I think the hon. Member, Sriman Sasibhushan Rath, pointed out yesterday that there was a misprint '11th October' for '13th October'. I allowed the question to be asked to-day because of this misprint: as it may have prejudiced the hon. Member in putting supplementary questions."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"There is no definite answer. May I know whether the hon. the Minister is satisfied that the qualifications possessed by the Inspector of Industrial Schools are such as to fit him for the post he holds?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"The question carries with it the answer. The Government are satisfied with his qualifications."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Has he any university qualifications?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"I have already said that he has no university qualifications."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Has he any technical qualifications?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"His technical qualifications are given in the Annual List that is published by the Government and placed in the library."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Forests.

Acting allowance to lower subordinates in the Revenue Department.

450 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that acting allowance admissible to clerks acting on Rs. 90 and above is not allowed to clerks acting on Rs. 60-80;

(b) whether Government contemplate modifying the order, if any, to allow acting allowances even to lower subordinates;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Forest establishment has been merged in the Revenue establishment for purposes of promotion and that the smaller set of clerks in the Forest department always get support from their heads of department for promotion, prejudicial to the interests of Revenue clerks having higher claims;

(d) whether any steps are being taken to ascertain the grievance and to redress the same; and

[17th March 1925]

(e) whether it is a fact that the benefit of seven increments referred to, in the Board's Proceedings of 1924, was not given to graduates of more than five years' service in 1921, drawing Rs. 35 plus Rs. 10½, in the old scale (lower grade) and, if so, whether this grievance can be adequately compensated now?

A.—(a) Yes. The reason is that such promotion does not involve the assumption of duties or responsibilities of greater importance.

(b) No.

(c) & (d) The District Forest Office forms a branch of the Collector's Office. The Government have no reason to think that clerks in the Forest branch get preferential treatment.

(e) The proceedings referred to by the hon. Member cannot be identified.

Prohibition of grazing in reserved forests.

451 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) when goats were prevented from grazing in reserved forests for the first time;

(b) on whose advice that was done;

(c) whether the matter was ever considered either by a committee of experts or of officials and non-officials;

(d) the total number of goats, as per statistics, in the year previous to the passing of the order excluding the goats from reserved forests and the approximate number at the present time;

(e) whether there has been any appreciable increase in forest revenue to Government since the exclusion of goats;

(f) whether it is a fact that forest-growth has deteriorated after the exclusion of goats from reserved forests; and

(g) whether the hon. the Home Member will be pleased to publish the opinion of all Conservators and District Forest Officers on the subject of the exclusion of goats?

A.—(a) Goats have been partially excluded from reserves since 1902 and entirely excluded since 1913.

(b) & (c) The exclusion of goats from all reserved forests was made on the recommendation of the Forest Committee of 1912 which consisted of officials, non-officials and an expert. A copy of the committee's report was laid on the Editors' Table.

(d) The total number of goats in the Presidency in the years referred to were

1912-13	...	...	...	...	7,518,577
1922-23	...	...	...	...	5,396,574

The figures for 1923-24 have not yet been received.

(e) & (f) The Government are satisfied that the general condition of reserved forests has materially improved since the exclusion of goats. The exact money value of the improvement cannot be gauged.

(g) The Government do not propose to do so. Expert opinion is clear that goat browsing is incompatible with any system of silviculture.

[17th March 1925]

Irrigation.

The second reading of the Madras Irrigation Bill.

452 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of days taken for the discussion of the Madras Irrigation Bill at the second reading after the Select Committee's report; how many adjournments were made;

(b) the extra cost to Government on account of travelling allowances of the members; and

(c) what remedies Government propose to avoid such adjournments and consequent extra cost?

A.—(a) (i) Nineteen days.

(ii) Two adjournments.

(b) The term 'extra cost' is not clear. The amount of travelling allowance drawn by Members of the Legislative Council for the sittings of the Council in the months of October, November and December when the Irrigation Bill was under consideration was as follows:—

		RS.	A.	P.
October	...	21,316	3	0
November	...	14,057	2	0
December	...	11,760	13	0

Of the amounts shown against the months of November and December, Rs. 9,327-2-0 and Rs. 9,840-13-0 represent the amounts paid to Members of the Legislative Council on account of railway fare and the balance that was paid to them on account of daily allowance. On these days other business was also done besides the Irrigation Bill; it is not possible to discriminate the extra cost to Government of the Irrigation Bill.

(c) The Government will be glad to consider any suggestion which the hon. Member may make.

The Ramapuram channel, Bellary district.

453 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Tungabhadra irrigation channel known as Ramapuram channel in the Adoni taluk in the Bellary district has been in a state of disrepair for the last seven or eight years;

(b) whether the water-supply in the said channel has been materially decreased owing to its non-repair and the non-clearance of silt therefrom from time to time;

(c) whether the ryots especially of the Madhavaram village suffer seriously for want of water on that account;

(d) whether the ryots of Madhavaram village have repeatedly petitioned the revenue and public works authorities to effect the necessary repairs and improvements in the same channel, but their request has not so far been complied with; and

(e) whether a petition has been sent up recently in the same matter to the Government also; if so, the action taken thereon?

[17th March 1925]

- A.—(a) Since 1920 extensive repairs have been carried out to the channel every year.
- (b) Silt clearance on a large scale has been done during the last three or four years and this year too it is being done. There has been no decrease in the supply of water.
- (c) & (d) No.
- (e) No petition is traceable.

Legislative.

Conference of Presidents at Delhi.

454 Q.—Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the hon. the President attended any Conference of Presidents at Delhi this year;
- (b) for how long the Conference of Presidents has been going on;
- (c) the amount of expenditure for each year for this province;
- (d) whether he took any establishment along with him;
- (e) whether this year the Secretary also followed him;
- (f) whether any expenditure was incurred on that account;
- (g) the necessity for such a step;
- (h) whether any proceedings of decisions arrived at at the Conference each year exist and are available to be placed on the table of this House;
- (i) whether any benefit was derived by this House or this Presidency by such Conferences and if so, what it is;
- (j) whether the hon. the President visited other places in India this year; if so, what they are and why;
- (k) whether it is for studying acoustic properties of the Chambers of those provinces;
- (l) the expenditure incurred on account of the visits to those places; and
- (m) whether the knowledge gained by personal visit cannot be equally or better got by correspondence and by means of plans regarding the Chambers and seating arrangements?

- A.—(a) Yes.
- (b) Since 1921.
- (c)—

Year.	Expense.		
	RS.	A.	P.
1921	2,795	9	0
1923 January	1,070	5	0
1923 December	1,079	12	0
1924	Not yet ascertained.		

- (d) Yes.
- (e) Yes.
- (f) The Secretary has not yet drawn his travelling allowance, but it is expected that the expenditure on his account would be about Rs. 700.

[17th March 1925]

- (g) As the Conference in question was the last conference of nominated Presidents, the hon. the President thought that in view of the possibility of there being some changes in the personnel of the several presidentships, the Secretary to the Legislative Council might be given an opportunity of attending the deliberations. As the invitation to attend the Conference extended to him, the hon. the President recommended to His Excellency the Governor that he might be permitted to avail himself of the invitation especially as it would give him an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the conduct of Council arrangements elsewhere. His Excellency the Governor permitted him to attend the Conference.
- (h) Yes; they are marked confidential and cannot be placed on the table by this Government.
- (i) The benefit which these conferences are intended to produce were stated by Sir Frederick Whyte in his answer to question No. 653 put by Mr S. C. Ghose in the Legislative Assembly on 2nd February 1925. The answer is extracted below:—
- 'The purpose of the Conference was and is to enable the Presidents to exchange in full and free confidence, their experiences and the general results of their work in their respective Chairs. The first Conference in Simla in September 1921 was so successful that the Presidents decided unanimously to make it, if possible, an annual event. By these annual meetings the Presidents have endeavoured to co-ordinate the procedure of all the Indian Legislatures, and I am glad to have this opportunity of declaring that I have derived the greatest profit from them.'
- (j) Yes; Bombay, Patna and Calcutta.
- (k) Yes partly, and partly for studying other conditions on the spot.
- (l) Practically nothing as the hon. the President visited those places only on his way to and from Delhi.
- (m) No.

Legislative measures during this session.

455 Q.—MR. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the legislative measures proposed or likely to be introduced in this session?

A.—The following are the legislative measures likely to be introduced during the current session:—

- (1) The Cochin Port Trust Bill,
- (2) The Village Offices Revival Bill,
- (3) Bill to amend the Village Panchayat Act, and
- (4) Bill to amend the Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act.

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- (c) So far as the Government can decide from the information available, the following statement shows the distribution of European and Indian non-official members. Official members are more liable to transfer; so they have not been included.

	Europeans.	Indians.
Adirampatam	...	4
Calicut	2	3
Cuddalore	2	3
Malpe	...	7
Mangalore	3	3
Masulipatam	1	5
Negapatam	3	4
Tellicherry	3	2
Vizagapatam	3	2

(d) No.

(e) The rules prescribe that Landing and Shipping Fees Committees should be consulted as regards items of expenditure included in the budget. Budget estimates are prepared, but Government are not aware whether the actual budget estimates are circulated before discussion.

(f) The accounts are audited by the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts.

(g) The accounts are placed before the Local Government who pass orders.

Reclamation of the bund at Mangalore.

459 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Presidency Port Officer visited Mangalore in January 1924;

(b) the points which he investigated on the complaints of the local merchants in regard to the reclamation of the bund and its appropriation and condition;

(c) whether he consulted any of the principal local merchants and which of them on those points; and with what result;

(d) whether it is a fact that the projected reclamation at the Mangalore bund (south) will be absorbed to such an extent by the European and American kerosene oil depot installations that they must retard the extension of the godowns and warehouses of the local Indian merchants; and

(e) why the bund near the coffee warehouses is allowed to be used as firewood depot even temporarily?

A.—(a) Yes, on 30th January 1924.

(b) & (c) The visit was in connexion with the proposal to cut a channel near the Sultan's Battery to provide a passage for the clay-boats of the tile manufacturers. The Government have no information whether any other subjects were discussed and cannot obtain the information as Captain Huddleston who was at that time Presidency Port Officer has since been transferred.

(d) The Government have no reason to suppose so.

(e) Because there is no other convenient site.

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Port light establishment.

460 Q.—Mr. S. SATYANURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) since the reduction of port light establishment on the introduction of automatic gas acetylene lights,

(i) how many port light-keepers were provided with appointments in the coast light service,

(ii) how many port light-keepers were dispensed with and the period of services of each of them, and

(iii) how many new men were directly appointed in the coast light service;

(b) the grounds on which light-keeper V. Muniswami of Tuticorin light-house was dismissed from his long service of 18 years;

(c) whether the certificate of temporary unfitness granted to him by an L.M.P. (a registered medical practitioner) had not been accepted by the department concerned on the strength of a Government Order obtaining on the subject; and if so, why not;

(d) whether there is a rule that all the head light-keepers in this Presidency light-houses must take equal and regular night duty in the lantern room like assistant light-keepers;

(e) if so, whether such a rule is being carried out in all light-houses;

(f) the present total number of head light-keepers in the coast light services;

(g) whether the department concerned has ever appointed any one of the following communities—Caste Hindus, Christians, Adi-Dravidas and Brahmans—to the place of head light-keeper in the coast light services since its introduction in this Presidency in order to observe the Government Orders enjoining the heads of departments to give proper representation to the members of different communities in all Government services; if not, why;

(h) whether men in all communities other than Anglo-Indian were appointed as assistant light-keepers in the coast light service before the year 1920; if not, the reason therefor; and

(i) the names of Indians who have been now working as assistant light-keepers in coast light service?

A.—(a) (i) One.

(ii) Twelve. Their service at the time of discharge ranged from two years six months to thirty-eight years.

(iii) One.

(b) For absence from duty without leave and misbehaviour.

(c) Muniswami was declared by the Assistant to the District Medical Officer, South Arcot, to be fit for duty. A contrary opinion expressed by a private practitioner was not accepted.

(d) & (e) Yes, except in the case of the Madras light-house.

(f) Eleven.

(g) At present all the head light-keepers are Christians, one being an Indian Christian, the others Anglo-Indians.

(h) Two persons other than Anglo-Indians were appointed assistant light-keepers before 1920.

(i) O. M. Gratian, D. Jacobs A. Muhammad Ibrahim Lodi, Solomon Christian, and B. Abdul Qadir.

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Collectorates.*Graduate clerks in the Revenue Department.*

461 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Board's Proceedings Nos. 2198 (Routine) and 3607 (Routine) were issued in 1922 and in 1924, with a view to encourage the entertainment of graduates as clerks in the Revenue Department;

(b) whether it is a fact that Collectors have been asked therein not to adhere to the principle of strict seniority for purposes of promotion, in the case of graduate clerks;

(c) how many graduates there are in 35-60 grade, having more than five years' service in the Revenue Department, in the districts of Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor; and

(d) whether in their service, opportunity was taken to give effect to Board's Proceedings referred to above, and whether it is a fact that many chances of promotion were given to less qualified men, adhering to seniority and against the spirit of the Board's Proceedings?

A.—(a) & (b) The Board's Proceedings quoted should have the effect of encouraging graduates to join the department. B.P. No. 2198, dated 11th August 1922, lays down that promotion should not go necessarily according to seniority in the establishment list but according to merit and qualifications.

(c) The hon. Member is referred to the establishment lists of the three districts which are available in the Council Library.

(d) The Government have no reason to think that the orders in the two Board's Proceedings have not been given effect to.

Famine.*Opening of fodder depots in Bellary district.*

462 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether any fodder depots were opened in the famine-affected area in Bellary district; if not, for what reasons; and what was the extent of the cattle mortality during the time?

A.—Arrangements were being made for the supply of fodder to Bellary and Anantapur districts when the Collector of Bellary reported that rain was relieving the situation in that district; accordingly, the arrangements were made only for Anantapur district. The Government have no information regarding cattle mortality in Bellary during the period of scarcity.

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.*Abolition of the taluk of Siruguppa.*

463 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether, while abolishing the taluk of Siruguppa, the Government added 52 villages formerly comprised under it to the Adoni taluk;

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(b) whether those villages which were formerly in the Bellary division are now comprised under the Adoni Revenue division but are still included in the Bellary Taluk Board; and

(c) whether there is any representation made to tack them on to the Adoni Taluk Board; and whether the Government have passed final orders thereon?

A.—(a) Forty-six villages of the old Siruguppa taluk were added to the Adoni taluk and six villages to the Alur taluk.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative. The Government have passed orders in G.O. No. 410, L. & M., dated 6th February 1925. A copy of which is placed on the table.^a

Medical.*Proposed Medical School at Guntur.*

464 Q.—Mr. P. ANJANEYALU: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state when the Government will open the proposed Medical School at Guntur?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 289 at the meeting of the Council held on 20th August 1924.

Work of the itinerant medical officers and dispensaries in the Presidency.

465 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the number of itinerant medical officers and dispensaries working in the various districts of this Presidency;

(b) the nature of medical relief afforded by such officers and institutions;

(c) the area served by them; and

(d) the number and classes of patients treated by them during their tours?

A.—The information is not available but has been called for.

Opening of a class for chemists and druggists in the Madras Medical College.

466 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) how long it is since the class for chemists and druggists was opened in the Madras Medical College;

(b) how many students were trained every year for that profession during the past ten years;

(c) what is the average number of students that passed out of the College during the past three years;

(d) how many candidates who passed out of the College as chemists and druggists are employed in Government service; and

(e) how many chemists and druggists are employed as storekeepers in the chemical stores attached to major hospitals such as Rayapuram, Royapetta and Vizagapatam?

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4.—(a) The class was first opened in the Medical College, Madras, in 1872-73.

(b) The information is furnished below :—

Year.	Number of students trained.
1914-15	14
1915-16	11
1916-17	7
1917-18	6
1918-19	11
1919-20	6
1920-21	6
1921-22	8
1922-23	8
1923-24	2

(c) One.

(d) Four.

(e) One is employed as storekeeper of medicines in the General Hospital, Madras.

Rations allowed to patients at the Rayapuram Leper Hospital.

467 Q.—RAJ SAHIB U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the daily rations allowed to the Brahman and Anglo-Indian patients at the Leper Hospital, Rayapuram, respectively;

(b) the rate allowed to each patient, Brahman and Anglo-Indian, prior to September 1924;

(c) how many cooks are employed to cook the foods of (i) the Brahmans, (ii) the Anglo-Indians and (iii) other Hindus;

(d) whether it is a fact that Anglo-Indian patients are exempt from drill and if so why;

(e) whether it is a fact that Anglo-Indians are permitted to live with their leper wives in married quarters; and

(f) whether the same privilege is accorded to other communities; if so, how many are enjoying that privilege at present?

A.—Information has been called for.

Excise.

Certain rules in the Abkari Department regarding the carrying of toddy.

468 Q.—MR. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any rule in the Abkari Department that the sets of carts and casks carrying toddy should be maintained separately for each shop and also whether the stock of each shop should be maintained separately; if so, what is the principle of such a rule;

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(b) whether this rule works hardship on and causes unnecessary expenditure to the renters especially in the Bellary district where toddy has to be carried to a shop from Kudligi taluk at a distance of 40 to 50 miles; and he proposes to cancel the rule in question;

(c) whether during the prevalence of famine, scarcity or distress in a district, remissions or suspensions of kist are granted to the abkari renters as in the case of land revenue and whether there is any provision for the grant of loans to the renters;

(d) whether any applications for remission or suspension of kists from the renters of the districts of Anantapur and Bellary were received by or forwarded to the Government during the famine years 1923-24 or 1924-25 and whether any have been granted; if so, in what cases;

(e) whether on account of rains and consequent lack of moisture the toddy trees tapped in the districts of Anantapur and Bellary have not been yielding the requisite supply; and whether the hon. the Minister proposes to reduce the tree-tax for that reason in the said districts;

(f) whether it is a fact that in the Madras Presidency the use of the trees once numbered and marked is allowed only for six months; whether the hon. the Minister proposes to extend the period to one year;

(g) whether it is a fact that the abkari renters are allowed to bid without the production of solvency certificates in abkari sales; and

(h) whether the hon. the Minister proposes to make the production of such certificate obligatory before a renter is allowed to bid?

A.—(a) There is no objection to toddy intended for different shops being carried in the same conveyance provided toddy intended for different shops is kept in different receptacles. The principle of such a rule is to see that no malpractices occur.

(b) As it is only insisted that toddy should be carried in different receptacles when intended for different shops and as transport in same conveyance is allowed renters are not likely to feel any hardship; the expenditure they may have to incur is necessary.

(c) No.

(d) No such applications were received by Government.

(e) The Government have no information.

(f) So far as Government trees are concerned their use is permitted only for six months, but there is no restriction in regard to trees owned by private people. The tree-tax is levied for the year in the case of palmyras and dates and half-yearly in the case of coconuts and sagoes. The Government do not propose to alter the existing arrangement.

(g) Yes.

(h) The question is under consideration by the Commissioner of Excise.

Agriculture.

Indigo and jute cultivation in the Presidency.

469 Q.—MR. M. RATNASWAMI: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the acreage under indigo and jute cultivation has fallen within the last thirty years;

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- (b) the reason for the fall ;
 (c) whether the department have any policy in regard to the revival of these crops ;
 (d) the total number of indigo and jute factories in the Presidency ;
 (e) the annual output of each of these factories ;
 (f) whether there has been any increase year by year in the output of these factories in the period after the war ; and
 (g) whether Government intend to offer any State aid to these industries ?

- A.—(a) & (b) The area under indigo has decreased owing to the competition of synthetic dyes. Jute proper is not grown in this Presidency. The area under what is known as Bimlipatam jute or Deccan hemp has on the whole shown a tendency to decrease in recent years owing mainly to the reappearance of Russian hemp which has lessened the demand in the English market.
 (c) The Agricultural department is not at present working on these crops
 (d) There are no indigo factories registered under the Factories Act. There are four jute mills.
 (e) & (f) Information is not available.
 (g) If any request for State aid is received, it will be dealt with under the State Aid to Industries Act.

Government Potato Farm, Nanjanad.

470 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) what are the receipts and charges of the Government Potato Farm, Nanjanad, for the last three years ;
 (b) whether it is a fact that only European planters are given free seeds from this farm ;
 (c) whether the Government are going to help the Badaga cultivators with free seeds ; and
 (d) whether the experiments made in the farm are made known to the people ?

A.—(a) The receipts and charges for the last three years were as follows :—

		Receipts.			Charges.		
		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1921-22	...	7,982	14	0	13,107	15	5
1922-23	...	1,232	6	0	14,354	13	1
1923-24	...	5,645	14	4	8,583	13	11

- (b) No seeds are issued free from the farm.
 (c) Several Badagas have already been assisted by the supply of seeds under 'seed farm conditions'.
 (d) Short notes on the farm and the results obtained have appeared in the Monthly Digests of the Agricultural department. It is proposed to publish a leaflet on the working of the farm. A demonstrator has already been posted to the Nilgiris to demonstrate improvements to Badagas and other potato growers.

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Co-operation.

Advance collection of share capital of co-operative societies.

471 Q.—MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that co-operative societies are nowadays being registered only after the full share capital of the original members is collected and remitted to the district central banks ;
 (b) whether Government passed any rule imposing this new condition for the registration of co-operative societies ;
 (c) how many societies were registered in each district on this basis during the two years ending with 31st December 1924 ;
 (d) what amounts are lying at present, as 'suspense accounts' in each district central bank, to the credit of societies whose registration is pending with the department ;
 (e) whether this practice has been approved of by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies ; and
 (f) whether it is a fact that this practice of advance collection of share capital was insisted on as it was thought that it would be difficult to collect the share capital amount subsequent to registration of the society ?

A.—(a), (e) & (f) This procedure is adopted only in exceptional cases where the Registrar wishes to be assured of the bona fides of the persons proposing to form a society.

(b) No.

(c) & (d) The Government have no information.

Auditing of Co-operative Societies.

472 Q.—MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the audit done by the auditors of co-operative societies is tested anywhere and by anyone ;
 (b) whether there is any system by which Assistant Registrars are asked to 'superaudit' a certain percentage of societies audited by auditors ;
 (c) whether it is a fact that district central banks and district banking unions are audited by Assistant Registrars ;
 (d) the number of days spent by Assistant Registrars in auditing the accounts of central and district banks during the co-operative year 1923-24 ; and
 (e) whether there is a definite system prescribed by the Department for the super-audit of societies by Assistant Registrars ?

A.—(a) No.

(b) No.

(c) District central banks and district banking unions are audited by chief inspectors. The Assistant Registrar concerned tests the audit made by the chief inspector.

(d) The Government have no information.

(e) No.

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Fisheries.*Assistant Director of Fisheries—Coast.*

473 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the qualifications required for the post of the Assistant Director of Fisheries—Coast;

(b) what qualifications—technical and scientific—the present incumbent of the said post possesses and what salary he gets;

(c) whether the late Assistant Director of Fisheries was appointed to that post only after carrying on technical work for several years under Sir Frederick Nicholson and after undergoing some training in Europe, and what salary he received;

(d) whether the present incumbent has undergone the necessary training in Europe and, if not, the special circumstances that led to his appointment as Assistant Director of Fisheries—Coast;

(e) whether the present incumbent was appointed last year as Examiner to the Final Year Students of the Fisheries Training Institute, Calicut, in such subjects as Fisheries Technics and Marine Zoology; and

(f) if so, the qualifications he possesses to entitle him for the post of Examiner in these subjects?

A.—(a) No scientific or technical qualifications have been prescribed for the post of Assistant Director of Fisheries—Coast

(b) & (d) The present incumbent of the post has not had any training in Europe. He was Personal Assistant to the Director of Fisheries for about six years and in that capacity acquired considerable knowledge of details of administration of the department. He also underwent a course of training in the principles and practice of co-operation. He now draws Rs. 250 per mensem in the scale of Rs. 250—25—500—50—750.

(c) The late incumbent of the post was Personal Assistant to Sir Frederick Nicholson for about six years from 1908 to 1914. While holding that post he was deputed to Europe to acquire technical knowledge on fishery matters. On his return he was appointed to the post of Assistant Director. He drew Rs. 700 in the scale of Rs. 250—25—500—50—750 at the time of his retirement.

(e) & (f) The Assistant Director of Fisheries—Coast is a member of the Board of Examiners appointed by Government for the Fisheries Training Institute. The subjects in which he examines is a matter for the Board to decide. The Government understand that he examined only in 'Nature study.'

II**METHOD OF VOTING AT DIVISIONS.**

[*Note.*—An asterisk at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Mr. President, Sir, in the matter of taking divisions, I wish to submit to the House that the regular system of going into lobbies may be resorted to. If, for any reasons, you think that arrangements cannot be made for such a system at present, I suggest that you will be pleased to take the division for all the blocks

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simultaneously, first for "Ayes" and then for "Noes". I consulted the Leader of the House and he told me that he had no objection to such a system being introduced."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" The suggestion of the hon. Member, the Leader of the Opposition, has been sprung upon us on this side of the House. We are always at this disadvantage, that we are not practically in intimate touch with our Leader. Personally, I think, Sir, that having worked the present system for the last four and a half years, there is no special reason for a departure to be made. I can understand the system of going into lobbies. We have been pressing for it ourselves. I think the question may be placed before you and it is for you to arrange for the introduction of the system before the next meeting of the Council. The Council may go to the lobbies as is done in other Provincial Councils and in the Legislative Assembly. But this half-way House between the two systems will be satisfactory to no Party at all.

" We may not have now what we want. Lobby implies lobbying. We will have all the disadvantages, without any advantages, under the new system of voting by blocks that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition suggests. At any rate, Sir, I think this is a very novel suggestion suddenly sprung upon us and it would be advisable to keep to the hallowed system which we have had for the last four and a half years. I suggest that the division lobbies may conveniently be situated in some part of the House and we may have the system of going into the lobbies thereafter. But, under the present circumstances, I think we may continue the existing system."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, Sir, some of us who sit below the gangway, known perhaps by the somewhat incongruous expression, neutral, are not either in the confidence of the Leader of the House or of the Leader of the Opposition. Those that sit behind the Treasury Benches have this advantage, that they are in the direct confidence of the Leader of the House or at least, from their place on the Treasury Benches, they can get the information. Occasions have arisen in this House—I do not mean to imply anything more than what I am saying—in which we who are below the gangway have been very conveniently ignored. Still, Sir, I do not complain. These matters must be left to the Leaders on either side, and those of us that have chosen to remain below the gangway and to remain neutral without joining one side or the other, must be informed of what is going on in a matter like this. I think there cannot be any two opinions that the present system of taking the poll is vague. At least, in my block, hon. Members are guided by what is happening in the other blocks."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" I hope the hon. Member is speaking for himself."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I know that there are some staunch supporters here who vote with a particular party whether their conscience permits or not."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" I protest against this insinuation. We have to vote with one Party or the other. It is an absolutely unnecessary reflection on the independence of the members. Loyalty does not infringe on individuality."

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Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"I still maintain that the present method of voting has got its effect upon some hon. members. It is not necessary to mention who are the persons. I do maintain that there is this danger of voting by blocks, viz., that the voting in this block is influenced by the hon. Members in the other blocks."

(When the hon. the President was about to address the House, Mr. R. Veerian began to speak.)

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I am afraid the hon. member (Mr. Veerian) does not understand the rules of the House. One essential rule is that, when the President is on his feet, every other hon. Member has to resume his seat and no hon. Member should even leave the House."

* Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Therefore my humble suggestion is that the system of going into lobbies had great advantages and we will also be following the examples of the other Councils, the Assembly and of the Mother of Parliaments. The sooner we get into that practice, the better. Even if we have followed the present system for the last four years, nothing should deter us from going to the right way."

11-15 a.m. *The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Mr. President, I had no intention of intervening in this matter, but a rather pointed personal reference having been made to me by the hon. Member below the gangway on this side of the House (Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar), I think it necessary to say a few words not so much as a personal explanation but to clear up one or two matters he mentioned. He referred to the privilege which the Leader of the House enjoys of being in the confidence of the Leader of the Opposition. But as a matter of fact it was only about 3 minutes before the Leader of the Opposition mentioned this matter in the House that he informed me of his intention. I replied that there was no objection on my part to the proposal. But the suggestion of the hon. Member that the Leader of the Opposition and myself wanted to deprive the House of its privileges is entirely without foundation. My hon. Friend said that he was not in such close touch with the Leader on this side of the House, the Leader of the House, as he would like to be. That is not my fault. (Laughter). If my hon. Friend has any business to transact which comes within the limited and more or less nominal functions which I discharge as the Leader of the House, he can always come and speak to me."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Has the hon. Member Mr. Veerian got to say anything?"

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"I just wanted to say this much. Is it not a fact, Sir, that hon. members are at liberty to use their discretion and give their votes according to their own discretion? That is the only point, Sir." (Laughter).

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member could very well have said that after the other hon. Member had sat down. It was not necessary for him to have interrupted that hon. Member for the purpose. I want again to draw hon. Members' attention to the great importance of observing this rule, viz., not to interrupt another hon. Member who is speaking except when an hon. Member has to offer an explanation in regard to his own statement which he thinks has been misinterpreted by the hon. Member who is speaking. That is the only conceivable circumstance in which an

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hon. Member can be interrupted during his speech; and even that should be done only at the end of a sentence. To interrupt an hon. Member in the middle of a sentence is, I think, as a rule, absolutely indefensible, and I will not encourage it.

"In regard to the matter which has just been mentioned by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, and on which some other hon. Members also have spoken, I think the hon. Member of the Independent Party, Mr. Narasimha-charlu, wants to be heard".

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Sir, I could not follow what the hon. the Leader of the Opposition said, but I was able to follow what the other hon. Members said including the hon. the Leader of the House. I am sorry I was not able to catch the exact words spoken by the Leader of the Opposition."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The issue is very simple. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition suggested that hereafter we should vote by going into lobbies. Did the hon. the Leader of the Opposition suggest also the other alternative?"

* Rao Bahadur O. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Yes, Sir, I did. The desire is that we should go into lobbies. If for some reasons the President considers that such an arrangement is not possible at least a system of taking the 'Ayes' and the 'Noes' simultaneously from all the blocks may be adopted."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The 'Ayes' simultaneously and the 'Noes' simultaneously."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"I see no objection to the course suggested by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"It principally affects the hon. Members in that block (IV Block). It is out of consideration for their convenience and the convenience of the hon. Members in the third block which is next to it that this system was introduced by my predecessor. But if the system now suggested is introduced, the worst sufferers will be those in the last block next those in the third block, and to some extent those in the second block. I wish to know whether hon. Members would prefer to have this arrangement or the present one."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"The Leader of the Opposition mentioned also the alternative of voting by going into lobbies. We wish to be enlightened on the point."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"It is very easy to enlighten the House on that point. We have no lobbies (Laughter)."

"When the House was first constructed there was an intention of providing lobbies for divisions. But not only were the rooms originally placed at the disposal of the Council resumed by the Government but there has been serious lack of space for carrying on the ordinary business of the Council. We have not room enough for committees; we have not room enough for the office establishment; we have not room enough for the Library; we have not room enough for any of the officers of the House except the President and the Secretary. It will be sometime, I fancy, before Government can find the money and provide us with lobbies. That being the case, the only

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practical alternative is that suggested by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, viz., that hon. Members rising in a division should rise all together when the 'Ayes' are called and all together when the 'Noes' are called."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"If the trouble is that the hon. Members in the fourth block have to stand a few minutes longer, I may say that we do not mind the extra labour involved. I do not wish to say anything on the advantages of the system. I think, on the whole, it would be a fairer method to take the 'Ayes' simultaneously in all the blocks and the 'Noes' simultaneously in all the blocks. As for the Neutral leaders . . ."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I am no leader; I speak for myself."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"The two leaders who spoke for themselves . . ."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"I am not a leader of any Neutral party."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"My hon. Friend Mr. Ratnaswami is mistaken in thinking that I refer to him; I was referring to my hon. Friend Mr. Narasimhaachari."

Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB:—"So far as the Muhammadan Members are concerned, they would prefer the old practice."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"This is a matter which is left to the discretion of the President, but I should like to carry with me, if possible, the wishes of hon. Members. Before proceeding further, I would also like to advert to a point raised by the hon. Member, Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu, which other hon. Members might like to have cleared up. It is not the case that hon. Members sitting below the gangway are all neutral. To my knowledge there are only two hon. Members there who wished to be placed in an independent block. The hon. Member for Cuddapah and the hon. Member, Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai, expressly desired that they should be placed in that block and they have been so placed. It is open to any other hon. Member to join them. But I do not think the other hon. Members in the first three rows of the block not occupied by Muhammadan Members were placed there on account of their supposed neutrality or for any other reason than an alphabetical one. The reason, to the best of my recollection, why Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu was allotted his present seat was because of his prominence just as some other prominent hon. Members are placed on the opposite bench below the gangway. It is quite open to any hon. Member who desires to be neutral or independent to sit along with the other gentlemen whose political convictions are neutral. But it is not the case that all hon. Members seated below the gangway are there on account of any neutrality of views."

"Then, about what is going to be done hereafter in the matter of taking divisions, there appears to be unfortunately a division of opinion among the various sections of the House. At least two hon. Members, speaking on behalf of their respective Parties, have expressed views adverse to the proposal. I should therefore take time to consider the question. If hon. Members had been unanimous, I might have given a ruling on the spot. But that is not the case. I shall take a little time over it."

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[The President]

"But there is one other point on which I should like to make a remark. When I said that no lobbies had been provided by the Government, I only spoke from my own recollection of recent correspondence with the Government and I have not had the advantage of consulting the Government expressly on this point. If the Government are prepared to consider this question, we might perhaps be able to adopt the system of lobbies."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I may say, Sir, the difficulty is not only a matter of money but also of fitting up the lobbies in this building. It is exceedingly difficult to say where to put them in. It is almost impossible to expand the rooms in any direction. If lobbies are desired, the Public Works Department must be asked to suggest whether they could be arranged in a manner so as not to obstruct the passages all round."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Yes, the heat in the months of March and April would make a locked division lobby uncomfortable for hon. Members. In other countries the difficulty is not so great. The Legislative Assembly at Delhi meets only in the cold weather. That is so far as the lobbies are concerned. As regards the other matter, I promise to let the House know very soon what I think about it. Meanwhile I wish hon. Members to come to an agreement on the proposal. In a matter like this I should like the House, as far as possible, to be unanimous. It is a matter which concerns the convenience and the sentiments of the whole House and there is no reason why there should not be something like unanimity in the matter."

III

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1925-1926.

DEMAND I—LAND REVENUE.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"We begin now at half past eleven. We shall have two hours before lunch. We had an hour and a half yesterday. The debate will be concluded, if hon. Members avail themselves of the maximum time allotted, by 4 o'clock this afternoon."

Motion No. 11.

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move
'that the allotment of Rs. 18,400 for pay of officers be omitted.'

"This item represents the pay for one additional Assistant Secretary, and one Assistant mentioned on page 47 of the Civil Budget Estimate. That the whole country, at any rate, this province, is not in a mood to allow settlement operations to be carried on under executive orders is perfectly obvious. More than twice this Council expressed itself in no uncertain terms on the necessity of a Land Revenue Settlement Bill being placed upon a legislative basis. Over 4 years have elapsed since the Reform Scheme was inaugurated, and the Government without placing any bill on the Statute Book—a Bill of the nature and description containing the safeguards which the representatives of this House have often demanded—have been in the merry-go-round fashion conducting settlement operations. These settlement operations, especially in the absence of a settlement authority, are looked upon more or less as inflicting unnecessary hardship. That is a fact with which most of the ryots and most of the persons adversely

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affected are very familiar. I think yesterday one hon. Member referred to these settlement parties and compared them to dacoits. I am not in a mood to place them on that footing, but it is perfectly obvious that these settlement parties are considered more in the light of locusts which carry with them some bacilli of destruction. These settlement operations do not satisfy the people, and the recent instances of Trichinopoly and Tanjore may be cited in support of the position I advance, namely, the necessity of these settlement operations being allowed to carry on under legislative sanction subject to adequate safeguards being provided by means of a Bill placed on the Statute Book. It is therefore to impress upon the Government the necessity of expediting the Bill and also to mark our protest against the manner in which things have been going on all these five years without giving effect to our voice, I thought it necessary to table this motion, and when I make this motion I am not oblivious of the fact that within 4 or 5 months the Land Revenue Bill is likely to be brought before this House. What the Bill will be like, what its provisions may be, how far the views of the people will be recognized—these are matters outside the scope of my observations, and so far as non-officials are concerned they must be regarded as a perfectly sealed book. But if I find it necessary, although there is the prospect of a Land Revenue Bill being introduced within 4 or 5 months, to make this motion, it is because I want that all these operations should be kept in a state of abeyance or should be kept under suspension pending the final passing of the Bill. Even if the Bill is introduced in August it may not come into operation until after the expiry of 4 or 5 months from the date of the introduction of the Bill or, in other words, we can expect the Bill to commence to operate this time next year. There is absolutely no reason why in the interval, between now and that stage, these settlement operations should go on, and I hope the Council will give effect to the wishes of the people by cutting this amount of Rs. 18,400 which is allotted for the pay of the officers."

*The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"The demand under question has reference to the pay of one of the Assistant Secretaries in the office of the Board of Revenue. I do not know, Sir, whether it would be a fair argument that because a Land Revenue Bill is going to be introduced, the pay of an Assistant Secretary in the Board office should be cut off. When this Bill is introduced, the House will no doubt deal with it. But even if, as the hon. the Mover of the motion has suggested, we were to suspend the work of the settlement parties, the officer in the Board's office, for whom this provision has been made, has other duties and they do not entirely depend upon the work of the settlement parties. I do not know if he wishes me to go through the list of the work that falls to this officer to deal with. He deals with such general questions as those relating to water-rate, kistbandi, remission, suspension of revenue, second crop charge, settlement bill, tanks and tank beds, record of rights under Madras Act I of 1908, transfer of revenue registration and minor irrigation. These are most of his subjects and you will see that his duties do not entirely depend upon whether the settlement parties work or not. I do not think it would be fair to do away with the services of this officer on the ground that a Land Revenue Bill is going to be considered by this House. I would ask the House in order to enable the administration to go on to vote for this small sum."

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*Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I was somewhat impressed by the hon. the Revenue Member's apparent sincerity in regard to the Land Revenue Bill which was to be introduced, and I had hopes that the Government were moving in the right direction. Even when a small cut is proposed, I find the hon. the Revenue Member opposing it. He says it must not be cut and adds that the officer in the Board of Revenue for whom this provision is asked for has got a lot of duties to perform. He gives us a catalogue of duties which he has to perform. In spite of the innumerable functions which he has narrated, I do not know how many hours every day they actually entail on the officer concerned. I must congratulate the Board of Revenue on their ingenuity in always coming up and giving us a whole page of subjects which this officer has to attend to. They say this officer has to do this, that and a third thing. My hon. Friend, the Revenue Member, has narrated a number of duties which this officer has to perform. If really these functions do not pertain to settlement operations, I would suggest to the hon. the Revenue Member and also to the Finance Member that this gentleman's pay ought not to be debited to the Settlement Account. If really he is doing a number of duties which have nothing to do with Settlement work, I should like to know what canon of public finance requires that the pay of this officer should be debited to Settlement Account. Reference was made by my hon. Friend Mr. Siva Rao, to the repeated propositions almost unanimously passed by this House that until the Land Revenue Settlement Bill is passed into law or a system of permanent settlement is introduced, no further settlements ought to be put into operation in this Presidency. The Government have followed an ostrich policy and continuously rejected the wishes of this House and have been doing things very happily in their own fashion. It seems to me that we should be consulting our dignity and the highest interests of this Presidency by pressing the motion to a division and cutting this amount thus giving effect to the wishes of the people, showing the Government that we are fed up with their non-possimus attitude of doing nothing. Even if their promise were to be carried into effect by introducing the Land Revenue Bill, I am sure, when the Bill comes up, it will be a mere bit of paper worth nothing, not even the thing on which it is printed. No section of the House need be afraid that in voting for the deletion of this sum they would be placing the Government in a very difficult position. If the Assistant Secretary were to go away, the Revenue Board can go on as merrily as ever, unless the hon. Member for Revenue feels that the Board of Revenue is under-staffed. I do hope that this motion will be pressed to a division and carried, thus cutting off one small limb of this luxurious appendage of the Government."

*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I have given notice of a motion for the reduction of the allotment by Rs. 1,001."

"I specifically raise the question of Land Revenue Bill and I hope the hon. the Revenue Member will be pleased to enlighten us on this mysterious Bill which is in the womb of the future. I appeal to him to say whether we may not take up this motion as a token motion and press it to a division saying that we want a satisfactory Land Revenue Bill. So far as a particular officer is concerned, it does not matter whether he is there or not. The question is whether the Board of Revenue should go. If it goes, this officer will go. Coming to the Land Revenue Bill, probabl

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I may differ from many of my friends. I am one of those who do not want merely Government statutes. The whole question is, not whether there are rules or statutes, but whether there are good rules or good statutes. Probably our rules may differ according to the Member who is in charge of the department concerned. Pressure may be brought by this Council upon the hon. the Revenue Member and he may have the rules changed. But if there is a statute, he may say 'Oh! already you have got a statute, try to mend it'. It is therefore, I say, that not only we want a Land Revenue Bill, but we also want to be furnished with sufficient reasons to satisfy ourselves and the public that the Bill will be placed on a sound and satisfactory basis. Otherwise there is absolutely no use of the hon. the Revenue Member saying 'I am going to introduce a Land Revenue Bill and you may have a discussion of all these things at that time and amendments may be carried then'. What I am afraid is that the whole thing may be shelved and the Bill brought in a worse form. We do not know what the fate of the Irrigation Bill will be. We carried so many amendments, but the Governor has got the power to veto them by certification. I am only referring to it merely to show that simply because a Bill is going to become an Act it will not satisfy this Council or the country. It is therefore incumbent on the hon. the Revenue Member to tell us exactly what his views and the Government's views are about the present Land Revenue Bill. It is not enough to say that the Bill which will be introduced will be a little more satisfactory than the present one. We want to know in what respects the new Bill will differ. We want to know whether this Bill has got any of the principles embodied in the Bill prepared by the committee presided over by the hon. Member's predecessor. We want to know whether this Bill will have even the rudiments as it were, the embryo as it were, of the permanent settlement and if so, on what lines. If Government were to give us an idea, certainly it is not going to bind the Government, but we will be in a position to know as to what shape the Bill will take. Are they going to have elaborate discussion again? They may say that they are going to appoint an advisory committee. We know what the fate of the advisory committees is. Whatever is favourable to the Government, they accept it loyally. Whatever is said to some extent against the wishes of the Government, they set aside such recommendations saying 'this is only an advisory committee and their recommendations are not binding upon us'. Are they going to have advisory committees? If so, how many and consisting of what members? I hope the hon. the Revenue Member will just take the country and this House into his confidence and tell us exactly, so far as this Bill is concerned, what will be its nature.

"Otherwise there is absolutely no use of having a Bill if it is merely a reproduction of the present rules in a probably worse form.
11-45 a.m. It is only to see that a satisfactory answer is given as to the nature of the Bill that I gave notice of a token motion."

* Mr. E. W. LEIGH:—"Sir, I find a good deal of difficulty in understanding the position of most of the hon. Members who have made this motion. The first two hon. Members who had given notice of the motion to omit the allotment of Rs. 18,400 did not give to this side of the House any notice of the object with which they intended to move for the reduction, although they were specifically asked to do so. The third hon. Member who gave notice for a reduction of the allotment by Rs. 1,001 has given it to be

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his reason for the motion that he wanted to raise the question of the Land Revenue Settlement Bill. But he has not stated what question he is exactly going to raise in respect of the Bill and I do not think that his motion is in such a form that if a vote is taken upon it, it will express any definite view of the House."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir. We were simply asked by your office, Sir, to give some idea as to what we were going to raise in respect of some particular motions, not to give a catalogue or summary of the speech as it were of every Member. I do not think it would be worth while publishing all that. We have given a clear idea as to what questions we are going to raise and as the question of the Land Revenue Bill has been specifically stated to be raised in the motion, I think the hon. the Revenue Secretary must be prepared to give an answer."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member was perfectly right in limiting his definition to these few words and I cannot say that the hon. Member, the Revenue Secretary, is not also right from his point of view."

* Mr. E. W. LEIGH:—"May I explain, Sir, my position? The hon. Member has clearly indicated his intention that, he proposes to attack the land revenue policy, but he has not mentioned specifically any given point on which he proposes to raise the issue. He has not indicated that he wishes to get a declaration from the Government as to their policy in respect of the Bill, nor has he specifically mentioned the future form that he expects the Bill is going to take. If a vote is taken on this motion as it stands, I doubt whether the hon. Member would feel himself in a better position."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"That will show that the explanation of the Government is unsatisfactory to the House."

Mr. E. W. LEIGH:—"All that I can say is that no explanation has been asked so far. I understand now that the hon. Member wishes to have one. It is not my business to anticipate what the hon. Member may say in answer to this question, but I have only to point out that the Bill is not yet complete in any sense of the word. When we came to examine the form of the Bill we found out that there were many difficulties which did not previously occur in the draft. I will only give one instance. There are certain areas in the Presidency where settlement has been conducted on quite different lines from the usual ones and these have somehow to be provided for in the Bill. Until the draft is completed and provision is made for dealing with these particular points, the Bill cannot be before the House. Therefore I would suggest that the time has really not come for placing the whole matter before the House. If the hon. Member has any doubt, I may say further that the hon. the Revenue Member has done his best to satisfy Members of this House that he is doing something in the matter and that when the Bill comes forth it will be, as far as we can make it, a satisfactory Bill. And I would ask hon. Members not to press the matter further. Anything that has been said in this House or any intention in the minds of the hon. Members, I do not think, will go to alter the matter and I have only to ask that hon. Members would give a certain amount of freedom and would have a certain amount of patience now that the Bill is definitely in the course of being drafted."

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"As regards the particular item we are discussing here, the hon. Member for the University said that as these gentlemen were not doing settlement work, they should not come under the Settlement budget. I will only remind the hon. Member that till recently the Board of Revenue was divided into two sections, the Settlement section and the Land Revenue section, both of which have been amalgamated and some subjects are being dealt with separately by the Members of the Board and some jointly. The form of the budget is really a matter of convenience and hence this arrangement. I would therefore ask hon. Members not to press for an anticipation of the Bill and not to disturb the work of the officer."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, I want to say a few words on this motion. The main reason for which the Bill that was introduced by the hon. Member, Sir Arthur Knapp, was thrown out was this, namely, that as was originally contemplated by the committee which sat on the draft Bill, there was no provision in the Bill that was actually introduced in the Council for giving this Council a voice in determining the rates. In the Bill that was drafted by the committee there was a provision to the effect that after the scheme report is considered by the Government, the final rates are to be sanctioned by an affirmative vote of this Council. It was by reason of the absence of this provision in the Bill that was introduced, that it was rejected. There are, as far as I can see, two ways of giving this Council a voice in fixing the rates. One is that which was originally contemplated by the committee, namely, enabling this Council by its vote to fix the rate. The other method that can be thought of and that was actually adopted in the Irrigation Bill is this, namely, the Government introducing a sort of taxation bill and the Council expressing its opinion by means of its vote. Both these methods give the Council a voice, but the former is more satisfactory, for the latter course will enable the Governor, if he thinks so, to certify the Bill and nullify the vote of this Council. But even this method will give us some satisfaction for, according to the existing practice, we have no voice whatever in fixing the rates. The hon. Member, Mr. Legh, stated that the Bill that will be introduced will be more satisfactory than the previous one. He has not given us any idea about the details, but the statement that it will be more satisfactory than the one introduced by the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp may, I think, be taken as an assurance that one or the other of these two methods will be adopted. I can see no other way of making a Bill which will be more satisfactory than the previous one. Having regard to this consideration, I would advise my hon. Friends not to press the motion. The object of the motion has to some extent at least though not fully been attained, for it has elucidated this information from the Government that the Bill will be satisfactory. I cannot understand how that can be unless either of the two methods I have mentioned above is adopted."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Before I act upon the advice of my hon. Friend, may I ask the hon. the Revenue Member or the Secretary for Revenue to say whether one of these two things will be in the Bill."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"Sir, I am very sorry I am not in a position to make a public declaration on the point. I may say that hon. Members seem to have a very good idea of it."

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* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, the hon. the Revenue Secretary made a complaint against me that I did not specify the purpose of my motion. I understood that we were expected to specify the purpose only with respect to token motions and not with respect to motions whereby we seek to omit certain small items. But that is by the way. The speech of the hon. the Revenue Secretary was somewhat disappointing. I never heard him say that the provisions of the Bill to be introduced would be more satisfactory. I heard him say, unless I was very much distracted, that the provisions would be found satisfactory. He was not prepared to tell us nor did he take us into confidence with respect to the matters of detail. It was said that these officers, the Assistant Secretary and the Additional Assistant Secretary were doing a lot of work and that a part of the work related to Settlement. Judging from the catalogue of work that these officers are doing or expected to do, every one should find it difficult to understand how they should be brought under this category, to wit, Settlement. I am one of those who think that the Government have absolutely no justification to proceed with the Settlement pending the introduction of this Bill. Anyhow out of deference to the feelings expressed by some of the hon. Members here and with a view not to precipitate the matter to a division, I think I shall drop it and I crave the leave of the House to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 12.

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"I move

'that the allotment of Rs. 1,18,300 for Board of Revenue—Settlement be omitted.'

"Sir, I make this motion with a view to bring before this House the old question that has been agitating us for the last forty or fifty years and in regard to which, the popular elements concerned have expressed their opinion in an unequivocal manner, I mean the continuance of the Board of Revenue. Last year, Sir, during the budget discussion a motion was made with reference to this particular matter and all parts of the House joined in pressing the motion and carried it. Unfortunately, Sir, there are some items in the budget relating to the Board of Revenue which are non-votable. It was not possible for the House to delete provisions in regard to these items.

"But so far as the votable items are concerned, it is within the power of this House to vote for the deletion of that particular portion, thereby making it impossible for the Government to continue the Board of Revenue. Let me say at once, Sir, that it is not a policy of obstruction that is sought to be followed in regard to this motion. We are showing without any doubt whatever what our intentions are with reference to this matter. We do not want the Board of Revenue to continue, and as we have no power to delete all the items in reference to it, we are now proposing to take away whatever portion we can touch, thereby showing to the Government that they on their part should delete the non-votable items also, and thereby abolish the Board of Revenue altogether. After the very favourable full-dress debates that we have had in this House on this matter, I do not think it is necessary for me to go into the pros and cons of this question. Last year when we deleted the votable portions provided for

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the Board of Revenue, His Excellency Lord Willingdon restored the amount and sent a message in which he gives the reasons for such restoration. This is the message, Sir, that was received in this House:

'At the meeting on the 17th March 1924, the Legislative Council by a resolution reduced Demand No. I, Land Revenue Department, by a sum of Rs. 27,651 representing the pay and allowances of one Assistant Secretary and the establishments in the Land Revenue and the Court of Wards sections of the office of the Board of Revenue. It appears from the speeches of the hon. Members that their desire in passing the resolution was that the Board of Revenue should be abolished. Similar views have been expressed more than once in the last hundred years.'

"I wish you to mark the admission made in this very message that for the last hundred years an agitation has been carried on by the people for the abolition of this Board of Revenue and this abolition both as a matter of economy and as a matter of administration was called for by the people. And for hundred years the bulwark on the other side has stood firm and it would not yield. Then, the message continues:

'The question was last raised on a resolution passed by the Legislative Council in February 1921 when a committee was appointed which decided that the retention of the Board of Revenue was necessary. The House is no doubt aware that the Board of Revenue is a statutory authority under a score or more of Regulations or Acts in the Madras Presidency all of which would require amendment by the Legislature in case it was desired to substitute some other authority for the Board.

'Again in order to justify the abolition of the Board of Revenue it would be necessary to show that the work which is now done by that body is either totally unnecessary or could be more efficiently or more cheaply performed by some other agency.

'While refraining from expressing any opinion as to the policy underlying the resolution I consider it necessary in the interest of administration to restore the provision and accordingly certify, etc.'

"This is all that is stated in that message. Now, Sir, what does it mean? It means that for the last hundred years a popular agitation has been carried on in favour of abolishing this Board of Revenue. That is admitted."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"May I know if such admission has been made in the message that there has been popular agitation for hundred years?"

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I shall read again the words contained in the message. They are: 'Similar views have been expressed more than once during the last hundred years'."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Is there not a distinction between that and a popular agitation?"

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I do not know how else the thing can be put. For the last hundred years the same views have been given expression to; that is the admission. Now I do not know what the Government will call popular agitation. I do not know whether they are going to say that non-co-operation and such things only are to be known as popular agitation."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"May I ask the hon. Member to quote any symptom of popular agitation on this matter before the last five or six years?"

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I did not know that this question was going to be raised; if so, I should have been prepared with all the literature on the subject. Well, Sir, this admission has been

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made, and even though my hon. Friend makes a distinction between the expression of views and popular agitation, at least during the last five years there have been several instances of this question having been raised, in this Legislative Council itself, apart from the question having been raised on public platforms all over the country several times. I believe, Sir, in the old Congress some twenty years back the same question was agitated, and I know in several conferences in the districts and in provincial conferences several resolutions were passed for the abolition of the Board of Revenue. Well, Sir, if these do not constitute popular agitation, I do not know what else the hon. Member for Finance wants. Well, Sir, the retention is sought to be justified on two grounds. One is that a committee of this House was appointed and that committee came to the conclusion that the Board of Revenue cannot be abolished. That committee consisted of officials mainly, and the non-official members were only four, Mr. S. T. Shanmukham Pillai who was a retired deputy collector, Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar and Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar who belong to Madras, and Mr. Krishnan Nayar who was in charge of administration elsewhere and therefore knew something about land revenue administration. Their report was based mainly on a note given by the then Advocate-General, now the Law Member of the Government. And what he says is this, in his summing up at the end of his note:

'Having regard to the considerations already adverted to and in view of the probable course of development of political institutions in the country there are, from the point of view of constitutional lawyers, only two courses open. The first is to act strictly on the lines of English and American precedent and to hold subordinate administrative authorities accountable for overstepping their legal powers before the ordinary courts of law. The alternative is the establishment of administrative courts on the lines of the later French institutions and manned by persons who are not members of the political cabinet. When it is remembered that inevitably all the departments of the Government now comprised in what are called the reserved subjects will be soon transferred to the control of political leaders who will be chosen as Ministers and whose tenure of office will depend on their following for the time being in the Legislative Council, whose choice moreover will be dependent not on considerations of administrative efficiency but of political influence and who will and ought to be responsible only for laying down the general policy and not for actual administrative detail, it cannot but be conceded that statutory appeals ought not to be heard and decided by the Government or a Minister or a Member in charge of a department.'

"So, he comes to the conclusion that there should be an administrative court which ought to be presided over by permanent officers of the Government. That is the note he placed before the committee and it is on that note that the committee itself came to the conclusion that the Board of Revenue should continue. Then with reference to that note, even in the note itself, there are two alternatives given. There is first the recourse to ordinary courts which is the usual practice followed in Britain and the British Colonies and there is the other course, namely, the French method of the superior authorities of the executive departments themselves forming a court for the purpose. The then Advocate-General suggested that the latter or the French model might be adopted and so he argued that the retention of the Board of Revenue would be necessary. I do not know why he should pin his faith to the French precedent and not the British precedent which seems to have given satisfaction everywhere. And secondly, he only says that there should be an executive court of appeal, but he does not say that the Board of Revenue should be continued. Now, the Board of Revenue is not an executive court of appeal for all departments; it is only the head of the land revenue administration and nothing more.

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For every other administration—take for instance Forests, Agriculture, etc., we have got directors or other heads of departments, and I do not see any reason why in regard to Revenue alone we should have a Board consisting of more than one person to stand, as has been feared, and rightly feared, between the people and their just rights, and as an intermediary body between Government and the people. That has been the function mainly of the Board of Revenue. At any rate that is the view that the people take about the way in which the work has been done by the Board. There is absolutely no reason whatever for the Board of Revenue interceding between the Government and the district administrators. A single officer may be enough to do the work of appeal for land revenue. He may be in charge of land revenue and settlement work and he will also be a court of appeal. Just as we have got the Chief Conservator of Forests serving as a sort of appellate authority over the orders of the Conservators and other officers, we may have one authority like that in the Revenue Department also. Well, Sir, that is the position. Misled by that note, I respectfully beg to submit, this Committee agreed for the retention of the Board. There are dissentients even in that Committee, but the Committee as a whole agreed to retain the Board. Leaving aside the official members, only two gentlemen agreed to retain the Board even on this note. The report itself says that it is on account of the difficulty of providing for the appeals that the retention is urged. Even on that basis, only Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar and Mr. Tanikaachala Chettiyar were for the continuance of the Board. I may say, Sir, that these gentlemen belong to Madras and they do not really know the difficulties that the villagers are put to with reference to this matter."

Diwan Bahadur Sir P. TYAGARAYA CHETTIYAR :—" May I say, Sir, that I am also a landholder? "

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" But the difficulty which the ordinary landholder feels in the villages, the troubles he is put to before he comes to the Board of Revenue are really immense; and above all, the Board of Revenue stands between the district administrator and the Government itself. These are all difficulties which people in Madras are not likely to realize quite fully as the mufassalites who see these things almost every day. Then, Sir, the other two gentlemen, Messrs. Krishnan Nayar and Shanmukham Pillai, stated that this was a court and should continue, but in spite of it they say that there is no necessity for two Commissioners, one for land revenue and the other for settlement. Mr. Krishnan Nayar has got experience in a Native State and so it cannot be said that he could not have realized the necessity for two separate Commissioners if it really existed. It cannot be said that Mr. Krishnan Nayar spoke without knowing the administrative difficulties in the way of his proposal. Similarly Mr. Shanmukham Pillai is another gentleman who knows something about settlement and land revenue administration. He also said that it is quite possible to have one Member for land revenue and settlement, and that it is unnecessary to continue the present strength of Members on the Board. That is where we stand. So it is on account of this bogey of providing for these appeals that these gentlemen have agreed to the continuance of the Board. With reference to one matter, I looked up the provision in the Abkari Act quite recently, and in that Act I find that, all powers with

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reference to these appeals can be delegated either to a court or to an officer. So, on that head there can be no objection whatever, and the Government instead of delegating their powers to the Board can delegate them to a Commissioner. Now, in other provinces, the Commissioner of Excise is in charge of another department of administration like registration. In other provinces I believe the Commissioner of Excise is also doing other work. So there will be a saving of money, the saving of at least one post even if the excise work is taken away from the Board of Revenue and a separate Commissioner for Excise is appointed. Then the other work that remains can all be done by one Commissioner of Land Revenue. That is what we can do and so the Board of Revenue can very well disappear and in place of that we can have one Commissioner for Land Revenue, and one of the heads of the departments, the Inspector-General of Registration for instance, can be asked to do the work of the Excise Commissioner. In that way the two Members of the Board of Revenue and all the big establishment that is employed under them can very well be saved. Then, Sir, as I said, it is not only a matter of economy or retrenchment, but it is also a matter of policy. This Board of Revenue has been standing in the way of several good reforms and even in individual instances of relief being given to the people. I am not saying anything about the persons composing the Board of Revenue at present, but it is the system that is responsible for that.

"When a certain member of the I.C.S. is in charge of a district he knows the difficulty personally. Then his sympathy is kindled. He is for making certain proposals; but when the same proposals come here before the Board, it only looks into the report and not the actual facts of the situation. They are fettered by red-tapism and by certain administrative rules. They do not know the actual happenings with the inevitable result that every district suffers by the system. That is how we have got the whole thing. I will just say another word. Even though there are more than one Member, yet most of the appeals are disposed of by one Member only. It does not mean that simply because a thing goes to the Board every Member has got a voice in it. So, the Act providing for appeal to the Revenue Board would not be in any way interfered with. Hereafter in the place of the whole Board there will be one single Land Revenue Commissioner. For this reason, Sir, I beg to state that the reasons given by His Excellency Lord Willingdon in the message read out do not stand at all.

"As regards the other objection, that we have to provide for efficient management I believe I have dealt with it. Well, Sir, it is unnecessary for me to labour further in the matter. I hope that both this side as well as the other side will vote for this motion. I feel confident that my motion will be carried."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Mine is quite a different thing, Sir."

*Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I also have referred to the Board of Revenue. It comes under quite a different heading. I have given a distinct motion, but not under this head. Further down we have got a number of motions on the same point."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I will call some of them."

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*Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I have read the motion and I rise to support it. The Board of Revenue was created in the year 1786 and since that date on many occasions, in 1831, 1834, between 1854 and 1855 and again in 1857 and again in the years 1878 and 1884, the question of abolishing the Board as such and substituting some other agency in its place, namely, a Commissioner, was considered and ultimately in 1909 the Decentralization Commission considered this question and recorded its opinion. The Madras Government, in forwarding their proposals on the Decentralization Committee's proposals on this question, laid emphasis on one particular point in their report to the Government of India, namely, that there was no public agitation for the abolition of the Board of Revenue and that there was no demand on the part of the people. Just before the Reformed Council came into existence, the Government of India in their reply to the Local Government stated that for finally disposing of this question they would wait for the opinion of the Reformed Council. Thus, the Government of India attached, naturally enough, considerable importance to the opinion of this Council. As soon as the Reformed Council came into existence, one of the earliest resolutions passed by the Council was that this Revenue Board should be abolished.

"Now, one point that I wish to emphasise in this connexion is this, namely, it was the opinion of the Madras Government and it was the opinion of the Government of India also that they should wait for the opinion of this Council. The public opinion as reflected in this Council is for the abolition of the Board of Revenue and this Council in its individual capacity also passed resolutions more than once that the Revenue Board should be abolished. These two circumstances are very strong reasons for the abolition of the Board.

"Then again, if you look into the work that was formerly done by the Board and that is now done, all the arguments are in favour of the abolition of the Board. For instance, before 1916 the Board of Revenue was attending to the duties of the Veterinary department, Agricultural department and Co-operative department. All these were taken away from the Board in 1916. Then in 1919 Forest work, which had been done by the Board, was entrusted to the Chief Conservator of Forests and, again, subsequent to that, the work in connexion with the Customs and the collection of Income-tax has been taken away from the Board of Revenue because all these have become Central subjects, so that practically the large volume of work done by the Revenue Board has been taken away from it. This is another very strong circumstance for the abolition of the Board.

"Then, again, one Member is quite sufficient in the place of the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Settlement Commissioner. It is purely a historical accident that brought about the existence of these two Commissioners. In 1855 for the first time an officer was appointed under the name of Superintendent of Settlement. Then subsequently that Superintendent of Settlement became the Director of Revenue Settlement and then again when the Board of Revenue was reorganized in 1887 he came to the Board with the appellation of Director of Agriculture, Land Revenue and Land Records. Now in the year 1920 the Revenue Board proposed the amalgamation of the two Secretaries working in the Land Revenue Commissioners' offices. I submit that all the arguments that have been given by the Board on that

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[Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar]

question are applicable to the present question. There is no need for the retention of the two Commissioners separately, namely, Land Revenue Commissioner and the Settlement Commissioner. In fact, the division of functions and work between these two Commissioners is purely an accident. I think there is no reason whatever for the retention of these two Commissioners.

"There is also another circumstance and that is this: after this Reformed Council was brought into existence there has been a considerable increase in the number of Government Members and the work that was done by a smaller number of Executive Councillors is now being done by a larger number of Members, so that the Revenue Member has got more time to attend to the work formerly done by the Revenue Board. Part of the work which was formerly done by the Revenue Board can now be reasonably and legitimately done by the Executive Council Member in charge of Revenue.

"Under certain statutory provisions, appeals are being disposed of by the Revenue Board. For the disposal of these appeals it is not necessary that the Revenue Board should exist. These appeals can be disposed of by the Revenue Member of Government and a statute can be passed for the purpose. My proposal is practically the same as that of my friend Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar. The Revenue Board as such may be abolished and in its place may be substituted one Commissioner for Land Revenue."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It has just come to my notice that my intention in asking that the purpose should be mentioned in the case of every token motion has not been quite adequately brought out on the Agenda paper. If any object, as for instance the abolition of the Board of Revenue, should appear under more than one motion, my intention was that all such motions should be arranged in a continuous series and that everybody who has given notice of such a motion should be asked to speak about it when the first of such motions is taken up. I think that hon. Members will agree with me that this is the most convenient course."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, I am much obliged to you, Sir, for calling me to speak in the early part of this debate."

*Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I draw your attention, Sir, to motion No. 64? That motion stands against my name for reducing the allotment of Rs. 99,500 for the Board of Revenue by Rs. 100. I have given the object also. As I submitted, the Board of Revenue comes under different headings and not under one particular heading."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think there has been a mistake"

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am afraid it is not a mistake on the part of hon. Members but of the office."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not say that it was a mistake of the hon. Members. I blame the office."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Even with regard to the office, I may mention that my own motion is given under settlement and the other motions are under 'General Administration'."

12-30 p.m.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"If they are all for the abolition of the Board of Revenue, I do not propose to allow hon. Members to discuss it on more than one occasion."

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MR. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—“ The motion of my hon. Friend from Coimbatore dealt with the abolition of one section of the Board of Revenue, viz., the Settlement, whereas the motion of which I have given notice deals with the abolition of the Board of Revenue as a whole. It, however, makes no difference because I am perfectly satisfied if that branch dealing with the settlement is done away with.

“ If I rise at this stage it is to impress on the Government that we are in right earnest over this question and that we adhere to the opinion that was expressed by this House this time last year to a day because this identical question was raised by my hon. Friend from Nellore, Mr. Krishna Rao, on the 17th March last year. So far as some of us are concerned, this Board of Revenue which came into being 140 years ago is a superfluous body and there is absolutely no justification for the existence of this intermediary between the departments and the Government. Whatever justification there might have been for the creation of the body at that time, I beg to submit that in view of the rapid changes which the country has undergone, the fact that at that time there were two Members of the Executive Council against four Members and a general increase in the number of Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries which we have at present and the further fact that most of the powers inherent in the Board of Revenue have been taken away and the still further fact that the various heads of departments are in direct correspondence with the Government in respect of policy and other matters, coupled also with the obvious fact that three main heads, viz., Customs and Income-tax and Salt, have been taken away from them, I beg to submit that there is absolutely no longer any necessity for the continuance of this body which has outrun its existence. I submit that this Board of Revenue must be abolished and it now stands only in the light of an excrescence which ought to go. I do not want at this stage to enter into the full history of the question as there was a full-dress debate this time last year when the pros and cons of the matter were placed before the House and at the end when the matter was pressed for a division, it indicated that as many as 49 were for the abolition of the Board and only 37 were for its retention. All the arguments which could be advanced against the continuance of the Board had already been advanced. The views taken by the Government were then laid before us and various difficulties were mentioned as arising out of its abolition; most of those arguments were successfully met by the mover of the proposition. In view of these circumstances and in order to make the Government believe that we are in right earnest and that we see no reason to go back and modify our deliberate resolution of last year and to express the feeling that the matter should not be regarded lightly but as a live issue which the Government are bound to face, I consider it is necessary to support the proposition. Now, Sir, as I began, I shall end by saying whatever reasons there were 150 years ago for the creation of the Board, in view of the rapid changes that it has undergone, I request the Government to take a more sympathetic view of the whole matter and respect the popular wishes in the matter.”

*MR. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“ Sir, the question of the abolition of the Board of Revenue was discussed last year and all the non-official Members were practically unanimous in voting for the abolition. But His Excellency certified and restored the item in the budget. The question has been fully argued in all its aspects and the pros and cons have been considered at length. It is no use traversing the same ground again. Therefore until and

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unless the Revenue Board is abolished it must be our duty to vote it down every year. I therefore request that without any more speeches and consequent waste of time it must be put to vote.”

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ Sir, I won't keep the House very long. It is not that the Government do not want to carry out the wishes of the House. But the trouble has been, as has been reported by the Committee already, the Government feel that there should be some head of the department for revenue work. They do not think that it will be the correct constitutional position for Government themselves to undertake the direct administration of any department. They are not particularly wedded to the Board as a Board. They are quite willing to consider alternatives, but such alternatives have not been put forward. After all it is not very costly. Territorial Commissioners would cost a great deal more. As regards the Board itself it has been reduced to the minimum compatible with the work that they have to do. It now practically consists of only two Members as the Commissioners of Excise is a member merely because he has to control the Collectors in excise matters. I do not see how it is to be reduced to one as has been suggested by one hon. Member. He has forgotten, I think, the volume of work before the Commissioners particularly that connected with the court of wards. I do not like to make personal references; but as I have been myself a Commissioner in all branches of the Board of Revenue I may say that in every one of them I found just as much work as I was able to do. What I feel is really at the bottom of the desire of hon. Members to abolish the Board of Revenue is the idea that it in some way stands for obstruction or I think, as one hon. Member put it, that it stands between the people and the Government. If there is any defect in the manner in which the Board works, if they are stated, those defects could be examined and remedies found for them. It is not correct to say that Government are not adopting the views of the House and that the Board is therefore being continued. The fact is that no alternative arrangement is to be found that is less costly that could replace the Board.”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I am now putting the question to the vote of the House and it will be understood that the same question will not be allowed for discussion again under any other head.”

The motion of Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar was then put to the House and declared carried.

A poll was demanded by the hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks and it was taken with the following result :—

Ayes.

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| 1. Mr. A. V. Bhanaji Rao. | 12. Mr. J. D. Samuel. |
| 2. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 13. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. |
| 3. Mr. T. Mallesappa. | 14. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. |
| 4. „ A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 15. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. |
| 5. „ B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 16. „ C. Natesa Mudaliyar. |
| 6. „ P. N. Marthandam Pillai. | 17. „ T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. |
| 7. „ C. Muttayya Mudaliyar. | 18. Mr. P. Siva Rao. |
| 8. „ K. Prabhakaran Tampam. | 19. „ K. Uppi Sahib. |
| 9. Rao Bahadur K. Krishnaswami Nayudu. | 20. „ P. C. Venkatapati Raju. |
| 10. Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi. | 21. „ S. Satyamurti. |
| 1. „ P. Sagaram. | 22. „ T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. |

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Ayes—cont.

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| 23. Mr. P. Anjaneyulu. | 41. Mr. K. Sarvarayudu. |
| 24. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. | 42. „ K. Sitarama Reddi. |
| 25. Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar. | 43. „ Ch. K. Subrahmanya Pillai. |
| 26. „ M. Gangaraju. | 44. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 27. „ C. Gopala Menon. | 45. „ K. Suryanarayanamurti |
| 28. „ K. Koti Reddi. | Nayudu. |
| 29. „ C. Maruthavanam Pillai. | 46. Mr. K. Venkatachala Padayachi. |
| 30. „ S. Mattayya Mudaliyar. | 47. Diwan Bahadur W. Vijayaraghava |
| 31. „ P. Peddiraja. | Mudaliyar. |
| 32. „ G. Rameswara Rao. | 48. Rai Bahadur P. M. Narasimhaacharlu. |
| 33. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo. | 49. Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai. |
| 34. Mr. M. Seetayya. | 50. Khan Bahadur P. Kalif-ul-lah Sahib. |
| 35. „ M. R. Sethuram Ayyar. | 51. Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib. |
| 36. „ J. A. Saldanha. | 52. „ Hamid Sultan Marakkayar Sahib. |
| 37. „ R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 53. „ T. M. Moidu Sahib. |
| 38. „ V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. | 54. Janab Muhammad Qadir Mohidin Sahib. |
| 39. „ C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | 55. Munshi Abdul Wahab Sahib. |
| 40. Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. | |

Noes.

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 10. Mr. P. L. Moore. |
| 2. „ Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 11. „ S. Arpudawami Udayar. |
| 3. „ the Raja of Panagal. | 12. Rai Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. |
| 4. „ Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 13. Mr. J. A. Davis. |
| 5. „ Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagna- | 14. „ H. B. Ari Gowder. |
| nam Pillai. | 15. „ P. K. S. A. Arumuga Natar. |
| 6. „ Mr. R. A. Graham. | 16. „ N. Devendrudu. |
| 7. „ „ N. E. Marjoribanks. | 17. „ R. Srinivasan. |
| 8. Mr. R. W. Davies. | 18. Rao Sahib P. V. S. Sundaramurti. |
| 9. „ E. W. Legh. | 19. „ K. V. Ramachari. |

55 voted for and 19 against.

The motion was carried.

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“Coming to the next motion I notice that as in the last question there are two or three motions later on. I notice one (No. 43) in the name of Mr. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib. It may be from a different point of view, but it would be convenient to the House if hon. Members would speak on all such motions on one occasion. If they should prefer it I have no objection to put the motions separately as they come, but I should like each discussion to be confined to one particular case.”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“May I suggest, Sir, that there is nothing to discuss on the next motion? The whole allotment of Rs. 2,18,300 having been cut out, it is not possible to move a reduction of this amount by Rs. 100.”

Motion No. 13.

*Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“Sir, I beg to move

‘that the allotment of Rs. 66,600 for pay of officers be omitted.’

“Sir, a simple point I want to raise on this motion is as to why we are keeping on these temporary parties. Hon. Members will find on page 48 of the Civil Budget Estimates that provision is made for about Rs. 66,600 for the purpose of settlement parties working in different parts of the Presidency. At page 48, provision is made for temporary Special Settlement Officers, one

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[Mr. S. Satyamurti]

for seven months, one for eight months, one for seven months and so on. If this Bill (Land Revenue Bill) is coming up and if Government are serious about it, I do not see why they should keep on these special Settlement Officers carrying on those operations. Moreover, Sir, I also want incidentally to raise the question as to why the resolution of this Council about the re-settlement proposals of Tanjore and Trichinopoly have not been given effect to and why settlement is going on in those districts. It is in order to draw attention to the non-existence of any need for these temporary Settlement Party officers that I have given notice of this motion and I beg to move it, Sir.”

*The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—“The work on which these officers are employed is entirely confined to the registration of holdings and the hearing of what are called rough patta objections. It all depends on what you mean by the word ‘settlement’. If by settlement you mean the revision of rates of assessment, I may say that that does not comprise the whole process of settlement. The revision of rates of assessment is not a matter requiring any special staff by itself. It is really for making a correct record of holdings that we want additional staff. Whatever rates are decided, this work is necessary. I do not see how any provision for regulating the revision of rates of assessment satisfactory to the tax-payer can make this work unnecessary.”

*Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“May I ask, in what district these officers are operating?”

*The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—“I believe they are mostly in Trichinopoly; I think they will go next to Tanjore.”

*Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“May I therefore ask whether it is not in pursuance of the resettlement operations in the Trichinopoly district that these officers are working?”

*The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—“Resettlement means the preparation of a correct register of holdings and not the revision of rates alone.”

The motion was put and declared carried.

*The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks demanded a poll and the House divided as follows:—

Ayes.

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| 1. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 16. Mr. P. Peddiraju. |
| 2. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 17. „ G. Rameswara Rao. |
| 3. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 18. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 4. „ C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 19. Mr. M. Seetayya. |
| 5. Mr. P. Siva Rao. | 20. „ M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. |
| 6. „ S. Satyamurti. | 21. „ J. A. Saldanha. |
| 7. „ T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. | 22. „ R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 8. „ P. Anjaneyulu. | 23. „ V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. |
| 9. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. | 24. „ C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 10. Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar. | 25. „ T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai. |
| 11. „ M. Gangaraju. | 26. Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib. |
| 12. „ C. Gopala Menon. | 27. Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib. |
| 13. „ K. Koti Reddi. | 28. „ Hamid Sultan Marakkayar Sahib. |
| 14. „ C. Maruthavanam Pillai. | 29. „ T. M. Moidu Sahib. |
| 15. „ S. Muttayya Mudaliyar. | 30. Janab Muhammad Qadir Mohidin Sahib. |
| | 31. Munshi Abdul Wahab Sahib. |

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Noes.

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|---|---|
| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 20. Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan. |
| 2. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 21. Diwan Bahadur P. G. Ethirajulu Nayudu. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 22. Mr. T. Mallesappa. |
| 4. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 23. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. |
| 5. " Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 24. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. |
| 6. " Mr. R. A. Graham. | 25. " P. N. Marthandam Pillai. |
| 7. " N. E. Marjoribanks. | 26. " C. Muttayya Mudaliyar. |
| 8. Mr. R. W. Davies. | 27. Hony. Lieutenant Maderai. |
| 9. " E. W. Legh. | 28. Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan. |
| 10. " P. L. Moore. | 29. Rao Bahadur K. Krishnaswami Nayudu. |
| 11. " S. Arpudaswami Udayar. | 30. Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. |
| 12. Rai Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 31. Mr. K. Sitarama Reddi. |
| 13. Mr. J. A. Davis. | 32. " H. Srinivasan. |
| 14. " H. B. Ari Gowder. | 33. Rao Sahib P. V. S. Sundaramurti. |
| 15. " P. K. S. A. Arunuga Nadar. | 34. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 16. " A. V. Phanoji Rao. | 35. Rao Sahib K. V. Ramachari. |
| 17. " N. Devendrudu. | 36. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 18. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyyar. | 37. Mr. K. Venkatchala Padayachi. |
| 19. Rao Bahadur A. M. Murugappa Chettiyyar. | 38. Diwan Bahadur W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |

31 voted for and 38 against.

The motion was lost.

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Motion No. 34 on the agenda, Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"May I know what became of No. 27. What was rejected in No. 26 on the agenda was the motion for the omission of the whole allotment whereas No. 27 is only a motion for the reduction of the allotment by Rs. 20,000."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have not for the present considered that question. But I presume that when the vote had gone against the motion for the omission of the grant it carried with it the decision of the House to retain it. If any hon. Member wishes to reduce it merely and wants to question that decision, I would consider it. But I would point out that in passing over No. 27 I mentioned that I considered it dropped."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I did not want to move No. 27 on the agenda at all."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I thought as much."

Motion No. 14.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I have no such hesitation as my Friend Mr. Muniswami Nayudu had. I really wanted to know the reasons which made the Government transfer many of the Special Assistant Settlement Officers from the class of officers whose pay would have come on the voted list to the class of officers whose pay would not come on the voted list. I thought that there was a principle involved in it and that Indians in an increasing number would be appointed to this important branch of work. Otherwise it would go against the principles of the Reform Act. It is in order to ascertain why this has been done that I gave notice of this token motion for the reduction of Rs. 100 from the allotment of Rs. 66,600."

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The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member may raise this question at the next opportunity. I fear he did not rise up when his motion was reached. However, it is a question that will arise at any time and the hon. Member can take the next opportunity."

Motion No. 15.

*Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move 'that the allotment of Rs. 22,81,900 for Survey and Settlement be reduced by Rs. 10,00,000.'"

"I have given notice of this motion with the idea that the Survey and Settlement department ought to be reduced at least at present with the ultimate object of abolishing the whole department altogether. I think it will be unnecessary for me to deal in detail and give the reasons in extenso for the proposal which I am making before the House. I shall briefly state my grounds."

"From the year 1800 onwards this Presidency has been settled once and again and in some places more than three or four times. Every district has been surveyed according to every system of survey, viz, Trigonometric survey, Cadastral survey and Theodolite survey more than once and in some districts even more than twice. Repeated surveying is not going to increase the extent of the lands which have been correctly surveyed more than once. It may be that there are some districts in the Agency tracts, the Ganjam and Vizagapatam districts, which might not have been sufficiently surveyed."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya:—"They are sufficiently surveyed"

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Before I call upon the next hon. Member I would point out that we are getting into grips with some difficulties in dealing with the budget for the first time, because I have given effect to the rule about the uncertainties of the token motions. Now that the purposes of those motions have been inserted, we see our way perhaps somewhat clearly and some advance in that direction would help us in seeing our way still more clearly. The point now is that on this subject of the abolition of the Survey and Settlement department we have first of all certain motions for lump cuts such as 10 lakhs, one lakh and 1,000 followed by motions for nominal reductions by Rs. 100. The object of all these hon. Members apparently is the same but the means by which they wish to effectuate their objects are different. Therefore, in order not to inconvenience hon. Members who may be prepared to vote a nominal reduction but not a lump cut, I think, that after the discussion has proceeded up to the point of voting, by allowing every hon. Member to participate in the discussion whether he has proposed a nominal reduction or a lump reduction I should put the motions themselves to vote separately, first putting the lowest token motion and, if that is not carried, then the lump cuts."

*Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—"I should like to know, Mr President, exactly where we would stand if the token motion is carried. I wish to know if that is carried whether the lump cuts would be put later on or not."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"No. If the token motion is carried, motions for lump cuts will not be put. It is only if the token motion is not carried then the lump cuts would be put."

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* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—"Token motions are given for a declared purpose. I have given notice of this motion for the reduction of 10 lakhs for the purpose of making a substantial reduction in the allotment. That being the case, may I not suggest that the procedure for putting these motions would be to put motions for substantial cuts first and then the token motions?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I would refer the hon. Member to the Leader of the Opposition in passing. He has already stated that token motions should be put first."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Mr. President, I have suggested to you through the Secretary that it would be desirable to put token motions first with the object that if it is lost the question of putting the lump sum cuts would not arise at all. It is therefore for your consideration whether if the token motion is lost you need not even put the lump sum motion. If the token motion is passed by the Council then the further question would arise whether the House is in favour of making the further lump reduction as well. That was the idea with which I made my suggestion through the Secretary."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—"I entirely understand the point of view of the Leader of the Opposition in making that suggestion to you. I certainly think that if the token motion itself is lost, there is no chance for a lump sum motion. Perhaps we might be able to carry the lump sum motion if it is put first and the other motions in order subsequently."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"We shall be in a position to decide it when we come to the end of this discussion."

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU :—"I wanted to move a reduction of one lakh from this allotment in order to reduce the establishment of the settlement party in the Kistna district. No doubt I entirely agree with what my hon. Friend Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar has said in the matter of the Survey and Settlement departments. They are too costly for the State and also too costly for the tax-payer and the ryot. So far as the Kistna district is concerned, why I lay so much emphasis on the settlement party working there is this: We have not yet settled the principles of land revenue settlement because we are going to have a Land Revenue Bill shortly. Therefore whatever the establishment might have done or might be doing before the Land Revenue Settlement Bill comes into force would be of no value and would be only a waste of energy and waste of money. I would refer briefly to the work done there. First of all the survey parties came and surveyed the fields and then came the revenue parties for the revision of *adangals*. The latter party has examined the records and found them in perfect order and they have revised the *adangals*. If there is to be any settlement or any change in the rates or classification, that will have to be done later on. But I do not know why this settlement party has been brought into the district.

"We have a number of officers coming and sitting in every village and
1-15 p.m. I need not add that they are costly. In every village they are making inquiries. So far as I can ascertain, the subordinate officers say that they are doing nothing except the revision of *adangals* and correcting them. I may tell this House and also the Government that the

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revenue officers in the district have done the work of the revision of the *adangals* very carefully and I do not know what the settlement party is going to do except to sit in the village. About 15 officers go to the village and do there for a month the same work turned out by deputy tahsildars and revenue inspectors some two years back. After all, they certify that the *adangals* are correct. The revenue officers in the district are not better paid men; they are in the lower ranks and get about Rs. 40 a month. The work that had been previously done by these revenue officers is done by a special deputy tahsildar carrying a salary of Rs. 150 a month. So, I say it is not only a burden to the ryots, but also that these officers sit in the villages and do nothing practically. I submit, therefore, to the House that this motion should be carried so that we may tell the Government that we are earnest that the Revenue Settlement principles should be embodied in a statute."

* Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—"Mr. President, Sir, we have been discussing several times in a piecemeal manner the policy connected with this subject. The main idea with which I tabled a similar motion was to discuss the policy as regards the continuance of these departments, both the department of Survey and the department of Settlement. As regards the Survey department, we know that this came into existence when the British Government took possession of the lands from the East India Company and it was required for the collection of taxes and to fix assessments over the lands. For this purpose, the lands had to be surveyed first and then divided into units. Since the inception of this department we have had more than four surveys and still there is another resurvey which sits as a great burden upon the exchequer.

"Sir, I will, in passing, mention the kinds of surveys that have taken place since its inception. There was, first, pymash survey; after that, the triangular survey; thirdly, there was what is called block-map survey and fourthly, the diagonal survey. Again we are visited with another resurvey. If, as I said, the object of survey is to divide the lands into units for the purpose of fixing the beriz and maintaining the land records, where is the necessity for the Survey department to continue for ever and why not we discontinue it, once it has done its purpose? I am told in the year 1902-03 the Secretary of State was against the policy of continuing this seasonal survey and I also understand that the present Revenue Member, who is at the helm of affairs now, was one who was against the maintenance of this survey. The Survey and Settlement departments are doing no other business except that of maintaining the land records. From the year 1903 till the year 1918 the Land Record Settlement department had done very good and useful work in the districts of— to mention only a few—South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, South Kanara and Malabar. They did the work of maintaining the land records and they divided lands into units. But once that has been done, I ask where is the necessity for this resurvey. I say that a large amount of money is wasted by the continuance of this Survey department without increasing the richness of the fields. Therefore, my object now is to elicit from the Government why they should continue this policy of survey and settlement and not revert to the old system of the maintenance of land records which had been done in a satisfactory manner by that department.

[Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib] [17th March 1925]

"The settlement party has done its work in Trichinopoly and is going on with its work in South Kanara and Malabar. Not only have the Government allotted large sums of money towards the expenditure to be incurred by the party, but the ryots also are put to great inconvenience and they have to incur much expenditure by way of the maintenance of this survey. I may quote an example. At the time when the survey was conducted in the Trichinopoly taluk, a unit per acre was paying at the rate of Rs. 2 for survey charges, while an acreage had to pay only four annas by way of assessment. Thus, Rs. 2 per acre had to be met for the purpose of labour, for purchasing stones and other things. After the Survey department has done its work, it has to be supplemented by a Settlement department consisting of two officers, several surveyors and other staff to do the other work, that of maintenance of the records. Not being satisfied with these two departments, provision has also been made in the budget for the appointment of ten more temporary special assessors and three more special settlement officers who are Indian Civil Service people getting high pay. Where is the necessity for providing such a large amount for increasing the staff? I understand that the main work they have to do is to hear rough patta objections and, if we go deep into the matter, we hear that their decision is not final. Moreover, they do not care to go into the question thoroughly and decide one way or the other and this work has to be done by tahsildars and revenue inspectors. While these low-paid officers are able to go into the question and decide one way or the other, why on earth should a provision be made for these settlement parties by having ten assistants and other officers? My object in tabling this motion is to elicit from the Government information regarding the necessity to continue this department if it has outrun its purpose and whether we could not revert to the old system of the maintenance of records and save a good lot of money."

At this stage the House adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

2-30 p.m. The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Do the Government propose to reply?"

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Can the Government reply now, Sir?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Government may make a reply at any time. If they want they can also have another opportunity later on?"

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Sir, the general criticism of the first speaker who spoke on the subject of the Survey and Settlement policy was based very largely on financial grounds, viz., that the possible net increase of assessment will not be a proper return on the expenditure of survey and settlement. That, of course, is an important consideration. But these operations are not being conducted with the sole object or even with the main object of increasing the assessments. It would be possible to increase the rates of assessment without making any resurvey or employing a large staff on settlement operations. The object of these operations is to maintain a correct record of holdings in such a form that they may be kept up to date for the purposes of revenue administration. I have to congratulate the hon. Member from Trichinopoly who spoke on the subject for

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the great diligence and care with which he has studied the subject. I am sure if all hon. Members were to do the same, they will understand better the position of the Government in this matter."

* Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—"Sir, I do not represent Trichinopoly; I represent only the Central districts."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I beg your pardon. I mistook the constituency, but I referred to the hon. Member, Mr. Ghouse Mian Sahib."

"It no doubt is a criticism that occurs to the minds of those who have not had the opportunity of studying the subject in detail why these surveys should go on and a large staff be employed. It is not possible to explain all the reasons in a short time, but I may state a few here. When the survey was first made it was made without sufficient regard to the fact that it would have to serve as a basis for the ordinary Revenue Administration and as the basis of a record of the changes that take place from time to time in the course of the ordinary administration, such as transfers from one holder to another, darkhasts, land acquisition, etc. The hon. Member from the Central districts who spoke on the subject recounted a great many different methods of survey that have been followed. I do not know, but he rather gave the impression that he supposed that all these methods have been applied one after another to the same area. That is not quite correct. It is no doubt true that in many areas the method first adopted was not calculated to leave a record which could be maintained and serve for the record of changes. That is why it is necessary in the first place to prepare such a record by resurvey. In the second place it also explains why the register of holdings is now out of date. The Revenue establishment has not been able to keep the original record up to date. They did not start with a record which was in a form in which the changes could be recorded and kept up to date. In some districts the present state of the record is so defective and so out of date that the cheapest thing to do is to resurvey the whole area. This is done by a staff of survey parties. The cost of these parties is also included under the head of settlement as a matter of accounts. These parties are not really necessary for the purpose of revising the rate of assessment. They are necessary for the purpose of preparing an accurate record of holdings. And Government is in entire agreement with the hon. Member who said that it would be much better if we can make arrangements to have these records kept up to date by recording the changes that take place from time to time so that they might not be obliged to re-do the work at intervals. Hon. Members will see that it is exactly for that purpose that we have entered a provision in another part of the budget specially to train the Revenue establishments in these matters. Afterwards the establishment with the necessary technical assistance will, it is hoped, be able to keep the records up to the mark. When one or two districts which are hopelessly in arrears have been dealt with, we shall not need such large staffs as we have at present."

"Another Member who spoke objected to the employment of such parties in the Kistna district. Well, unfortunately Kistna is one of the districts where the survey was done in such a way that it has been impossible to keep a record of the changes. That is the reason why the arrears have accumulated so much that the register of holdings is out of date. In the interests

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of the ryots themselves and the administration of the ordinary revenue rules we have to re-do the work and prepare a fresh record. In the circumstances I have mentioned, even if there should be no change at all in the settlement rates in Kistna district it will still be necessary, so long as we deal with individual ryots, to prepare and keep such a record. I hope the House will agree that the Government is alive to the desirability of introducing a system of records by which a record will be regularly kept and each change noted as it occurs, so that it may not be allowed to fall in arrears and the whole thing have to be re-done on a large scale."

Mr. P. SAGARAM:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have great pleasure in associating myself with the hon. the Mover of the motion. I submit to you, Sir, in the simple language of a ryot, a few things for your kind consideration. I just now come from a conference of ryots and I have heard from them their view on this proposal of the Government to replace all the old demarcation stones though they are strong and as useful as the new ones.

"The stones which were used from time immemorial are quite as useful as the new ones proposed to be placed in their places.

"Then as regards the land there is the Revenue authority, the divisional authority and the special duty authority. There is also the neighbouring ryot who will complain against any encroachment. There are the civil and the criminal courts to decide whether there is any encroachment or not, and whether any injustice is done to the poor and weak ryot by the influential and mighty ryot. As regards *adangal*, I submit, Sir, that the revenue tahsildars and the revenue inspectors are prepared to do that part of the duty without any aid from any other establishment. In these circumstances, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"I should like to know whether my hon. Friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, and myself will have to wait or are we to speak on this motion?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have already explained to hon. Members that if they are speaking on the same subject it is best for them to rise and speak. If I am aware that they have tabled motions on the same subject, I should call them to speak on these motions. If the hon. Member wants to speak on the Survey and Settlement Party, he is quite at liberty to do so."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"I have something besides that."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The reasons for the token motions have not been given."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Yes, they have been given."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Very well, I take it that the hon. Member is not speaking on the same subject. If so, I shall call him later on. As regards Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu also I shall call him later on. Similarly I shall call Mr. Setaratnam Ayyar also to speak later."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—"Just a few words in answer to the reply given by the hon. the Revenue Member. The only argument advanced by the hon. the Revenue Member for the retention of this huge establishment is that the Government want to keep a record of rights. For that work there is the Revenue establishment which go on maintaining their accounts and, once a settlement is made, there is a record prepared. From next year

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onwards you will have to collect the tax only according to the revenue register, and there is absolutely no necessity to maintain such a huge staff. I entirely appreciate the arguments that fell from my hon. Friend, Mr. Sagaram. A record of rights is maintained, I take it, for the benefit of the ryots, to determine the disputes between themselves and the neighbouring ryots and to facilitate the work of the Government in the collection of taxes. I have not seen any instances in which the Government have been handicapped for want of proper records. Revenue is collected year after year without any difficulty whatever. We have not found any difficulty either in collecting the revenue or in making remissions. There is the Revenue establishment with the full complement of the village officials right up to the Divisional Officer who is in charge of the division. There is absolutely no reason that there should be another establishment to keep up a record for the transfer of lands from one individual to another. If this is the only ground on which this establishment is to be kept, I am perfectly sure it does not deserve to be in existence. I am perfectly sure that such a large establishment is unnecessary for maintaining a record of rights especially when the matter comes up to a civil court where cases are decided not on the strength of record of rights maintained by the Revenue Department but only on the evidence which the parties let in."

* Mr. E. W. LEGH:—"I should like to point out one or two things. Hon. Members who sat at a Committee which sat during the period of the last Council will remember that there was a discussion of this question between the hon. the Revenue Member and certain other Members. At that discussion an attempt was made to look at the whole question purely from the ryot's point of view and not at all from the point of view of the Government and questions were put to the Members of that Committee and they were asked to give their opinion as to what records and marks should be maintained in the interests of the holders of land. These are questions which primarily concern the ryots as much as the Government. As some hon. Members have pointed out it, would be possible for the Government to collect their revenue on a rough and ready system without much of a detailed survey, but the question is whether this is all that is wanted by the ryots. At the time when the Committee mentioned above sat it was pointed out that it was necessary that Government should maintain a record not only of the ryots, of the holders of land, but that they should also demarcate those lands and maintain a record of such demarcation. Now it is suggested by one hon. Member that the demarcation and these registers can be maintained by the ordinary staff without any other assistance. In practice it is found that it cannot be done. Hon. Members will remember that formerly there was a department called the Land Records Department. It was started entirely with the object of doing away with the work of the Survey Department once the record was brought up to date. But the predecessor of this House abolished that department because they found it unnecessary. Now if we come to this House and ask for the pay of the Survey staff and of the staff which were originally doing this work, we are told 'if you want to maintain these records you ought to be able to do it without any further assistance and without periodical revision'. Now it seems to me it is a contradiction in terms. On the one hand, we are told we are to maintain those records. On the other hand, if we ask for a special staff, we are told 'you cannot have a

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special staff; you ought to be able to do it without it'. It seems to be obvious that if this work of the maintenance of survey registers were to be left to a staff which is already doing a very large amount of work, it will suffer in course of time. I think it will be quite clear to the House that the ryots will suffer long before the Government themselves. The Government will be able to collect the taxes and keep out the lands by putting up a notice stating that these lands are attached. The amount thus realized will be far less important than the interests of the ryots. In asking for the maintenance of a revenue register and a correct survey of lands, we are acting more in the interests of the ryots than in the interests of the Government. Of course in future some economy may be discovered for doing this work, but if the hon. Member thinks that within one year we can abolish the whole staff, then I think it would be a mistake and he would be asking us to make a mistake if he asks us to vote for this reduction in the current year."

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU:—"I want to say one or two words in reply to the remarks made by the hon. the Revenue Member and the hon. the Revenue Secretary. So far as the Kistna district is concerned, the hon. the Finance Member said that it was not a question of record of rights, and whether there was or was not resurvey or resettlement, we must have a special establishment for the preparation of record of rights. I must submit to the House that there was survey and settlement in the year 1860 in the Kistna district and subsequently there was another survey and settlement party in the year 1900 and the adangals and record of rights were prepared in those years and subsequently diglott registers were printed and the Land Record Department was maintaining these registers up to date. Further, in the second portion of my argument all that I said was that whatever was sought to be done was done even before the settlement party was sent to that district. There was a party for the revision of adangals who were getting the records up to date. When this work was finished, a survey party was sent again. I do not see why this party was necessary when the record has been brought up to date. I presided over a ryots' conference only last Sunday where the ryots said that settlement and survey are unnecessary because in 1900 the survey that was conducted was block survey and the new survey party are asked to compare these works. I was told by the officers concerned that there was practically no difference in the work and in the accounts prepared. The only thing from which the people are suffering, as my hon. Friend Mr Sagaram put it, is that the survey stones are being removed from time to time and not a single stone kept up as it was. Of course I put a question some time back to the hon. the Revenue Member who was pleased to say that it was not under any order passed by the Government, but nevertheless even to-day the settlement party is removing all the stones (even the new stones which were put up one or two years back) and the cost is to be borne by the ryot. I do not know why the Government, in spite of my question and the answer given by the hon. the Revenue Member, is still following the process of removing the stones and putting up new stones. That is one great complaint. The only idea underlying the action of the Government seems to me that it must be a source of profit to the contractor of the stones or somebody else. The second idea which I wish to refer to is that the contractor who has been doing this work for several years has been removed and a new man has been brought in on

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the recommendation of the Director of Survey, who charges for his stones 10 per cent higher than previous rate. That shows that the Director wanted to benefit that man at the expense of the ryot."

Mr. Ghouse Mian Sahib rose to speak.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think the hon. Member has already spoken and except the Mover no others have the right of reply. If the hon. Member wishes to explain any statement made by himself as a mere correction, he may do so. I suppose the Government do not wish to say anything."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I wish to explain one point about the matter of stones. I think what the hon. Member from Kistna is referring to is the replacement of old laterite stones by granite stones."

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU:—"No, Sir. Even the granite stones that were already there were replaced."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"If that was done, it was against the orders of Government and if the hon. Member gives me any particulars, I should only be too glad to put a stop to such a practice."

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU:—"That is practically going on even now. Yesterday also the ryots complained to me of this in their conference."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"If the hon. Member gives me particulars, I shall be able to rectify matters."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think the House is generally agreed, so far as I have been able to ascertain its opinion, that it would prefer the token motion to be put first. If that motion is carried, if the House shows an inclination to reduce the amount, the larger cuts will be put to the House because there is an opening then for the reduction just as if there were two token motions on two different subjects they would be put separately. But if on the token motion being put the House negatived the motion and was opposed to any kind of cut, there would be no reason to put the larger cuts to the House. The hon. Mover who has proposed the largest cut accepts the course and I think that is a reasonable way and I shall follow that procedure at present. I shall accordingly put first the smaller token motion by Mr. Ghouse Mian Sahib."

Motion No. 16.

Question put: "To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,81,900 for Survey and Settlement by Rs. 1,000."

The House divided thus:

Ayes.

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| 1. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 14. Mr. P. Siva Rao. |
| 2. Mr. B. Moni-wami Nayudu. | 15. " P. C. Venkatapattiraju. |
| 3. " P. N. Marbhandu Pillai. | 16. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 4. " C. Muttayya Mudaliyar. | 17. " T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. |
| 5. " K. Prabhakaran Tampam. | 18. " P. Anjaneyulu. |
| 6. " B. Ramachandra Reddi. | 19. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 7. " B. Obalesappa. | 20. Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar. |
| 8. " P. Sagaram. | 21. " M. Goparaju. |
| 9. " J. D. Samuel. | 22. " C. Gopala Menon. |
| 10. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 23. " K. Koti Reddi. |
| 11. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 24. " C. Marudhavanam Pillai. |
| 12. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 25. " S. Muttayya Mudaliyar. |
| 13. " C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 26. " P. Peddiraju. |

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Ayes—cont.

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| 27. Mr. G. Rameswara Rao. | 39. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 28. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo. | 40. Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai. |
| 29. Mr. M. Sectayya. | 41. Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-la Sahib. |
| 30. " M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. | 42. Mr. Abbas Ali Khan. |
| 31. " J. A. Saldanha. | 43. Khan Bahadur Haji Abdulla Haji Qasim Sahib. |
| 32. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 44. Mr. Ghousé Mian Sahib. |
| 33. " V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. | 45. " V. Hamid Sultan Marakkayar Sahib. |
| 34. " Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar. | 46. " T. M. Moidu Sahib. |
| 35. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | 47. " Qadir Mohidin Sahib. |
| 36. " K. Sarvarayudu. | 48. " Abdul Wahab Sahib. |
| 37. " K. Sitarama Reddi. | |
| 38. " Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai. | |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 17. Mr. H. B. Ari Gowder. |
| 2. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 18. " P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nadar. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 19. " N. Devendrulu. |
| 4. " Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 20. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar. |
| 5. " Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 21. Rao Bahadur A. M. Murugappa Chettiyar. |
| 6. " Mr. R. A. Graham. | 22. " Cruz Fernandez. |
| 7. " N. E. Marjoribanks. | 23. " M. G. Raja. |
| 8. Mr. R. W. Davies. | 24. Hony. Lieut. Madurai. |
| 9. " E. W. Legh. | 25. Mr. K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai. |
| 10. " P. L. Moore. | 26. Rao Bahadur P. Raman. |
| 11. " Abdulla Ghatala Sahib. | 27. Sir K. Venkatreddi Nayudu. |
| 12. " S. Arpudaswami Udayar. | 28. Mr. R. Srinivasan. |
| 13. Rai Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 29. Rao Sahib K. V. Ramachari. |
| 14. Mr. A. E. Rencontre. | 30. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 15. " J. A. Davis. | 31. Mr. R. Veerian. |
| 16. " D. Appavu Chettiyar. | |

48 voted for the motion and 31 against.

The motion was carried.

Motion No. 17.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I shall now put the motion of Mr. Peddiraju to reduce the provision by a lakh of rupees. The motion before the House will be to reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,81,900 for Survey and Settlement by a lakh of rupees minus the one thousand already reduced, that is, by Rs. 99,000."

The motion was put. The House divided thus :

Ayes.

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| 1. Mr. N. Devendrulu. | 16. Mr. K. Koti Reddi. |
| 2. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimharaju. | 17. " C. Maruthavanam Pillai. |
| 3. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 18. " S. Muttayya Mudaliyar. |
| 4. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 19. " P. Peddiraju. |
| 5. " C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 20. " G. Rameswara Rao. |
| 6. Mr. P. Sagaram. | 21. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 7. " K. Uppi Sahib. | 22. Mr. M. Sectayya. |
| 8. " P. C. Venkatapattiraju. | 23. " M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. |
| 9. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | 24. " J. A. Saldanha. |
| 10. " T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. | 25. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 11. " P. A. Janayulu. | 26. " V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. |
| 12. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. | 27. " Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar. |
| 13. Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar. | 28. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 14. " M. Gangarazu. | 29. " T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai. |
| 15. " C. Gopala Menon. | |

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Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 26. Mr. C. Muttayya Mudaliyar. |
| 2. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 27. Hony. Lieut. Madurai. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 28. Mr. K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai. |
| 4. " Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 29. " K. Prabhakaran Tampan. |
| 5. " Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 30. Rao Bahadur K. Krishnaswami Nayudu. |
| 6. " Mr. R. A. Graham. | 31. Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi. |
| 7. " N. E. Marjoribanks. | 32. " B. Oratesappa. |
| 8. Mr. R. W. Davies. | 33. Rao Bahadur P. Raman. |
| 9. " E. W. Legh. | 34. Sir K. Venkatreddi Nayudu. |
| 10. " P. L. Moore. | 35. Mr. R. Srinivasan. |
| 11. " Abdulla Ghatala Sahib. | 36. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 12. " S. Arpudaswami Udayar. | 37. Rao Sahib K. V. Ramachari. |
| 13. Rai Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 38. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 14. Mr. A. E. Rencontre. | 39. " W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 15. " J. A. Davis. | |
| 16. " D. Appavu Chettiyar. | 40. Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-la Sahib. |
| 17. " H. B. Ari Gowder. | 41. Mr. Abbas Ali Khan. |
| 18. " P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nadar. | 42. Khan Bahadur Haji Abdulla Haji Qasim Sahib. |
| 19. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar. | 43. Mr. Ghousé Mian Sahib. |
| 20. Rao Bahadur A. M. Murugappa Chettiyar. | 44. " V. Hamid Sultan Marakkayar Sahib. |
| 21. " Cruz Fernandez. | 45. " T. M. Moidu Sahib. |
| 22. " M. G. Raja. | 46. " Qadir Mohidin Sahib. |
| 23. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 47. " Abdul Wahab Sahib. |
| 24. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | |
| 25. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | |

29 voted for and 47 against.

The motion was lost.

Motion No. 18.

3-15 p.m.

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, I move

'that the allotment of Rs. 22,81,900 for Survey and Settlement be reduced by Rs. 1,000.'

"The object of the motion as put in the agenda does not exactly represent my intention. I may put my idea in this way. In Kanara, Government have assigned away vast areas of land on a nominal assessment to land-owners, and most of them are lying uncultivated. At the same time large areas are reserved for depressed classes, of which only a small area is actually assigned to them, with this result that an extensive area of lands is beyond the reach of people willing and able to occupy and cultivate them. I have not the slightest objection, Sir, to assignment of lands for the purpose of occupation and cultivation if possible to depressed classes. What has actually happened is that large areas of land have been reserved for them but for some reason or other very few of them have been assigned, as I shall prove presently from the figures given by the Government themselves. At the same time in Kanara it has happened, as was pointed out by my hon. Friend Khan Bahadur Abdulla Sahib in his general Budget speech, that large areas of land are assigned to land-owners most of whom are very wealthy and have other extensive areas of land of their own. Now, a majority of these lands are lying uncultivated, and therefore we have this peculiar feature in South Kanara, though probably it is the case in some other parts of the Presidency also, that a large area of land is beyond the reach of people who wish to cultivate and are able to cultivate it. As for the depressed classes, I put a question last October, and from the answer given by the Government it appears that in the Mangalore taluk, that is, in only one

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taluk out of the five or six taluks in South Kanara, there were over a thousand acres reserved for the depressed classes. I asked how many acres of land were reserved for the depressed classes, and the reply was given that 1,220 acres were reserved for them. I asked how many acres of land were applied for by Adi-Dravidas for assignment to them, and the answer was that 175 were applied for. I asked how many acres were actually assigned till October 1924, and the reply was that 37 acres were assigned. That is, out of 1,228 acres reserved for Adi-Dravidas, and in spite of the fact that there were applications for 175 acres, only 37 acres were assigned to these depressed classes. Now, this is a phenomenon, a very strange phenomenon that deserves to be explained.

"Then I come, Sir, to the question of assignment of land to ex-service men. Now, when so many lands are out of reach of the other classes, the question arises what lands can be given to ex-service men. A large number of our people in South Kanara went to war as combatants or non-combatants on promises of assignment of lands and rewards in various ways, but now they are very much disappointed. There is a keen disappointment felt by these classes that they are shabbily treated and most of them are very poor people and a large number of them belong to the depressed classes. When they go for assignment of lands they find that so many lands are reserved, that they are given away to landholders on a nominal assessment, and that there are lands far away, 10, 20 or 30 miles, which they can take. And some useless barren hills are pointed out to them for occupation, and they go and come back disgusted. We have got many such cases where people have been keenly disappointed and they say, 'Wait till another war occurs, and you may then see whether you will find us ready to go to warfields'. Here is a state of things which is really most painful and I appeal to the sympathy of the House on behalf of these poor people. I appeal on behalf of ex-service men particularly because their condition deserves special consideration and sympathy from this House. And I hope therefore that, unless some explanation is offered as to the policy of the Government in this matter, this House will pass this motion."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MAJORIBANKS :—"Sir, so far as lands which are already in the ownership of other ryots are concerned, I do not suppose that the hon. Member expects us to take them away and give them to anybody else. But as regards lands that are said to have been unnecessarily reserved for the depressed classes at the expense of ex-service men, we have not heard this complaint before and we should be very glad to inquire into it and ascertain if lands are being kept unnecessarily for depressed classes who do not apply for them so that ex-service men do not have a chance. But we have no detailed information on the subject and so I cannot give any more definite answer than that now."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, I am glad that I have got an opportunity of offering a few remarks in connexion with this motion. My hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha has confined himself to South Kanara. Sir, I have travelled in several districts and I know for certain how things are actually taking place. It is true that there is a Government Order to the effect that the members of the depressed classes should be encouraged by assignment of darkhast lands. Sir, for want of god-fathers, the members of the depressed classes are not being encouraged in the matter of assignment

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of darkhast lands. Not only that, Sir; for want of influence, they do not succeed. Nowadays, only on account of influence and recommendations the other classes of people are able to get darkhast lands. For instance, I know for certain that there are big landowners who have got patta lands and adjoining their own lands there are several poramboke lands; and these lands intended for assignment to the depressed classes are not being usually assigned to deserving people belonging to the depressed classes. The thing is this. The karnams are the persons who naturally recommend, and the other subordinate authorities adhere to their recommendations. I only want to draw the attention of the Government to seriously consider the deplorable condition of the depressed classes and come to their rescue, so that the injustice done to them by these village officials may not exist."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I am afraid the two hon. Members who have last spoken seem to be at cross purposes. I thought the hon. Member Mr. Saldanha was for taking away some land from the depressed classes and giving it to ex-service men, and I am not sure that the hon. Member who spoke last is supporting Mr. Saldanha."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"I do support him, Sir, and I said that" (Laughter).

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"Sir, with reference to the observations that fell from my hon. Friend Mr. Veerian, I think that we should not give our support to this motion. Of course it might be a question of a disability which is particularly peculiar to South Kanara alone. That is one thing. But if generally he wants preference to be given to ex-military men in the matter of assignment of lands and that the depressed classes and others should come next in order, I think that argument cannot be supported. I believe the object of the resolution was . . ."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I offer a word of explanation, Sir? My object has been misunderstood. I said that preference has been given to big landholders and that lands have been simply reserved without being assigned for the depressed classes in preference to ex-service men. I did not say that ex-service men should be given preference at all. What I say is that their case should be treated with more consideration but not in supersession of or in preference to the claims of the depressed classes. I hope I have not been misunderstood by my hon. Friends."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"I am glad I have been corrected. He appears evidently to have said that ex-service men should be given the same preference as the depressed classes and others. I think the Government will certainly consider the case of the ex-military men as far as possible in the matter of assignment of these lands. I know that as far as possible steps are being taken in regard to this matter in the districts. We have got a committee in each presided over by the Collector, called the Discharged Soldiers Aid Society, and some non-officials are members of this committee. A list of lands that are available for assignment for ex-military men is furnished to the non-official members, so that if they come in touch with any ex-military man they might render the necessary help to him. I think therefore that this policy is already being followed and if it is not the case in South Kanara, Government may be informed and the grievance will be redressed."

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* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Only one word, Sir. I am afraid that these ex-service men are very often making unreasonable and unfounded complaints. Certainly I am not against the policy of assigning lands to persons who served the Empire at a time of need and their case certainly deserves sympathetic consideration. But very often, these ex-service men, after they return, deliberately apply for lands which are either in the possession of others or which have already been assigned to others long before this Government Order was issued. Or again, they apply for lands which for various reasons it is impossible for the Government officers to assign, and they receive replies to the effect that the lands they ask for cannot be assigned to them. They make a complaint of the matter. I know personally some such instances. Far from being against the claims of these ex-service men, what I say is that the grounds on which these complaints are based are not always valid."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, Sir, I would not have risen but for my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar intervening in this debate. As one of those who did his bit in the matter of recruitment in the years of need and as a member of the Soldiers' Board, I feel it my duty to say that all that has been promised to these ex-service men has not been realized. The hon. Member for Malabar was telling us

3-30 p.m. that these ex-service men have shown themselves to be unreasonable because they made applications for lands which had already been in the possession of others or for which applications had been made by others previously. May I at once answer, Sir, that it is not his (ex-service man's) fault. He has to approach somebody, possibly some gentleman, to whom reference has been made, the village karnam. The village karnam, as he is always careful enough not to give the right number, gives the wrong number or a number which is already allotted to somebody else, and this poor soldier, who knows only how to fight, does not know the intricacies of the Revenue system. I say that it is not his fault. Well, Sir, I have one other word to say. I should think that preference should certainly be given to the ex-service men and next only to the depressed classes. But I do not want that big landlords should be given these lands in South Kanara, and if, as I know in some instances, even small extents of lands are being given to the big landlords, I think, Sir, this Council must enter its emphatic protest against that. For reasons far beyond the control of modern democracy these big landlords have been enjoying not merely large stretches of land but also the unearned increments, paying little to the Government, while the labouring classes earn only their day's bread by hard work in the fields the whole day and perhaps the night also. These people are not given that to which they are entitled. Now, Sir, even at this period if any reconstituted Council like this, representing what may be said to be an infant democracy, should think that the policy is still to be continued, namely, the policy of making grants of lands to those who have already got them, it would be nothing but committing what perhaps would be a sin according to theories of religion. The policy of the Government, therefore, should not be

'To him that hath more shall be given

And from him that hath not even the little that he hath shall be taken away'."

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Mr. J. D. SAMUEL :—" Sir, in regard to some demands made with regard to the ex-military men, I will say this. I need not dwell on the question in general. Only in November last, I had a case of 11 ex-military men who had been promised lands and who happened to be members of the depressed classes, but who have not been given anything, who have only been driven from pillar to post and post to pillar; they have been sent from village to village although they had applied for very small portions of some five acres of uncultivated land. As it was pointed out by my hon. Friend, Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu, it is all due to the machinations of the karnam. Only in November last, the matter was put before our Collector, the Collector of Kistna, and that shows how the promises made by those who were in the recruiting department at that time have not been fulfilled. I think the sooner it is remedied the better."

* Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Mr. President, Sir, I fear that 'much ado about nothing' is made about this subject. We are told that there are soldiers' committees where the Collectors preside that should take care of the ex-military men. It is very unfortunate that the poor karnam, who has been the cause for so much of discussion in this Council, should be visited with such accusations. If there is a committee which professes to protect the interests of the ex-military men, then it is for the committee to give the right numbers to those men. Why should every hon. Member of this House be wasting so much time on the poor karnam? If the karnam gives wrong numbers, the karnam may as well be booked then and there and brought forward before the Collector who presides over these meetings. Well, Sir, the whole fault lies here. Sometimes in some districts it is the ex-military men that get the best of it. In another place it is the depressed classes. It is only in very few cases that the big landlord who owns a large area and a small piece of land adjacent to his own gets that small piece of land. It does no good to anybody else who have not got any land close to it. For only when it is an acre and more it will be fit for cultivation. On the contrary, if it is a long stretch of land, only half an acre in extent, it is hardly worth while for anyone to put his plough on it. It is only in such cases, as far as I have observed from my own district and from my neighbouring district from where Mr. Samuel comes, that small pieces of lands are assigned to landlords. In all cases, both the ex-military men and the depressed classes are pretty well taken care of. If there are any local difficulties, in cases of particular individuals, I suppose that unless they approach the local officers, especially the Collector and the committee referred to, I do not think that a strong case may be made out on behalf of the people in this House."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, I am not quite sure of the issues we are discussing. Nor am I quite sure whether my hon. Friend, who moved this motion, after he has had heard the replies given by the Revenue Member is going to press it. In case he does it, I may perhaps say that I find myself in a rather curious position. Because if it so happens that while the control of the actual distribution of land to ex-military men and the depressed classes lies in the hands of my Colleague, the Revenue Member, I am, if I may say so, the godfather of both and it falls to me to press their claims. I can assure my hon. Friend that, so far as I am concerned, I am quite ready to press the claims of both the ex-military men and the depressed

[Sir Arthur Knapp]

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classes. If a choice has to be made as between the two, I think that we shall agree that preference should be given rather to the individual soldier, to whom we have made a definite promise, than to the members of the depressed classes, who claim on a general understanding. In the case of ex-military men we have made a perfectly definite promise and we are quite prepared to carry it out. I am not quite sure to what particular case the hon. Member refers. The actual distribution is in the hands of the local authority to whom representations have to be made. But on the point of policy our conscience is quite clear. We are trying to do all we can to carry out the promise which we deliberately made to ex-soldiers. I am not aware that the assignment of land to landholders has in any manner stood in the way of meeting the just claims of the ex-military men. Reference has been made by the hon. Member from Malabar to the manner in which the applications of ex-military men were sometimes rendered difficult of acceptance, owing to the fact that applications were actually being made for lands already in possession of somebody else. It is true that such things very often occur. The hon. Member thinks that it is deliberate. I cannot imagine the case in which the ex-soldier would think it worth while deliberately to apply for land which he knows he cannot have. It has been said to us here this afternoon that the Soldiers' Committee in the district might assist the soldiers with the local knowledge which they have and supply them with information as to lands that may be available. It should be of very great help to us in carrying out our promise to the ex-military men, if not only the members of the District Committees but also Members of this House would lend their services to ex-soldiers and help them to find out suitable lands. I can assure hon. Members that our main object is to carry out our promise, but as I have said, if I have to make a choice between the two, I should certainly say that the ex-soldier, who has our definite assurance, is entitled to the preference over the depressed classes as a whole, to whom the promise is given in mere general terms."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"I had not intended to take part in the present discussion. More than one Member of the House cast aspersions on the karnam and said that in most cases he was responsible for the proper people not getting their proper dues. At any rate my only object in rising now is to controvert that view and to tell the House that as far as my experience goes it is not always so. It seems to be a definite policy on the part of the Government to assign these uncultivated and waste lands and also disafforested lands almost solely to the depressed classes. I can give one instance which occurred in the North Arcot district, where a vast area of land, namely, 2,200 acres in a place called Vadalaparaudam in Cheyyar division, was recently disafforested and the caste ryots of the village were induced by the Forest department to take a contract of the standing trees, and they accordingly took the contract. They were induced, as I have said, by the Forest department to take it for a very high price. As a matter of fact, the villagers lost Rs 800 in the transaction. Thus, when the thing was to be surveyed with a view to be assigned to the various applicants the caste ryots were absolutely ignored and the stereotyped reply they got for their petitions after petitions, mahazar after mahazar, was that all the lands will be given only to depressed classes, and if there is anything remaining then that will be given to the caste ryot applicants. I have got all the original replies and I can produce them for anybody's satisfaction."

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[Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar]

Therefore I say it seems to be the settled policy of the Government, as can be judged from the various utterances of the District Collectors. But I must say that the karnam has absolutely nothing to do in the matter. If a certain thing is the policy of the Collector, it is the policy of the Deputy Collector, and it is also the policy of the Tahsildar and the Deputy Tahsildar. Therefore very little scope is left for the karnam to do as he likes. It is only to correct the words of my hon. Friend that the karnam is not the black devil as he supposed him to be that I ventured to stand up. The policy of the Government seems to be not to give the lands to those who have already got some lands in the village. The Collector of North Arcot refused to give any land to the land-owning people on the score that they have already got lands in the village. Hundreds and thousands of people absolutely without any land sent mahazars after mahazars and all these people were told that lands would be given only to the depressed classes in the first instance and that which was left over if any would be given to the other classes. Therefore I once more contradict the statement of some of the Members of this House that the village karnam is at the bottom of the mischief in every case."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, I express my hearty thanks for the assurance given by the hon. the Home Member. Now I want to say a few words about the observations made by the different Members. My hon. Friend Mr. Anjaneyulu supported the karnam against some charges made. There are karnams and karnams. My hon. Friend Mr. Veerian has pleaded that certain number of acres should be given to the depressed classes, especially their ex-service men. He says that in spite of the fact that in certain cases sanction was given, the members of the depressed classes

3.45 p.m. did not get any land. I have known several such instances where the officials and the karnams are throwing obstacles in the way of getting lands. I do not blame the Government for this state of affairs, but it is the lower officials that are a hindrance. As to big landlords, the luxury of excess of uncultivated lands is confined to South Kanara. The hon. the Revenue Member promises to inquire into the matter. Vast extents of lands are now lying idle and uncultivated which these landlords are holding."

"With the assurance given by the hon. the Home Member I have no objection to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 19.

* Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"Sir, I move

'that the allotment of Rs. 22,81,900 for survey and settlement be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"In moving this token motion I wish to bring to the notice of the House that the recent G.O. No. 177, dated 29th January 1925, on the resettlement proposals of the Trichinopoly district has caused great dissatisfaction and disappointment to its people. It sanctions 18½ per cent increase over the existing assessment for the wet lands in Kadarambam and 12½ per cent for the dry lands there, from the current fasli, while a fresh report is called for the Nirarambam about the necessity for regrouping the sources of irrigation and reclassification of soils before enhancement for the next fasli."

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"With regard to the lands wet and dry in the Kadarambam, the irrigation is mainly dependent on rain and owing to the failure of seasonal or timely rainfall the lands are suffering from want of water. The rainfall statement in Appendix IX-A of Mr. Priestley's resettlement report shows that there is no uniform distribution in the several seasons of cultivation. The result is that the yield is often times too poor to meet even the cost of cultivation.

"The increasing emigration in spite of the availability of a large area on darkhast and in spite of the provisions of the Agricultural Improvement Loans Act shows the poor return of these dry lands. The existing high assessment is a scare-crow which scares away one and all and the proposed enhancement will result in wholesale emigration amounting to evacuation of some entire villages. Moreover the proposed enhancement not only directly affects the Kadarambam tracts but also indirectly the Nirarambam tracts. After the recent floods, food-grains for the Nirarambam tracts have to be got only from the Kadarambam tracts and consequently the people affected by the floods have now to pay a higher price for their foodgrains. In this connexion, it has to be pointed out that in submitting proposals for the resettlement, the Settlement Officer has taken it as an established fact that the conditions of the Trichinopoly district are the same as those of Tanjore; but facts are otherwise. The Collector of Trichinopoly who knows the district well has pointed out that the enquiry is defective, that the conclusions based on the Tanjore economic survey are inapplicable to Trichinopoly and there are material differences between the two districts which require closer investigation.

"Hence I request that a further searching enquiry be made regarding the economic condition of the people of the district with special reference to the agricultural problem and, pending the result of the proposed inquiry, the resettlement rates recently sanctioned in G.O. No. 177, dated 29th January 1925, be not introduced both for the Kadarambam and the Nirarambam."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I am afraid I am at a considerable disadvantage in making a reply to the hon. Mover because, try as I might, I could not hear half of what he said. However, I understand that he took exception to the rates of assessment being revised in what he called the Kadarambam tract in Trichinopoly. The Government postponed the assessment in Nirarambam parts because after the damage done by the recent floods they thought it was necessary to investigate whether these floods had not caused permanent damage to irrigation sources. Also they did not wish to make any increase in a year when the ryots suffered such losses. But I do not know why there should not be any increase in the Kadarambam tract which did not suffer recently by the floods. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that there are certain areas in what is usually called Kadarambam tracts which are irrigated from the river Cauvery or its channels and to which some considerations as those applied to Nirarambam tracts would apply."

Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"The Kadarambam tracts are not irrigated by the river Cauvery."

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* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"That was the report which was sent to us; that there are tracts which are usually counted as being irrigated by the Cauvery and we ordered these to be excluded. I am hoping that as far as possible I may be meeting one of his objections that way.

"He has also pointed out that Kadarambam tracts have mostly to depend upon rainfall for their crops. Every consideration of this kind has been taken into account in the fixing of the rates. The increase that has been proposed seems to me quite reasonable and fully warranted by the great rise in prices and the general agricultural conditions in that part of the country.

"I am sorry that I could not hear him more distinctly with regard to the points he has raised. I may however say that it is not a pleasant thing for us to be making increases. We do not do it for pleasure and if we do it it is because it is absolutely necessary to find funds for the administration. We are constantly met with new and increasing demands in every direction and not only are we compelled by these circumstances but also there is the fact that other districts have had their turn; it would not be fair to stop the periodical revision of assessments until a definite change is made in our system of revenue administration."

Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, within the few minutes at my disposal I feel it my duty to support my hon. Friend Mr. Seturatnam's motion in respect of the postponement of settlement in regard to Kadarambam tracts in Trichinopoly district. Of course, it is not possible for me to state all the objections that the ryots of Trichinopoly have with reference to the resettlement policy. At present the ryots of the tracts object to this unfair distinction between the Nirarambam area and the Kadarambam area. The Government ought not to think that the ryots of the Kadarambam area are in a better position at present than the ryots of the Nirarambam area. They are not in two water-tight compartments and the floods have affected in an equal degree the ryots of both Kadarambam and Nirarambam. Some of the tracts derive indirect source of supply from the Cauvery or from channels thereof. But still it would not alter the general position of the ryot. If the floods have affected directly the ryots of Nirarambam, the floods have equally but indirectly affected the ryots of the Kadarambam tracts. If we go into the reasons which actuated the levy of the resettlement rates, I find they are the general rise in prices. The communications and the general condition of the market have been affected very much. The prices, the general condition and the communications, all these three factors have been affected and therefore I submit that the settlement should be postponed in respect of the Kadarambam ryots also. If the ryots have been affected by floods in Nirarambam the ryots of Kadarambam have also been affected by the want of rainfall and there is no water in the tanks or lake in about five or six villages. For instance, in the two places, Peranallur and Torayur, the people are actually suffering from want of water. Therefore I submit that if there was a sufficient cause for Nirarambam there is also a sufficient cause in respect of Kadarambam. Secondly, with regard to the communications, the floods have destroyed generally all the communications. I know that the market of Trichinopoly has been very dull and I know very big merchants, 10 or 15 of them, have filed insolvency petitions, who in fact have never known the existence of insolvency courts before. The Kadarambam has no market now and we are

[Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai] [17th March 1925]

forced to get down the prices. Therefore the condition of the people at Trichinopoly is very bad and probably worse than the position of the Nirarambam ryots. I am therefore anxious to impress upon the attention of the Government that in respect of Kadarambam also the resettlement should stand over. I therefore support the motion of Mr. Seturatnam Ayyar."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It is now 4 o'clock and I have to put the whole grant to the vote of the House. The motion before the House is that the Government be granted under Land Revenue, Demand No. I, a sum of Rs. 254.51 less the amount of cut that has been made in the Council to the extent of Rs. 1,20,300, viz., for a grant of Rs. 253.31 lakhs odd."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND II—EXCISE.

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I beg to move

'that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 42.78 lakhs under Demand II—Excise Department.'"

Motion No. 20.

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move *'that the allotment of Rs. 21,400 for pay of officers be omitted'*

to express want of confidence in the hon. the Minister for Education (Excise).

"Sir, as has been remarked by you this morning, it may not be safe if a very high figure is put in the case of token motions. Sir, we have not got into any system of wording token motions. I am not anxious to have the figure very high in this motion. I never wanted to inconvenience the administration by any lump sum cut. If you permit me, Sir, I myself will reduce the figure to one rupee, or in the course of the debate one on my own side may bring an amendment to reduce it to one rupee. The only object is to move it as a token motion.

"Now, Sir, we have to see what the hon. the Minister for Excise has done during these nearly four and a half years he has been in charge of this portfolio. We know that the present system that is in vogue is one of State control. There are two schools of thought which advocate local option and total prohibition respectively. In all countries where total prohibition is advocated and worked up to, it is a matter of common knowledge that they have worked up to that goal through local option. How far the Minister is in favour of local option or total prohibition can be judged from the various statements he has made from time to time. My best guide in this direction is his budget speech during general discussion. In that speech he has distinctly stated that his hands are tied and that he cannot lay down any policy. He said that his own ideal was not different from the ideal of the Opposition, but he never stated that he was going to work up to any of the ideals, either of local option or total prohibition. I may be permitted to tell him, Sir, that we as United Nationalists did adopt a programme with total prohibition through local option as our goal. I do not

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know whether he himself did mean to say that his ideal also is the same. He made a very vague statement, namely, that the ideal which he has got on the subject of Excise was not different from the ideal of the Opposition. Now, Sir, after four and a half years of administration of this department, he made one statement, viz., that the hands of the Minister are tied. He said that the real difficulty was one of finance. But he never suggested how he was going to tackle with this question of finance. He only stated that if this Council was prepared to vote additional taxation he was also prepared to go on with his ideal. Now, Sir, I want to question the right of the Minister in asking the Council to vote moneys for him. He must always recognize that it is the duty of the Minister to take the Council with him and to satisfy the Council and have the supplies voted for. If he says that if the Council votes money he is ready to go on with his vague ideal with which he wants to lead the country, I am not able to understand him at all. Does he mean to say that it is the duty of the House to find funds for him to administer the department? Is it not his duty to lead the House in the matter of taxation, in the matter of finding ways and means? I can understand one of the Members of the Reserved branch saying 'I have not got the votes of the House with me; I am here responsible not to the country but to Parliament; that is the state of things; if this House will vote the necessary moneys I will carry on such and such policy.' I beg to submit that a great distinction has to be made between a Member of the Reserved half making that statement and a Minister making the same statement. As long as the Minister is there, he is supposed to lead the House and give a lead to the country as well. When he does not recognize that elementary principle of responsibility, I confess I am not able to follow him.

"Now, Sir, we shall have to see what has been done in other provinces in the matter of excise policy. In the first instance, I may be permitted to bring to the notice of the House what the Southborough Committee did say in the matter of transferring Excise. We know that the Madras Government was against the transfer. They stated that in this Presidency, the question is mixed up with the revenues, and that nearly one-third of the revenues of the province depended upon Excise and therefore it should not be transferred; and even the representative of this Government on the Southborough Committee, Mr. Couchman, did protest against the transfer of Excise and he stated some reasons. But that Committee recommended that in Madras Excise could be transferred. When the Government of India was forwarding the report, they did distinctly state that Excise, whatever be the level of taxation that has been reached in Madras, must be transferred because it must be brought under popular control. The recommendation of the Government of India was accepted, and it was made one of the transferred subjects. Now, if the hon. the Minister says that it is mixed up with revenues and he is not able or permitted to tackle it, I do not think he is justified in facing that problem. If really that was his difficulty, why did he not put it before his electorate when he last sought his election? If he had stated his difficulties to them they would have set the matter right. The Minister had worked the Excise department for nearly 2½ years at first and again for another 2 years, and he now comes forward and says that he cannot work up to the ideal of either local option or total prohibition. If I understand his statement clearly, it only means that the only method in which Excise can be administered is by means of State control. That only

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means that something would be taken here and something would be added there and the old policy would continue. It does not in any way mean that he is going to alter the whole thing or put it under popular control. Now, Sir, even in the matter of State control, if we examine what is being done, after the Reforms, in Bombay, Bengal and United Provinces we see that they have taken a forward step, though they may still be far from the ideal. It may be a very halting measure, but anyhow they have taken a forward step. In Bombay, they have done away with the fixed fee system; they have adopted the rationing system and the licensing boards. The licensing boards have got the right to reduce the number of shops by not exceeding one-third of the number that existed at the time when the boards came into existence (hear, hear), and each successive licensing board is given the right to reduce the number by not exceeding one-third. Each licensing board is allowed to fix the number of shops and also to sell them to the lessees. In the case of old lessees, a right of appeal is given; in the case of new lessees, the Board has got the absolute right to accept or reject their applications. Sir, they have also adopted what is known as the rationing system. The licensing boards can fix the quantity of liquor that can be issued by any shop in any month. For which purpose, the standard as it obtained in any one month in 1922 was adopted, and the licensing board might reduce it by 5 per cent. Sufficient latitude is allowed to alter the total quantity for the year and also to transfer as between month and month either increase or decrease. Thus, the licensing boards have some real power vested in them, subject to certain limitations. Thus, a forward step is taken in Bombay, United Provinces and Bengal, each province adopting different methods, but all having a common goal.

“ But what is it that Madras has done all these 4½ years? It has appointed a committee with advisory powers and even this advisory committee was later on transformed into another body with the idea of examining witnesses. I believe no witnesses were after all examined. The Council Secretary of the Excise Minister Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar and one Mr. Strathie were deputed to go and study the conditions in the various provinces. They did study the conditions and they did send up a report. When? In the year 1922. It is nearly more than 2½ years since the report of that committee was received. Even in the report of that committee we find agreement between the official and non-official regarding the licensing boards, but they did differ in the matter of the rationing system. The non-official said that the rationing system was an excellent one and was working satisfactorily, whereas the official said that it was not working satisfactorily and that it had not worked for a sufficiently long time to enable them to draw definite inferences. This report was submitted in the year 1922 and it has not been given effect to till now. Now and then the committee is summoned to meet. I believe the committee has not till this moment submitted its report. This means postponing the matter for ever. Now, the hon. the Minister for Excise for the first time in his budget speech cautiously said that his hands were tied down, that he could not frame any policy under the diarchical system of government. He said that he had a policy of his own but that he had no liberty to bring it into practice. He has to thank himself for all this. Did it take him four and a half years to know this? Why should he not tell us in the beginning? Sir, I thought I could do something good by introducing my excise policy, I belong to a prominent

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temperance society, I took up office hoping that I could do something for the good of the country, but I was not able to do it as the rules are against any such step being taken? Had he said so before, we would have stood by him and acted differently. Did it take 4½ years for him to make that statement? Is this House to be satisfied by that simple statement and is this House going to allow the matter to continue like this for ever? Our sister provinces have taken a forward step so long ago as 1922. When there was a sort of national wave under the personal and spiritual influence of one of the greatest men of India, our Minister for Excise let that opportunity slip. He never wanted to busy himself with utilizing that national wave for the advantage of the country; on the other hand, he even busied himself in preventing boycotting and other prohibitionist activities. I would not refer to them in detail as we have nothing to do with those questions at present. My only accusation against him is that he did not utilize that national wave of prohibition of drink to the advantage of the country. He now coolly says ‘if I tackle the excise problem it affects the revenue; you had better provide me with an alternative for the loss of revenue and I would take a forward step in the matter of excise!’ Let us examine what he means by the loss of revenue. Even here, I heard the Government economic expert saying the other day that the first thing that any Minister in India will have to do is to satisfy the public opinion that retrenchment in expenditure in all the departments of the Government has been carried out to the utmost extent possible. Is it the view of the hon. the Minister for Excise that retrenchment has been carried out to the utmost limit possible compatible with efficiency? Is it his view that the question of retrenchment has been sufficiently and well tackled? In the present conditions, it is his business to satisfy the country that further retrenchment in the departments under his charge is impossible and if the country is satisfied we would be prepared to vote any additional sum required. He has not satisfied us in this respect. Now, Sir, even in the matter of additional taxation, I may remind him of what the previous Council did. During the days of non-co-operation when the revenues of the Government were affected to an extent of 80 or 90 lakhs and additional taxation proposals were made, the Council voted all the necessary sums. It was recognized even by the Muddiman Report that in Madras taxation proposals were accepted in a spirit of great co-operation. It was remarked that if any deviation was suggested in the taxation proposals it was done in the interests of the poor man and not in the interests of the rich man. That only shows the great cautiousness on the part of this House in the matter of additional taxation. When the hon. the Minister has before him plenty of such examples, is he justified in saying that the Council would have to vote additional funds in order to do away with the excise revenue? Sir, in this connexion, I wish to bring to his knowledge the statement made by Pandit Madan Mohan Malavayya when this question was put to him by Mr. Pussy-foot Johnson when he was in India. The Pandit said that he was prepared, though he was an ardent enthusiast in the advance of education, to take and educate public opinion and ask even for the suspension of all progress in the educational expenditure till the nation revived its tax-paying capacity to meet the extra taxation necessary to recoup the loss under excise revenue. When the leading political thinkers in the country express such views, is it not necessary that all possible resources should be tapped to meet the loss of revenue involved by taking the step suggested? I may also remind him

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that the time is auspicious for carrying out a bold policy. From this year we are going to get partial remission of our contributions. This year we are almost sure to get our 126 lakhs and as for the next succeeding years the Finance Member of the Government of India has stated that we are to get a remission of not less than 50 lakhs every year more than that of the preceding year until the whole of the provincial contributions are wiped off. Why should he not take advantage of this statement and work out his policy of excise reform in order to fit in with the revenues that will be relieved for the benefit of the country? If he does not take steps in this direction and if he comes here and merely says: 'My hands are tied and I cannot proceed further in the matter of excise', the only alternative open to us is to tell him 'You have been working this department for a long time; we do not want that you should work it further'. This is all the answer this House could give him. With this object in mind, I move this motion for the acceptance of the House."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, this is a party motion, a political move and is not so much a demand for a statement of the excise policy or a statement as regards the excise reform. Therefore I would submit to the House a few observations in order to show that there has not been a proper understanding of the whole question of the excise policy of this Government. The hon. Member from Vizagapatam started with saying that he was not able to follow the policy pursued in this province and cited a statement made by me in the general discussion that the finances of our province are such that I would not be able to proceed. It is not my own statement. I quoted it from the statement of an experienced leading publicist of this province made while reviewing the excise policy of this province and enunciating the policy to be pursued by any Excise Minister. It is a statement made by Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariyar. He stated that the constitutional position is such that any Minister placed in charge of the administration of a Transferred department will not be able to carry on his views as effectively as he would wish and urged that there are rules and conditions under which it is not possible for him to act independently of the whole Government and the financial conditions of the province are . . ."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I quoted from the speech of the hon. the Minister. He said that his main difficulty was one of finance. Other sources of revenue must be found to compensate the loss of revenue which would be occasioned by adopting a policy of total prohibition."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"It is a draft report from which the hon. Member is reading. That is a quotation from the speech made by Diwan Bahadur Rangachariyar. 'It was true that the subject had been transferred and that the Minister was at the head of the department. But his hands were tied' These were the words used by Mr. Rangachariyar. 'His hands were tied. No Minister at the present time can carry out the bold programme of total prohibition, for, finance was not in his control. Unless Ministers become responsible for the financial arrangements of the province, there was no real object gained in saying that the subject of excise was a Transferred subject. It was admitted by everybody that prohibition must be the ultimate aim of the country. The main difficulty was one of finance. They must find other sources of revenue to compensate the loss of revenue from that department if total prohibition was to be introduced.' These are the words which I quoted then from the speech of Mr. Rangachariyar who

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presided over the annual meeting of the Temperance League and reviewed the excise policy of this province generally. Therefore hon. Members would see that though excise is a Transferred subject, the conditions as pointed out by Mr. Rangachariyar are such that they do not allow the Minister to act independently or place him in a position to be able to carry on as he would wish. I stated during the course of the general discussion that the ultimate object of the excise policy is prohibition. The policy relating to excise reform relates to a proper understanding of the principle of total abstinence and the removal of all facilities for drink. In order to further these reforms, considerations of revenue ought to be subordinated. The fact that the revenue from excise constitutes one-third of the total revenue of the province must, however, be taken into consideration in carrying out the necessary reform. The drink evil is not a factor of to-day. It is as old as the Soma juice of the vedic period and the politics of Chanakya. The reform must take time. We must change men's minds and their attitude towards the drink problem. The State must adjust its finances with the full consent and approval of the people. Religion and custom have had no effective influence on the classes accustomed to drink. They consider it necessary for their living. The root causes of social evils must be removed simultaneously with making it difficult to procure liquor. Raising the cost as high as possible so that illicit liquor may not displace the licit one, to reduce the number of places available, to make liquor as weak as possible, to fix the hours at which it could be procured, to prohibit sale of liquor to women and children and to penalise their admission into the taverns, to restrict the quantity of private possession, to eliminate distilled spirits gradually, to remove shops from fairs, festivals and labour centres, to help the classes of people who desire real help in the matter of temperance, to associate people with the excise administration—all these are considered by temperance workers and administrators to be real and effective steps towards the realization of the goal.

"These are the tests laid down by temperance workers and temperance reformers. The House has to see whether this Government have adopted any of these measures which I suggested to them and then they will be in a position to say whether any effective steps have been taken in order to advance the cause of excise reform. My hon. Friend remarked that while in Bombay and the United Provinces steps have been taken in advance of Madras, Madras is behind the times and has been conservative. I must join issue with him. There has been confusion in his observations because licensing boards which he attributed to Bombay do not exist. These licensing boards have been formed in the United Provinces and not in Bombay. The United Provinces started these boards, gave them some powers and after working them for a period of two years they found a change was necessary. According to the recent resolution of the United Provinces, the powers of the licensing boards have been reduced and the status of these boards now is the same as that in this presidency. With regard to Bombay, I shall shortly read out to you the resolution which says that the conditions in which the Bombay system is working are analogous to the system that is now prevailing in the Madras Presidency; and there is not one single item in the Bombay scheme of excise reform that can be pointed to be in advance of the Madras system. I will ask hon. Members to remember that the United Provinces have not adopted all the items of reform which we have introduced in Madras. Each province bases its policy on local conditions.

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"I therefore ask the indulgence of the House to note how far we have been able to introduce changes in the matter of excise policy. The first and foremost matter that I would bring to the notice of this House is the large reduction in the number of shops. There is a difference of opinion in this country and even among the reformers themselves whether mere reduction in the number of shops would improve the temperance cause. I am not satisfied that mere reduction is a real and effective remedy by itself, but the reduction of shops in conjunction with other influences and forces would certainly tend to improve the excise system. Hon. Members will be pleased to note that while there were 7,900 arrack shops ten years before, to-day we have only 5,900. Thus there has been a reduction of 2,000 shops.

"I would also inform hon. Members that we have introduced another reform. It is said in American text-books and by practical men like Rowntree whose work among social circles in England and America is so well known, that fixing high prices on liquor is one of the effective ways for preparing the country for prohibition. In the American States 30 years ago increased prices on liquor was considered to be one of the steps preliminary to prohibition. Increased prices paved the way to prohibition in most of the States of America, if the evidence of American writers is worthy of consideration.

"We have been able to follow these principles and have adopted them in this province. Licensing fees which were previously at Rs. 6-14-0 were raised to Rs. 8-7-0 and where they were Rs. 8-13-0, they were raised to Rs. 10-10-0. We raised the price of liquor so that it might not be easily available to every one, and if it is made dearer a large number of people would not be able to have recourse to costly drinks.

"Another step we have taken in the matter of excise reform is to reduce the strength of the liquor. There is a temptation among drinkers to have strong liquor and to reduce the proof gallon strength of liquor is one of the surest ways to dissuade people from drinking these liquors. In order to encourage temperance, we have reduced the strength of the liquor and to-day it is reduced to proof gallon 38. I may explain what is meant by 'proof gallon 38'. When the liquor is prepared at the distillery, that is proof gallon, and when it is diluted at the factory under the supervision of experts, 38 per cent of water being added to it so that its strength might be reduced from what it was at the distillery, it is termed under proof. We find that weakening of liquor is one of the ways by which the drinker can be dissuaded from drinking. He would not be able to satisfy his thirst without strong liquor and he would therefore run away from the arrack shop. This again is one of the preliminary steps to be taken before prohibition is introduced. In order to encourage weak liquor, we have been removing arrack and liquor shops to distant places. In areas where people drink toddy, the temptation to have strong liquor is being removed. As an experimental measure and with a loss in revenue we ordered the removal of every arrack shop from within a radius of 5 miles in five taluks in this presidency. Thereby we lose a revenue of nearly 2 lakhs and odd. Nevertheless, the experiment is tried in order to dissuade people from having costly and strong drinks costing 4 annas, 3 annas and 2 annas and take to less harmful drinks like toddy which costs about 1 anna 6 pies a bottle. In order to dissuade men from having recourse to costly drinks, we have reduced the proof gallon strength of arrack.

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"We have reduced the hours of sale so that liquor may not be available at all times. Certain limitations have been placed and beyond a particular hour the liquor shops shall not be kept open and if they are kept open, it is made penal.

"Not only have we reduced the hours of sale but we have also prevented people from having private possession of liquor; we have diminished the quantity which they were having before. If a person is not able to get liquor in the arrack shop beyond a certain time. . . ."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"May I know the reduced hours of sale, if I may interrupt the hon. Member?"

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"The hours of sale have been reduced and the quantity of private possession also has been reduced. These are effective ways by which temperance can be effected, by which a person is prevented from buying liquor in the shop and keeping it with himself so that he and his family may have drinks. Then I may also submit to the House that in deference to the wishes of the people's welfare committee connected with the mills, arrack shops have been ordered to be closed on pay days up to 11 a.m. and from 11-30 to 1 p.m. on Sundays and other holidays. As a matter of temperance reform Collectors were first given permission to close arrack shops on fairs and festival days. Now an order has been issued to the effect that, with the permission of the Commissioner, Collectors can close down all arrack shops during fairs and festivals. This is notified at the sale. The Collectors have closed down about 190 shops in 18 districts. We have also ordered that no liquor should be sold to any woman or to young persons under 18 years of age; such persons should not be allowed within the premises of the arrack shops."

* Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"May I know when this order was issued?"

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"This order was issued recently. In order to help the people who want local option and where we found that there was a determination among the people to help themselves and that they were willing to co-operate in the matter of excise reform, we have established the system of prohibition as in the Nilgiris where liquor cannot be sold to the hill-tribes at all. These are the lines on which we are making advance. As a result of these, I submit to the House that there has been loss in revenue to the extent of nearly two lakhs of rupees.

"Consumption in 1919-20 was roughly 20 lakhs of proof gallons and in 1923-24 it was 15 lakhs of proof gallons of licit liquor. Though the measures taken so far may, by themselves, seem to be very small they have undoubtedly the cumulative effect of gradually reaching the goal which I have laid down.

"Then, in order to have larger association of people in working the excise administration, we have prepared a scheme by which advisory committees have been altered into what is known as excise boards in the city of Madras. The licensing boards have been converted into excise boards so that these boards will hereafter have non-official majorities and they will elect their own presidents. Their resolutions in regard to location of shops and in regard to their number will be binding on the Government. But an appeal is allowed in these matters to the Government. Greater association

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of the people in the matter of excise administration is now encouraged by having non-official majorities on these boards and by allowing them to elect their own presidents. When the system is fully worked out, hon. Members will find that a most definite path has been prepared for local option and prohibition. This House has to judge whether the steps so far taken will not lead to excise reform. Hon. Members will find, by comparison, that the steps taken in Madras are not less advanced than those in Bombay or United Provinces. I do not like to detain the House long but I would just say this. Referring to the recent resolution passed by the Committee whose report was published recently, the Bombay Government say that they are pleased to accept the recommendation of the Committee declaring that the ultimate object of their excise policy is prohibition. The Government realize that it would be impossible for them to pursue the policy of local option unless the gap which would be created in the provincial revenues is gradually filled by revenue from other sources.

4.45 p.m. "As a first step to give effect to the measure of local option, the Government of Bombay have decided not to open any new shops. As regards the auction system, they are of opinion that it may be continued. As reference was made to the rationing system, I would refer hon. Members to the latest report that we have from Bombay on this matter of working the rationing system. I would not, after reading this report,—and it is open to every hon. Member of this House to form his own opinion—I would not recommend the adoption of the rationing system here; because that system has led to many evils in Bombay. For not only has the revenue fallen but illicit distillation and crime have increased. The system is so much prone to illicit distillation. Suppose a shop was rationed to receive a fixed quantity of liquor for a particular day or week. It was found by experience that the shop continued to sell large quantities in spite of the existence of the rationing order fixing the quantity for the shop. The consumption of cheap European liquors such as brandy and whisky has increased enormously in Bombay. The Government of Bombay, therefore, in reviewing the case in their Administration Report say that the experiment they made would not be extended but they would confine it to certain localities in urban areas, and give power to the Collector to see that if in any case a shop which has been rationed requires more liquor than liquor is transferred from another rationed shop which has not been able to utilize the full quantity allotted to it. The excess may be transferred to another shop. Therefore hon. Members may see what the result of introducing the rationing system in practice will be when power is given to the Collectors to transfer the excess quantity from one shop to another. The order of the Government of Bombay on this subject will show how this system has been working in practice.

"Then again, in the matter of the location of the shops, the days and the hours of sale, the strength of the liquor, the age limit for admission to the liquor shop and various other restrictions of that kind we are doing the same thing as the Bombay Government. There they have their advisory committees. Instead of those advisory committees we have here formulated a scheme by which licensing boards will be constituted. It has been suggested to me that the power of Government to veto the recommendations of the boards should be restricted or modified. It has also been suggested to me

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that the number of shops should be limited. These and other recommendations have been made to me by the members of the Excise Advisory Committee and the hon. Members of the Legislative Council. I am prepared to to consider how far it will be possible in the interests of excise reform and in the interests of finances to modify or readjust these things in a manner more suitable and practicable.

"With regard to foreign liquor we have raised the import duty on foreign liquor and raised the licence fees for retail sale. Some of the methods adopted by the Madras Government are an improvement upon the system adopted in Bombay. The Government of Bombay believe that if they continue to adopt these various methods they will be launched on the road to prohibition. The hon. Member from Vizagapatam referred to the system adopted in Bombay and the United Provinces and said that Madras had not tried to follow the excellent example set by those Provinces. I have submitted to the House enough to show that the system adopted in the United Provinces has been reorganized and in Bombay also the methods they have adopted are not much better than what we have now adopted in Madras. Government have now a scheme of creating licensing boards with popular representatives and elected presidents, which will go a very long way in the matter of advancing the reform of the policy."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Are all the members of the board elected by the people?"

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Except a fourth who are nominated, the remaining three-fourths are elected by the various temperance workers and the local bodies.

"The Temperance League waited on deputation and submitted a memorandum to the Government reviewing the excise policy and how far it could be worked. I submit that we have carefully considered the memorandum submitted by that body and we have also consulted individual members of the League and we have the benefit of their advice. We have formulated the scheme with a view to make the excise policy of the Government more effective.

"Above all, one thing must be remembered. Any change in the excise policy must have reference to the financial condition of the country. The hon. Member for Vizagapatam said, 'Why not the hon. Minister come forward with a finance Bill and impose additional taxation?' I need not say that it is an elementary proposition and that so long as Finance is a reserve subject and is under the control of the Reserved half, it is not open to the Minister to deal with the finances of the Government. The hon. Mr. T. Rangachariar has referred in his speech to this aspect of the matter when he reviewed the excise policy of the country. Then again, Sir, the House will remember that retrenchment has been carried on for three years and everything has been cut to the bone. The report of the Retrenchment Committee was in the hands of all the hon. Members of the House and no one has suggested that retrenchment could be effected in any other manner. The House, on the other hand, came in and said that retrenchment has been carried too far. It has been felt in the country that retrenchment has been carried a very long way even in the matter of the necessities. What is the

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result? It cannot be said that retrenchment has not been tried. It has been tried and found that it is not possible to find the funds necessary to start a scheme of total prohibition.

"Then, as regards taxation, I need hardly say that this is one of the heaviest taxed provinces. Especially the land in this province is the most heavily taxed. Therefore whether we should add some more burden to the taxpayer is a question which must be very seriously considered before any Member of the Government comes forward with proposals for further taxation. Even the Government of Bombay with surplus budgets and other favourable conditions did not find any fresh source of taxation for the purpose of recouping the revenue lost by a policy of excise reform.

"In these circumstances, I submit to the House that there has been a very great advance in the matter of the excise policy of this Government. All that could possibly be done in the circumstances in which the country is situated is being done and, God willing, if the conditions improve, we may advance step by step in the matter of excise reform and reach the goal as early as possible. I am as eager as any hon. Member of the House in the matter of realizing the goal." (Applause.)

The House adjourned at 4-45 p.m. to meet again at 11 o'clock the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 445 asked by Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimha-charlu at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 17th March 1925, page 91 supra.]

Number of forest blocks reserved and disforested during 1922-25 in the Cuddapah district.

	1922.	1923.	1924 and 1925.	Reasons.
Reserved ...	2	1	Nil.	These were small enclosures which were a source of inconvenience both to the people and the Government. Their total area was below 100 acres.
Disforested ...	3	2	Nil.	These reserves contained no valuable tree growth. One was an entire reserve measuring 3,390 acres which was disforested in 1922 as it was surrounded by cultivation. The remaining four were disforested for assignment for cultivation.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 463 asked by Mr. P. Siva Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 17th March 1925, page 105 supra.]

G.O. Mis. No. 410, L. & M., dated 6th February 1925.

In G.O. No. 2849, L. & M., dated 14th October 1924, the Government considered the report of the District Retrenchment Committee, Bellary, and the normal budgets of the local boards in the district and the views of the local boards concerned on these budgets. They stated that it was desirable that the Rayadrug Taluk Board should be abolished and that the other taluk boards should be reconstituted as shown below :—

Local fund taluk.	Revenue taluks proposed to be comprised in each local fund taluk.
Adoni	Adoni and Alur.
Bellary	Bellary and Rayadrug.
Hospet	Hospet and Kudligi.
Harpanahalli	Harpanahalli and Hadagalli.

With reference to section 5 (3) of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, the several taluk boards were requested to report their views on the proposals in that order.

2. The views of the District Board and of the several taluk boards have been received. The District Board and the taluk boards of Adoni and Harpanahalli agree to the proposals. The Bellary Taluk Board agrees to the proposals on condition that the deficit which may occur by the inclusion in the taluk board of the Rayadrug taluk is made good by the Government by a recurring subsidy. The Hospet Taluk Board objects to the proposed rearrangement on the ground that it has even now a normal deficit and that the addition to it of the Kudligi taluk would increase the deficit. The Rayadrug Taluk Board is also against the proposal and has submitted a revised normal budget providing for a surplus of Rs. 207 after providing for the usual contribution of Rs. 4,075 to the Elementary Education Fund from general revenues.

3. The Government have again examined the financial position of the taluk boards as they now stand and as they will stand after reconstitution. They consider that even if the revised normal budget submitted by the Rayadrug Taluk Board is strictly adhered to, its financial position will not be satisfactory and that it is necessary that the Rayadrug Taluk Board should be abolished. As already stated in paragraph 5 of G.O. No. 2849, L. & M., dated 14th October 1924, the taluk boards as they are proposed to be reconstituted will all be solvent, if they levy the optional cess of 3 pies under section 78 (b) (ii) of the Local Boards Act, 1920. They accordingly direct

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that the Rayadrug Taluk Board be abolished and that the taluk boards in the district be reconstituted as follows with effect from 1st April 1925 :—

Local fund taluk.	Revenue taluks to be included in the local fund taluk.
Adoni	Adoni and Alur.
Bellary	Bellary and Rayadrug.
Hospet	Hospet and Kudligi.
Harpanahalli	Harpanahalli and Hadagalli.

4. The President of the District Board, Bellary, is requested to arrange for the distribution of the balances of the funds relating to the several taluk boards on 31st March 1925, among the taluk boards as reconstituted, in consultation with the Collector and the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts.

5. The normal budget of the Bellary District Board as framed by the District Committee and approved by the District Board in its resolution No. 36, dated 18th October 1924, is approved.

6. The President, District Board, is requested to submit a normal budget for each of the taluk boards after their reconstitution with reference to paragraph 3 above.

7. The appended notifications will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* in English and in the *Bellary District Gazette* in English and Telugu.

8. The Government also direct under sub-section (1) of section 240 of the Madras Local Boards Act that the members of the boards as reconstituted shall be appointed by Government for a period of one year. The President, District Board, Bellary, is requested to submit at an early date

(a) nominations for the new boards on the basis that each board will consist of only twelve members and

(b) nominations for the Presidentship of the boards for which he recommends that the President should be nominated by Government.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Local Self-Government)

P. L. MOORE,
Secretary to Government.

To the President of the Bellary District Board.
 " Adoni Taluk Board.
 " Bellary Taluk Board.
 " Harpanahalli Taluk Board.
 " Hospet Taluk Board.
 " Rayadrug Taluk Board.
 " Inspector of Municipal Councils.
 " Surgeon-General.
 " Director of Public Health.
 " Director of Public Instruction.
 " Revenue Department.
 " Law (Education) Department.
 " Law (Legislative) Department.
 " Superintendent, Government Press, for publication of notification in Gazette.

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Appendix.

Notification I.

Whereas the financial condition of the Rayadrug Taluk Board constituted on 1st April 1911 is unsatisfactory and is not likely to improve the Local Government in exercise of the powers conferred on them by clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, hereby cancel with effect from 1st April 1925 so much of notification No. 1383 published on page 543 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 13th September 1910, as relates to the constitution of the Rayadrug Taluk Board.

Notification II.

In exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920 and in supersession of notification No. 1383 published on page 543 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 13th September 1910, as amended by notification No. 359, published on page 212 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 29th March 1921, the Local Government are pleased to direct that the portions of the Bellary district specified in the annexed schedule shall be taluks for the purposes of the Act with effect from 1st April 1925. All properties, movable or immovable, belonging to or vested in the existing taluk boards shall, with effect from the said date belong to and be vested in the new taluk boards in so far as they relate to or lie within their respective areas.

Schedule.

Local fund taluk.	Revenue taluk to be comprised in each local fund taluk.
Adoni	Adoni and Alur.
Bellary	Bellary and Rayadrug.
Hospet	Hospet and Kudligi.
Harpanahalli	Harpanahalli and Hadagalli.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 18th March 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI AVARGAL, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

(1) Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

(2) If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question time is not thereby exceeded.

(3) Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Agency.

Revision of rules regarding the practice of pleaders in the Agency courts.

* 474 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons for revising the Agency rules regarding the practice of pleaders in Agency courts in G.O. No. 1116, Revenue, dated 23rd July 1924;

(b) the number of pleaders that have to suffer for this change;

(c) whether the Government have taken the opinion of the courts that are concerned before passing the Government Order; and

(d) whether the Government have consulted the people that would suffer by such an order?

A.—(a) In pursuance of a resolution moved by Mr. A. Suryanarayana Rao in 1917 the Government appointed a committee to revise the Agency rules. In 1921 Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju moved a resolution that the recommendations of the Committee should be given effect to. The motion was carried. The rule in regard to pleaders in the Agency was revised along with other rules, with special reference to the recommendations of the Committee.

(b) The Government have no information.

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(c) The Agents to the Governor, Ganjam and Vizagapatam, and the Government Agent, Godavari, and the Agency Additional District Judge were consulted.

(d) No.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" With reference to the answer to clause (b) of this question, will the Government be pleased to call for the information ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Will my hon. Friend indicate to me in some more precise way what he means by saying ' the pleaders that have to suffer for this change ? ' "

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" It is this. Those pleaders went and settled in the Agency tracts on the specific undertaking that they would be allowed to practice in the courts of the Divisional Magistrates. Now in consequence of G.O. No. 1116, some of them may have to go away. "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" If my hon. Friend can tell me that such a specific undertaking was given, I am sure the hon. the Law Member will look into the matter. "

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" I do not say that a specific undertaking was given. But I do repeat that they went and settled in the Agency tracts on consideration that they would be allowed to practise in the courts of the Divisional Magistrates. I do not say that a specific undertaking was given. But what I say is that the pleaders took the situation as meaning that. "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid that kind of suffering arises very often when you attempt to reform anything. As the answer itself shows, at the instance of some of the non-official Members of this Council we attempted to improve the arrangements with regard to legal practice in the Agency courts and as a result of that the existing arrangement was made. Does my hon. Friend ask me to cancel the revised rules and restore the old arrangement for the benefit of a few individuals ? If so, I think it would be inconsistent with what the non-official members asked for on a previous occasion. "

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" May I know whether the Government ascertained that there are qualified lawyers in the Agency courts ? Otherwise the people will have to suffer for want of competent lawyers to advise them. "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I have no information as to whether there is competent legal assistance in the Agency tracts or not. I have no doubt that, if there are not sufficient qualified vakils in the Agency courts at present, they will in course of time settle there. "

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Has not the non-official resolution given room for qualified vakils being prevented from appearing in those courts ? According to the old arrangement, the Agent according to his own whims and fancies was allowing or refusing qualified vakils to appear before him. In order to remedy that defect the non-officials moved in that direction and the result of that, I take it, is that less qualified men already practising in those courts are shut out. Otherwise I cannot understand the intention of the Government in shutting out these men. "

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The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The non-official gentleman who moved in this matter knows far better than I do what the intention was. "

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" It was a direct move made that the Agent should not have power to refuse admission to qualified men from appearing in courts. So there is no question of inconsistency here. "

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" With reference to the answer given to clause (c), may I request the Government to inform the House whether they consulted the Divisional Magistrate on this question ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid I must have notice of this question. "

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" I should like to know whether they consulted the people concerned. "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The answer is already given in clause (d). "

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Do the Government realize the difficulty of the people, i.e., the litigant public in the Agency tracts have to get their vakils from Vizagapatam ? Certainly it is a very great hardship on the litigant public to get vakils from the plains, because they may not have the requisite money and time. "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" If my hon. Friend can tell me that there is really a practical grievance, I have no objection to call for the opinion of the Agent in the matter and ask him if any action is necessary. "

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" The practical aspect is very clear, i.e., to allow the existing people to continue till such time vakils from Vizagapatam and the plains are able to go and settle in the Agency tracts. That is the practical and very easy answer that I can expect from the Government. "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether the revision of the rules was done in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee that was appointed for the purpose ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid I must ask for notice. "

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" When were the rules revised ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I think it was last year. "

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Will the Government be pleased to furnish us with copies of the recommendations of the Committee ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am under the impression that the whole papers were published. However I shall look into the matter and see whether the recommendations have been published. If they have not, I shall then consider whether there is any reason why they should not be published. "

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" Were the rules printed and circulated ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The rules were printed and circulated. "

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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"I wanted to know whether the report of the Committee was published."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I shall look into the question and see whether the report has been published."

Forests.

The Palni Hills Game Association.

* 475 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any association called 'The Palni Hills Game Association' in Madura district;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the District Collector of Madura is the president and the District Forest Officer the secretary of the Association;

(c) whether it is a registered association;

(d) if so, under what Act the association has been registered;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Madura refuses to grant gun licences to the ryots in the villages over the hills of Madura district because of this Association;

(f) whether any Indian is a member of this Association; and

(g) whether the Government will lay on the table the rules of this Association?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) The question does not arise.

(e) The Government are not aware that gun licences have been refused for any such reason.

(f) There are at present eight Indian members.

(g) A copy^a of the 'Rules of the Palni Hills Game Association' is placed on the Table.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"With reference to the answer given in clause (e), may I know whether the Government will be pleased to enquire into the matter as the Collector has refused to grant licences to the ryots?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Does my hon. Friend say that he has refused licences?"

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"I know it as a matter of fact."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Will my hon. Friend give me some kind of information as to the cases in which licences have been refused?"

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"What sort of reference?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"The village and, if he likes, the name of the person to whom a gun licence was refused."

^a Printed as appendix I on pages 257-258 infra.

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Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"On page 20 of appendix I, rule 3 says: 'Every person holding a licence granted by the Collector to shoot and fish shall be a member of the Association for the period for which the licence is issued.' Then rule 5 says: 'The Collector of Madura for the time being shall be ex-officio member and the president of the Association and the chairman of its Committee.'"

"So, Sir, the Collector being the president of the Association, if he does not want that a person should become a member of the Association, he can do so by refusing the grant of gun licence to that person."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"It seems to me that it is rather putting the cart before the horse to suggest that the Collector, merely in order to keep a person from becoming a member of the Association, would refuse him a gun licence."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to allow their officers to be ex-officio members of these associations?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Yes, Sir. In the case of Nilgiri Game Association the Collector is allowed to take part in it. The Government derive some assistance from these Associations in matters concerning Forest administration."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"May I know the total number of persons in Palni Hills Game Association?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid I must have notice."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know the kind of assistance which the Government derives from members of these Associations?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"They assist us in maintaining the Forest rules."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Does the Association act the part of the Criminal Investigation Department?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am not very closely acquainted with the Criminal Investigation Department duties."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Your friend is."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Possibly my hon. Friend the Law Member is. But I can only repeat that Members of these Associations do assist us by giving information and to that extent they practically replace paid Forest guards."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I have some latest instances in which the members have assisted the Government by giving information?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"My remark was as regards Nilgiri Game Association. I have no such instances in my mind as regards the Palni Hills Game Association. In the case of Nilgiri Game Association members have rendered assistance by bringing to the notice of the Government persons who were using guns without a licence in the Forest reserves."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am asking about the Palni Hills Game Association."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I have no details, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I ask whether the Government will be pleased to call for them?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I do not see any point in doing so."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"We want to know whether any useful purpose is served by the existence of these Associations and in order to enable us to know that, we want to have some details about them."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"If my hon. Friend after deliberation finds that these Associations serve no useful purpose, he can move a resolution to that effect."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"May I know when the Palni Hills Game Association was started?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I have not got the date available at present."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"I mean the year."

Seigniorage rates for green leaf manure in the Presidency.

* 476 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the various 'seigniorage' rates for green leaf manure now obtaining in the Presidency and in the district or districts where they are in operation, with reasons, if any, for variation?

A.—The information is appended.*

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"In Appendix II the reasons given for the variation of rates are local conditions and requirements. I would like to have some more information as to what the Government mean by saying 'the rates vary according to local conditions and requirements'."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"If my hon. Friend wants an explanation of that kind, I would suggest to him to put a more detailed question indicating exactly what he wants."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I think I have asked pointedly enough for the reasons for the variation in the rates of 'seigniorage'. I should like to know what is the difference in the conditions between Bellary and, say, Cuddapah or Chittoor, which justifies this distinction."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"May I point out that not only the conditions of the districts wholly differ, but the conditions of the various forests also differ. If my hon. Friend puts me another question, as for example, asking for the difference in conditions between Bellary and Chittoor, I should be very pleased to explain. But it is difficult to explain, in giving an answer to a question like the present one, the conditions of some ten or twelve districts."

* Printed as appendix II on page 259 infra.

[18th March 1925]

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Is it not a fact that the Government are considering the question of making the rates uniform, only with certain exceptions?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"As I mentioned on a previous occasion, the whole question of the future treatment of green-leaf manure has already been referred to the Chief Conservator of Forests, and is now under his consideration."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"May I ask whether there is variation in rates in the case of manure leaves in the reserved forests of Chittoor and its neighbour North Arcot, and if so, whether it is due to the fact that Chittoor agitated while Bellary and North Arcot did not sufficiently agitate?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid I must ask for notice."

Depressed classes.

Housing the depressed classes, etc., living by the side of public roads in Madras.

* 477 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Home Member, the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) why the Government have allowed the depressed and labouring classes of people to live alongside the public drains and roads in Georgetown, Egmore, and in several busy places in the city of Madras;

(b) whether the Government have already given any considerable extent of lands in suitable places to the Labour department to cope with the work of housing the depressed and labouring classes of people who are living alongside the drains and public roads;

(c) if not, why not; and

(d) how many acres of land have been set apart for golfing purpose in the city of Madras?

A.—(a) to (c) The Government and the Corporation of Madras are endeavouring to find suitable house-sites for the poor in the Madras City.

(d) No land has been set apart for golfing purposes in the city.

Village munsif and karnam, Kamalapuram.

* 478 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Rangier, village munsif of Kamalapuram, Salem district, has already given up his appointment in favour of his son;

(b) whether the karnam of Kamalapuram is a Brahman or a non-Brahman;

(c) the reason for the giving up by Mr. Rangier, village munsif of Kamalapuram, of his appointment in favour of his son;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the members of the depressed classes of Kamalapuram are not being treated properly by the karnam and village munsif; and

(e) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a) to (d) whether they will call for the information?

[18th March 1925]

A.—(a), (b), (c) & (e) The Government have no information and do not propose to call for it.

(d) No cases of improper treatment have been brought to the notice of the Government excepting the instance reported as a personal experience by the hon. Member.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" With reference to clause (d) of this question, may I know whether the Government are aware that the talaiyaries of Kamalapuram village are not being treated properly in that they are not allowed to pass through the village to hand over letters and other Government records to the village munsif who is actually living in the Kamalapuram agraharam ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" We have no information on that point."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Will the Government be pleased to call for the information ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not think any useful purpose will be served by calling for that information."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know whether it is advisable that Government records and letters should be handed over by the village talaiyaries to other persons with a request to hand them over to the village munsif who is remaining outside the village agraharam ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" As we have no information, Sir, 11-15 a.m. I cannot say."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Sir, the first portion of the answer is that the Government have no information and that they do not propose to call for it. I should like to say that the village of Kamalapuram is an orthodox centre and that Brahman orthodoxy prevails there. So, I wish to know whether the karnam of the place is also a Brahman."

Labour.

Manager, Office of the Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

* 479 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : With reference to question No. 41 answered at the meeting of the 4th February 1925, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the qualifications required for the post of Manager of the office of the Commissioner of Labour, Madras;

(b) the salary of the present Manager, the total service he has put in and the community to which he belongs; and

(c) whether the Government intend to appoint an Adi-Dravida member as Manager?

A.—(a) No special qualifications have been prescribed but the Manager is generally an officer who is qualified to be a tahsildar.

(b) The pay of the present Manager is Rs. 300 a month. He is a non-Brahman Hindu and has put in a little more than seventeen years' service.

(c) The Government have no such proposal under consideration.

[8th March 1925]

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Sir, with reference to clause (c) of the question, may I know whether the Government will be pleased to appoint an Adi-Dravida as manager, who will actually be able to know the needs of the depressed classes ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The Government would have very good reason to resist the question as it is a suggestion for action."

Condition of the fisherfolk of the West Coast.

* 480 Q.—Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—with reference to the visit of the Labour Commissioner to the West Coast (Malabar and South Kanara)—

(a) whether it is a fact that the fisherfolk at Cannanore brought to his notice the insanitary condition of the locality, scarcity for good drinking water, congested condition of their village and want of a road from the main town to their locality which is a big trading part of the town and very thickly populated; and if the answer is in the affirmative, what action has been taken by the Labour Commissioner regarding their requests;

(b) whether the fisherfolk at Tellicherry brought to his notice their urgent necessity for a burial-ground, the closing up of several big dirty deep rains which are breeding mosquitoes, good drinking water, relief from the congested condition of their village, and if so, what action has been taken regarding these matters by the Labour Commissioner;

(c) whether he visited the fisher villages in Mangalore and Calicut and what steps have been taken by him to remedy their grievances arising out of the insanitary condition of their villages and want of good drinking water;

(d) with reference to his visit to Cannanore and Perintalaimanna what has been done by the Labour Commissioner regarding the demands of the Adi-Dravidas of these two places; and

(e) whether he proposes to appoint an Assistant Labour Commissioner for the district of Malabar?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information.

(d) The Government understand that it has not been possible to take any action on the scheme for the uplift of depressed classes at Perintalaimanna. The Government have no information regarding the requests made by the Adi-Dravidas at Cannanore.

(e) It has not been found possible to employ any special labour staff in Malabar in 1925-26.

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" With reference to clauses (a), (b) and (c) of the question, may I know, Sir, whether the Labour Commissioner has not submitted his report though it is now about six months since he made his tour on the West Coast ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am not prepared to say that the Labour Commissioner has made no report, but the answer, as it has already been given, is that he has not brought to our notice the particular points which the hon. Member mentions in his interpellation."

[18th March 1925]

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—"The answer simply says that the Government have no information."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The interpellation is whether the fisherfolk of Tellicherry brought to the Labour Commissioner's notice the urgent necessity for a burial-ground, etc. My answer is that we do not know. I do not say that the Labour Commissioner made no report but he has not furnished information on the points raised in the question."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—"With reference to (d), may I ask the hon. the Home Member whether it is on account of the financial stringency that the Government are unable to take any action on the scheme for the uplift of depressed classes at Perintalaimanna?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"That is partly true, I think. But what the answer really means is that the Labour Commissioner having gone to Perintalaimanna did not find himself in a position to put forward any scheme for action."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—"With reference to (e), on a perusal of the budget estimate I find that provision of Rs. 1,68,000 has been made for district labour establishments. Considering the fact that Swami Vivekananda has called Malabar to be the lunatic asylum of India, will the hon. the Home Member consider the desirability of appointing a district labour officer for the amelioration of the depressed classes?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I should be the last person to accept that description of Malabar, Sir. If it were a correct description it would not be a Labour officer that we should want for Malabar. My hon. Friend will probably like to know that Mr. Ellis who has recently taken up the question has expressed some doubts as to the necessity for a full-time labour officer for Malabar and he has been considering the possibility of making use of the District officers in pushing on the amelioration of the depressed classes there."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—"If it is a question of financial stringency, will the hon. Member be pleased to appoint an honorary labour officer for the district?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I should be quite pleased to consider the matter when a suitable gentleman is forthcoming."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know what are the qualifications which would make one suitable?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid I have not considered the question."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"Arising out of answer to (d) may I know what sort of scheme was it that was submitted to Government which the Government found impossible to take any action upon?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I have already said, Sir, that no scheme was submitted. Mr. Paddison went to Perintalaimanna but did not submit any scheme. Mr. Ellis who succeeded him is well acquainted with Malabar. Perhaps he may be more successful."

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Criminal Justice.

Conferring of first-class powers on stipendiary second-class magistrates.

* 481 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any trial was given to the system suggested in G.O. No. 330, Home (Judicial), dated 10th February 1919, of conferring first-class powers on stipendiary second-class magistrates of some years standing to preside over bench courts;

(b) if the answer be in the affirmative, the number of magistrates so empowered and the courts presided over by them; and

(c) if the answer be in the negative, whether it is proposed to give the system a trial in the near future?

4.—(a) & (b) The system has been introduced in the following places:—

Town.	District.
Badagara	Malabar.
Udipi, Kasaragod	South Kanara.
Tuticorin	Tinnevely.
Erode, Dharapuram, Pollachi ...	Coimbatore.
Chicacole	Ganjam.
Ongole, Narasaraopet, Bapatla ...	Guntur.
Hindupur, Tadpatri	Anantapur.
Karur	Trichinopoly.
Kodaikanal	Madura.

(c) The question does not arise.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"May I know, Sir, whether it is under contemplation to introduce this system in other places as well?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Yes."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I know whether the system includes making stipendiary magistrates first-class magistrates?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"No, not in the way in which it is put by the hon. Member."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I take it then, Sir, that none of the stipendiary magistrates is to be a first-class magistrate?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"No; the scheme stated in the question is of conferring first-class powers on stipendiary second-class magistrates."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Has it been done, Sir? I do not think there is any case in which a second-class magistrate is presiding over a bench court."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I have given a list of the places."

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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"May I know the other places which are in view of the Government?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"We have not arrived at any decision."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I would request the hon. the Law Member to go into the question whether stipendiary sub-magistrates have been given first-class powers. I know they preside over first-class bench courts. I do not think they have been conferred first-class powers. I wish to suggest to the hon. the Law Member whether it is not in the interest of the Government to appoint non-official presidents for the various bench courts which are now presided over by stipendiary magistrates."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"That is our ultimate idea, Sir."

Land Revenue.

Refusal of allowance to the kudiyanavars of Kambarasampettai village, etc.

* 482 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Muhammadan and other Hindu kudiyanavars of the village of Kambarasampettai and Murungapettai, Trichinopoly, have been refused the allowance of (1) Rs. 10 for repairing their houses and (2) rice at four measures per rupee, while other inhabitants were so paid;

(b) if the Government have no such information, whether they will call for information at once;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Public Works Department authorities are asking the inhabitants of Murungapettai village, Trichinopoly district, to vacate their houses and lands and seek some other place for purposes of residence;

(d) if so, why; and

(e) whether the Government will call for a report and lay it on the table?

A.—(a) No such allowance as is referred to by the hon. Member has been paid by Government to any of the inhabitants in the two villages or in any other village.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The reply is in the negative.

(d) & (e) Do not arise.

Appointments.

Educational facilities for the depressed classes.

* 483 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: With reference to answer to question No. 1102, dated 23rd October 1924, will the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether he had already called for the information regarding levy of school-fees in all Government Model Elementary, Municipal and Local Boards schools;

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(b) if so, whether he will lay a copy of the same on the table of the Council;

(c) why no preference is given to the members of the depressed classes in the matter of appointments in various branches in Government service; and

(d) whether there is any proposal before the Government to admit free of school-fees the members of the depressed classes in the secondary schools?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member asked for particulars in respect of two institutions, viz., the Model school attached to the Government Training School for Masters, Coimbatore, and the Board Elementary school at Suramangalam and these have been furnished to him.

(c) The hon. Member's attention is invited to G.O. No. 658, Public, dated the 15th August 1922, and to the answer to question No. 1512 on the 6th December 1924.

(d) No.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"With reference to clause (d) of the question, may I know whether there is a proposal before the Government to revise the educational rules so as to admit free, members of the depressed classes in the secondary schools?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"The question is not before the Government. When it comes up, it will be considered."

Land Revenue.

Loans to ryots for reclamation purposes.

* 484 Q.—Mr. V. PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the amount distributed so far to ryots in Tanjore by way of loans for reclamation purposes; and

(b) the total acreage (wet) lying fallow during the current fasli and also the total acreage similarly left at the last fasli?

A.—(a) Rupees 36,010 up to 26th February 1925.

Fasli 1333.	Fasli 1334 (up to the end of January 1925).
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(b) Wet waste	...	...	31,525 acres	...	55,066 acres.
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Maintenance of record of rights in the Presidency.

* 485 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to refer to the budget discussion on pages 516--520, Volume XVII, of this Council's Proceedings as to the maintenance of record of rights in regard to revenue-paying lands in this Presidency as in the Bombay Presidency and in the Punjab and to state what steps have been taken and are contemplated with a view to start the record of rights?

A.—The Special Officer to whom the subject was referred last year was not able to deal with the subject before the termination of his period of special duty. The matter will now be re-examined.

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, may I ask who this special officer is and what was the special duty he was engaged in?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"The special officer was Mr. Ramachandra Rao. He was engaged in examining the questions of revising village establishments and of simplifying revenue accounts. He was also entrusted with the subject referred to in the question, but he had no time to deal with it. He was ill for half the time he was on special duty."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"Has he submitted any report on the subject?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"He has submitted a report on the revision of the village establishments."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"May I ask whether the report will be placed on the table of the House?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I think that question was answered before."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I wish to know, Sir, how long ago did the Government come to know that the special officer was unable to deal with the question?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"When the period of the officer's special duty came to an end."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, the answer says that the matter will now be re-examined. Was the matter once examined at all?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I think there was some examination before it was referred to the special officer."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Have any steps been taken at all for the re-examination and, if so, what are they?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I said 'will be re-examined', Sir."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya :—"Do the Government propose to appoint a special officer?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I have at present no intention of making such a proposal."

Survey.

The post of the town surveyor in the municipalities.

* 486 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the posts of town surveyors are permanent and pensionable ones, and whether they are lent to the municipalities, as on deputation?

A.—The posts of town surveyors are permanent and pensionable. They are Government servants who work largely under the control of the chairmen of the municipal councils who contribute a proportion of their pay as much of their work is done for the municipal councils.

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Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Are the Government aware that in the latest Administration Report the work of the town surveyors has been deprecated?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Does the hon. Member mean deprecated in any particular sense of the term?"

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"I mean, Sir, that the report says that their work has deteriorated."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I do not understand the question. The report is said to contain such a statement and I am obliged to the hon. Member for the information."

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

The Ryots' High School, Pulivendla.

* 487 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the President, District Board of Cuddapah, applied to the Government for meeting the net cost of the Ryots' High School, Pulivendla, Cuddapah district, if it were to be taken up under its management;

(b) whether the Government have refused to do so; and

(c) whether the Government will do so during the next financial year?

A.—(a) & (b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) The Government cannot hold out any promise of the kind.

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"Is it on the score that the district of Cuddapah is backward that this help has been refused and is it not the opinion of the Government that the district is educationally backward?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"It does not follow that because the district is backward educationally everything that goes by the name of a school ought to be recognized or helped."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"Is it the opinion of the hon. Minister that the Pulivendla High School is not a school which ought to be helped?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"That depends upon the opinion of the Director of Public Instruction."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"Is it the opinion of the hon. Minister that the school has sufficient funds and does not stand in need of help?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"That question hardly arises."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are going to help the district financially for higher education?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"That is a different question altogether."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I know why the Government have refused help?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Because the Educational adviser to the Government was of opinion that the school was not one which could be brought under the management of the Board."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know the reason why the Educational expert thought that the institution did not deserve any help ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Because the school did not satisfy the required conditions. "

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" Is it not a fact that the District Educational Officer has recommended the institution as fit for financial help by the Government ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I referred to the opinion of the Director of Public Instruction. "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" To continue my question, Sir, are they the conditions of the school or of the locality ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I would refer the hon. Member to the conditions referred to in the Code. "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether the report of the Director of Public Instruction where he expresses his opinion that the school cannot be helped financially will be placed on the table of the House ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The request will be considered. "

Rajampet taluk board, Cuddapah district.

* 488 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons for which the taluk board of Rajampet, Cuddapah district, was deprived of the right of electing its president ;

(b) the date on which the period for which the present president is nominated expires ; and

(c) whether the Government will confer the right of election, after the expiry of the period for which the present president is nominated ?

A.—(a) As the new taluk board was constituted only in 1921, the Government considered that it would be in the best interests of the taluk board administration that the president should be nominated by Government.

(b) 1st April 1925.

(c) The matter is engaging the attention of Government.

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know whether the Government have now come to a conclusion ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" No. "

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" Is it likely that the Government will come to a conclusion by the end of this month because the election is to take place by the 1st of April 1925. "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" That depends upon the report of the president of the district board. "

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know the reasons assigned for depriving this board of the privilege of electing its president ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It is not exactly depriving of the privilege for it is a newly constituted board. "

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether it is the policy of the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government not to give this privilege to a newly constituted board ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" There is no general policy of that sort. Where the Government think that the board may be given the privilege, they are glad to give it. "

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know when the report of the president of the district board with respect to this taluk board was called for ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I cannot give the exact date. "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" The reason given in the answer is that the board was newly constituted. May I take it therefore that the Government think that, unless a taluk board was long in existence, it could not have an elected president ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" That is so. "

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know what the fate of the taluk board will be if the report of the president does not arrive by the end of this month ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It is a hypothetical case and I do not propose to answer it. "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I take it, Sir, that the policy of the Government is that in the case of new taluk boards, unless there are reasons to the contrary, they would not be given the right to elect their presidents ? "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" I think, Sir, that the election is a matter of right and it exists under the law except in cases where it is taken away. I now wish to know whether it is a question of Government granting the right only in exceptional cases. "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I never said so. "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" What then are the exceptional circumstances under which this board was refused the right ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Whether there are persons competing for the place, whether these persons are competent to discharge the duties of the president ? "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" How is the Government to know whether a person can be elected unless he is allowed to stand for election ? "

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" I wish to know, Sir, whether nominated presidents are all competent. I know that there are persons who are in the opinion of the Government competent. "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The Government nominate only those whom they think fit. "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Therefore may I take it, that if the Government nominate a man whom they consider to be fit, it is because the taluk board will not elect him ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I can only say that I am not prepared to answer the question. "

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether the hon. the Minister will be pleased to ask the president to expedite his report so that orders may be passed early enough ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Yes, the request will be considered."

Proposals of the Chairman, Municipal Council, Adoni, regarding secrecy of ballot papers.

* 489 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Chairman, Municipal Council, Adoni, Bellary district, made any proposals to avoid publicity with reference to the marking of the ballot papers of illiterate voters, and, if so, what they are; and

(b) the orders passed by the Government thereon with the reasons therefor?

A.—(a) The Chairman proposed that each candidate should supply at his cost a block of symbol which he may choose—an elephant, a horse, a bull, a motor car or the like—and to print the symbol on the ballot paper against the name of the candidate, specimen ballot papers being broadcasted for the information of the voters.

(b) The rules for the conduct of elections of municipal councillors are modelled on those framed for the election of members of the Legislative Council which do not contain any such provision. The Government considered it essential that uniformity in this matter should be maintained. They therefore declined to accept the proposal.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask, Sir, if the hon. the Minister is aware of the undesirability of publicity in the matter of the recording of votes by illiterate persons ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It is a difficult question to answer. There are some cases where it is not desirable to allow publicity."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" And would not the system now proposed for adoption obviate this difficulty and avoid publicity ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The Government want to have some sort of uniformity of practice to be observed in all these cases."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I then know if the rules relating to the election of members to local boards and municipalities are exactly similar to those that obtain in regard to the elections to the Legislative Council ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The rules are as far as possible similar."

Kamalapuram Agraharam and depressed classes.

* 490 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Kamalapuram Agraharam, Salem district, is now thrown open to the members of the depressed classes as it is a short cut to go to the other side of the fields; and

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(b) if the Government have no information with reference to clause (a) whether they will call for the information ?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.
(b) No.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" With reference to clause (b), the answer is that the Government are not going to call for the information. May I therefore ask whether the Government think that this is a very trivial matter and that they do not want to come to the rescue of the depressed classes in their attempt to exercise their elementary right of passing through the Kamalapuram Agraharam ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The Government do not think that it is a trivial matter, but they think that it is a matter for the local bodies to deal with."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Then, what is the difficulty in calling for the information ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The reason is that no useful purpose will be served by calling for the information."

Election of Mr. D. V. S. Prakasa Rao to the Godavari District Board.

* 491 Q.—Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. D. V. S. Prakasa Rao, B.A., was elected to the Godavari District Board in May 1924;

(b) whether it is a fact that there was a suit concerning that election before the Subordinate Judge of Cocanada and whether the Sub-Judge pronounced his judgment on 10th November 1924 upholding the election and rejecting all objections;

(c) whether it is a fact that Mr. Prakasa Rao's name is not gazetted;

(d) if not, the reasons for not publishing the same;

(e) whose duty it is to publish the name, whether the president's or the Government's;

(f) whether it is a fact that suit notice was issued to the Chief Secretary to the Government; and

(g) whether the Government intend to publish Mr. Prakasa Rao's name in the gazette even now?

A.—(a) The Government are so informed.

(b), (c) & (f) The answer is in the affirmative.

(d) The election was not held on the initiative of the president of the district board.

(e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to rule 11 of the rules issued with notification No. 476, published in Part I-A of the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 3rd May 1921.

(g) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to clause (d), may I ask the hon. the Minister to be good enough to say whether this was not one of the grounds on which the election of Mr. Prakasa Rao was contested in the Subordinate Court ? "

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The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"The Government have no information with regard to the details of the case."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask, then, if the Government still consider, in spite of the judgment of the Subordinate Judge of Cocanada that they are justified in not publishing the name of that gentleman?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"The answer is already given, and that is that the matter is under consideration."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"The election was held as early as May 1924, and may I ask the hon. the Minister to say in all conscience how many more months must elapse before the Government can make up its mind in a matter of this kind?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"The decision of the lower court has been appealed against, and the result of the appeal to the High Court is awaited."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I ask the hon. the Chief Minister whether certain allegations that are made with regard to this particular case are correct? May I know whether it is a fact that on the day on which the particular decision was given a withdrawal petition put in by the petitioner was pending before the court and that the Subordinate Judge instead of proceeding with the withdrawal petition or giving a judgment on the matter, asked the petitioner to withdraw his withdrawal petition, and straightaway, without giving an opportunity to contest the petition, gave judgment in the case?"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I just raise two points of order, Sir? First of all, does this question arise? And secondly, can matters *sub judice* be commented on in this House by means of questions which are really answers?"

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"So far as the question of *sub judice* is concerned, what the Subordinate Judge has already done is not *sub judice*. I am not saying anything on the merits of the case. What I say is that the Subordinate Judge pursued a particular procedure; and that is not *sub judice*. If I say anything on the merits of the case, it may be *sub judice*. That is really a legal point, but I say that in this particular case the Subordinate Judge contravened the directions of the "

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Law." (Laughter.)

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Of the law, and he has done an extraordinary administrative act in the most unjudicial spirit possible."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"In view of that statement I want to know, Sir, whether questions as to whether particular acts of a Subordinate Judge are contrary to law or not can be raised when the matter is pending before the High Court. They are certainly matters *sub judice* as the case is pending in appeal."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think in the circumstances it is better to proceed to the next question."

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Medical.

Prevalence of leprosy in the Presidency.

* 492 Q.—Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have made any enquiries to ascertain the extent of the prevalence of the leprosy in this Presidency; and

(b) whether any attempts have hitherto been made to combat the disease?

A.—(a) The Government have not made any special enquiries. Statistics of leprosy have been recorded in the Census tables.

(b) The Superintendent of the Madras Leper Hospital has been specially trained in the up-to-date method of treatment of leprosy under Dr. E. Muir at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta. This treatment is now being carried out at the Madras Leper Hospital. The Government have now under consideration a proposal to depute this officer to the districts to train local medical officers in the treatment of the disease and the preparation of the drug required for the purpose.

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—"May I ask the hon. the Chief Minister whether it would not be more advisable to ask every municipality to send a sub-assistant surgeon, to study leper clinic at least for the purpose of saving time instead of an officer in Madras touring through the districts?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"The proposal is that the expert in the treatment of this disease should be sent to the districts to give instructions to the local officers."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government make enquiries and ascertain the extent of the prevalence of leprosy in this presidency?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"The request will be considered."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—"May I ask the hon. the Chief Minister whether he is aware of the resolution passed by the Calicut Municipality to send a sub-assistant surgeon to Calcutta to study leprosy treatment under Dr. Muir?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"The Government have no information."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"In view of the recent agitation regarding relief for lepers, I want to know why Government have not made any special enquiries as to the extent of leprosy in this Presidency, though there were several questions put in this connexion?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. the Minister has promised to consider the question."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Arising from the answer of the hon. the Minister, may I ask him to state the cost of such deputation and the extent of the area to be covered by the officer who is to give instructions to the various local officers?"

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The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"We cannot say that off-hand but I believe he has to tour throughout the presidency and visit various places where these local officers will be called to receive instructions from him."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"The object of my question was to know whether one man can tour the whole presidency within a reasonable time, and whether instruction in leprosy cure according to new methods can be effected throughout the presidency by one officer within any measurable distance of time."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"As more officers are trained, work will be done more quickly."

Co-operation.

Postal Employees' Co-operative Credit Society, the Nilgiri division.

* 493 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation has been received by him from the Honorary General Secretary, Madras Circle Postal Association, Coimbatore Branch, Coimbatore, that he is in correspondence with the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies, Coimbatore, since 23rd May 1923 on the subject of a separate co-operative credit society for the postal employees in the Nilgiri Postal division, and that, even after approaching the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in November last, the by-laws of the proposed society have not yet been registered;

(b) whether any inquiry has been made into the cause of the unusual delay of the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Coimbatore; and if so, with what results;

(c) whether the postal employees of the Salem district have been given the benefit of a co-operative society exclusively for them a few months ago, and that society is working independently of the Madras Post and Telegraphs Co-operative Society which has jurisdiction over this Presidency; and

(d) whether the Registrar of Co-operative Societies will be asked to arrange for the registration of the Nilgiri Division Postal Employees Society without any further delay?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government understand that the registration of the society has been deferred pending a decision on the general question whether it is advisable to register separate societies for the postal employees of a district or group of districts when there is already a society at Madras for postal employees covering the whole Presidency. They have called for a report.

(c) Yes. But the Madras Post and Telegraph Co-operative Society afterwards objected.

(d) As soon as a decision is arrived at on the general question the Registrar will deal with the case under the powers vested in him by section 9 of the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912.

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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Labour.

Recruitment of labourers to Ceylon, Malaya and Mauritius.

494 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to place on the table of the House information on the following points—

(a) number of licences granted for recruiting labourers to Ceylon, Malaya and Mauritius in 1923 and 1924;

(b) number of labourers recruited by the licensed kanganis for Ceylon, Malaya and Mauritius in 1923 and 1924 in each district;

(c) number of labourers repatriated from Ceylon, Malaya and the reasons for the same; and

(d) number of emigrants turned back by the protectors of emigrants in Madras, Negapatam and Mandapam?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) There was no emigration to Mauritius during 1923 or 1924. The following statement gives the information for Ceylon and Malaya :—

Country.	Number of licences granted.		Number of labourers recruited by licensed kanganis.		Number of labourers repatriated.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
Ceylon ..	4,424	22,539	90,289	100,250	2 *	570 †
Malaya ..	4,316	No information.	20,011	48,188	984 †	No information.

* Represents the widow and child of an assisted emigrant who died of pneumonia at Talaimannar hospital en route from Mandapam.

† Represents (i) 814 adult and 161 minor decrepit and destitute Indians repatriated by the Federated Malay States Labour Department and (ii) seven females and two children (out of the total number of assisted passengers) repatriated owing to the death of husbands or parents immediately after arrival.

‡ Represents 88 persons repatriated by the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon and 482 (inclusive of 19 lepers) by the Government of Ceylon.

(d) The number of persons turned back by the Protector of Emigrants, Dhanushkodi, were 286 and 1,254 during 1923 and 1924 respectively. There were no rejections by the Protectors of Emigrants, Madras and Negapatam, during those years.

Irrigation.

The distributaries in the Godavari delta.

495 Q.—Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the distributaries in the Godavari delta which have been permanently remodelled and the expenditure incurred up to date on remodelling in the Godavari delta and which of them are completely remodelled;

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(b) whether the Government have received any reports about the efficiency of any of the remodelled channels and if so, whether the Government will place the reports on the table;

(c) whether there were any proposals to make any further alterations in the Chinchinada and Tossipudi channels; and

(d) whether any more channels are to be taken for remodelling in the next year and if so, what they are?

A.—A report has been called for from the Superintending Engineer.

Water-supply in Bellary district.

496 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether, with reference to question No. 566 put at the meeting of the Legislative Council, dated the 10th October last (1924), and the replies to clauses (v), (vi) and (vii) given thereto, they have since called for the information; if so, whether they will lay it on the table;

(b) whether the absence of any water applications resulted in the shortage of water in the former years;

(c) whether the ryots of Hospet and Kamalapuram waited in deputation on them in connexion with the dispensing with of water applications during the recent visit to the Bellary district on or about the 15th of December last; and

(d) whether the matter has since been considered and final orders have been passed thereon?

A.—(a) The information obtained from the Collector is laid on the table.^a

(b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (iii) of question No. 566 given on 10th October 1924.

(c) Yes.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

Police.

Proposed abolition of the Charmadi police station, South Kanara district.

497 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether a memorial has been received from the residents of Charmadi and its suburbs, Beltangadi, South Kanara district, regarding the abolition of the Charmadi police station and, if so, what orders have been passed thereon;

(b) whether it is not a fact that the police station was originally located there on the ground of its importance as being the boundary station on the Charmadi Ghat road and on the abolition of the Bangadi and Dharmantala police stations; and

(c) whether a permanent building for the police station and police lines have been constructed at that place and, if so, at what cost?

^a Printed as Appendix III on page 259 infra.

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A.—(a) Yes. The reallocation scheme for South Kanara has not yet been considered by the Government. The representations made by the memorialists will be duly considered before any change is made.

(b) Yes.

(c) The cost of the station-house and quarters was Rs. 13,487.

Presidency and Police sports.

498 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: With reference to the answer to question No. 29 put at the meeting of the Council held on 3rd February 1925, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state when, if at all, Deputy Inspectors-General were consulted and whether a copy of their opinions in the matter including that of Mr. George will be placed on the table?

A.—The Government do not find any record of having called upon Deputy Inspectors-General to give their opinions at any time. Such opinions would in the ordinary course be received and considered by the Inspector-General of Police.

Boilers.

Formation of Boiler Inspectors' branch under Engineering Department.

499 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons for starting a fourth branch of Engineering Department under the name of Boiler Inspectors;

(b) whether the Executive Engineers and the Local Board Engineers are trained in the matter of boilers also in the course they have undergone;

(c) whether the said Engineers are themselves in charge of steam and motor road rollers and whether they are solely in their charge without being subjected to the supervision by the Boiler Inspectors; and

(d) whether the said Engineers cannot be asked to do the duties of the boiler Inspectors, and if not, why not?

A.—(a) A separate service of Boiler Inspectors has been constituted to carry out the policy of an act of the Legislature, viz., the Indian Boilers Act, 1923.

(b) No. The training in the course undergone by the Engineers of Public Works Department and District Board Engineers is of a general and comprehensive nature, while the qualifications required of Boiler Inspectors are of a definite technical character necessary for the performance of duties of a very specialised and restricted kind.

(c) Executive Engineers and Local Board Engineers are themselves in sole charge of the steam and motor road rollers of the Public Works Department and the local bodies respectively. The boilers on the steam road rollers are inspected by the Boiler Inspectors. There are no boilers on motor road rollers.

(d) The answer is in the negative for the reason in (b).

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Famine.*Amount of loan issued in Bellary district.*

500 Q.—Mr P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state what was the total amount of the respective 'Takavi' loans issued under various heads and at what rate of interest in the famine-affected area in Bellary district; whether it is a fact that 8 per cent is charged on them; if so, what is the reason for the increase; and whether the hon. Member proposes to revert to the former rate of 6 per cent?

A.—The total amount of loans disbursed under the two Acts up to 31st October 1924 in the Bellary district was Rs. 7,58,020. The details of distribution between the two Acts under various heads are not available.

The interest charged was $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, the ordinary rate.

There is no proposal before Government to reduce the rate of interest on takkavi loans to 6 per cent.

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Nomination of Muhammadans to the Ganjam district board and Chicacole municipal council.

501 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD MOOSA SAIT: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether G.O. No. 330, L. & M., dated 24th February 1911, is taken into consideration in making nominations to the district boards and municipalities;

(b) whether it is not a fact that the same Muhammadan gentlemen who have served the district board, Ganjam, and municipality, Chicacole, for more than six years are again nominated in contravention of G.O. No. 330, L. & M., dated 24th February 1911;

(c) whether the Government made inquiries through the Collector, Ganjam, and were satisfied that there were no other suitable Muhammadans available for nominations;

(d) whether the Government have any intention of cancelling the nominations and nominating men who have not served on the local boards for more than six years;

(e) whether mahazar petitions were received from the Muhammadans of Ganjam long before the nominations protesting against the nominations of those who have been in the local boards for more than six years inasmuch as there are other competent Muhammadans in the field; and

(f) whether the hon. the Minister will be pleased to state the special reasons which guided him to make the nominations of the same individuals repeatedly?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) to (f) The questions do not arise. No mahazar was received.

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Medical.

Untrained midwives of the Maruthuva caste in the city.

502 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the Madras City alone there are some 1,500 untrained midwives mostly belonging to the Maruthuva caste;

(b) whether the services of these midwives are largely resorted to by the poorer classes who cannot afford to pay the higher charges of trained and registered midwives;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of these Maruthuva midwives have some hereditary skill and that some of them know how to read and write their vernacular language;

(d) whether at present unless a woman has read up to the V form or above she is refused midwifery training as a stipendiary in the Government hospitals;

(e) whether the Superintendent of the Government Hospitals for Women and Children has been turning away Maruthuva women applicants possessing good knowledge of the vernaculars on the score that they have not studied up to the V form;

(f) whether it is a fact that by insisting on the above qualification the benefit of receiving midwifery training as Government stipendiaries is practically confined only to the Indian Christian women and caste Hindu women have practically no chance of receiving this training except at a high cost; and

(g) whether Government have under consideration the question of giving midwifery training to poor Maruthuva women so that they may be useful to the poorer sections of the public who are not in a position to pay heavy fees for such services?

A.—(a) The Government have no information on the point.

(b) It is probable that the services of untrained midwives are largely resorted to by the poorer classes.

(c) The Government have no information.

(d) & (e) The answer is in the negative. The number of Government stipends sanctioned for Indian midwifery pupils is 19 in the Government Hospital for Women and Children, Madras, and 10 at the Government Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital. Candidates who have studied up to the IV form are trained along with European and Anglo-Indian pupils in the Women and Children Hospital and are given the same rate of stipend as the latter, namely, Rs. 35 per mensem. Other candidates get stipends of Rs. 15 or $10\frac{1}{2}$ each per mensem. If all the Government stipends are filled up applicants who have not read up to the IV form can always be trained as non-stipended pupils provided they have a good knowledge of the vernaculars and are otherwise fit for training.

(f) The Government are informed that this is not the fact and that caste Indian women are coming in in an increased number.

(g) The question is engaging the attention of the Surgeon-General.

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Duties of chemists and druggists in the General Hospital, etc.

503 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sub-Assistant Surgeons are now doing the duties of chemists and druggists in the General Hospital and in the other major hospitals in the Presidency; and

(b) if so, how many of them are now doing that kind of work?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The question does not arise.

The discharge of patients in the Rayapuram hospital.

504 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that, in the Rayapuram hospital, an order has been issued that patients, whatever the nature of their complaints, should be discharged earlier than necessary to effect economy in expenditure;

(b) whether it is a fact that prescriptions have often to be changed in the said hospital for want of certain costly ingredients in the stores;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the supply of linen to patients has been curtailed and that soap and washing soda are not given for washing them;

(d) what was the strength of the toties and menials in the said hospital prior to retrenchment and what is their present strength;

(e) whether it is a fact that the nurses in the Rayapuram hospital are now made to prepare coffee, etc., and watch the washings of linen in addition to their nursing duties; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the nursing staff and ward boys have been deprived of all kinds of leave except casual leave and that they are asked to work on Sundays too?

A.—(a) & (b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) Linen is issued to patients on the scale fixed by the Surgeon-General. The washing is done by the dhobies who use their own materials.

(d) The strength of thoties and menials is as under:—

Designation.	Strength previous to retrenchment.	Present strength.
Male thoties	18	14
Ward boys	24	25 (one additional ward attendant sanctioned on account of the transfer of the Dental department from the Government General Hospital in April 1924).
Female ward attendants ..	20	20
Lascars	15	12
Female thoties	12	10
Sweepers	8	4
Cooks	10	7

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(e) As there were complaints about the quality of coffee prepared by the cooks for patients, the Surgeon-General, after inspection of the hospital, ordered that emergency kitchens attached to the wards should be brought into use so that coffee and other extras may be prepared and served hot, whenever urgently required, by the nurses themselves in the ward kitchens. No orders were passed that nurses should watch the washing of linen.

(f) The staff nurses get their usual privilege leave and casual leave. The question of granting leave to nurse pupils under training is under the consideration of the Government. The Matron arranges to give a day off to one or two nurses right through the month so that all the nurses have a turn during the month. As regards ward boys and other menials drawing Rs. 20 or less per mensem, sick leave on half pay is being granted to those who are sick in hospital. Leave for a day or two is granted when arrangements can be made for the work without substitutes. Work on Sundays is unavoidable in medical institutions.

Major operations in the Rayapuram hospital.

505 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased—

(a) to furnish a list of major operations performed in the Rayapuram Hospital during the period (1) from January to June 1924, (2) from July to December 1924, respectively, and (3) the names of Surgeons who performed those operations;

(b) to state whether it is a fact that hitherto all surgical operations have been done by respective Surgeons in charge of the wards; and

(c) to state whether it is also a fact that from July to December 1924 it has been ordered that no operations should be done without the previous consent of the Superintendent of the Hospital?

A.—(a) A statement ^a is laid on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

Differential treatment to patients in the Sanatorium, Madanapalle.

506 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether any complaints have been received with regard to the differential treatment accorded to the patients in the sanatorium at Madanapalle, based on religious considerations;

(b) the number of patients Hindus, Christians and Muhammadans admitted into the said sanatorium during the past three years;

(c) whether any and, if so, what amount is paid as Government grant towards the maintenance of the sanatorium; and

(d) whether any check or audit is exercised over the funds of the sanatorium and if so, the nature of such check or audit?

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- A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.
 (b) The Government have no information.
 (c) The sanatorium is now given an annual maintenance grant equal to one-half of the expenditure subject to a maximum of Rs. 25,000.
 (d) The Examiner of Local Fund Accounts audits annually the accounts of the sanatorium. The audit is generally on the lines followed in the case of the accounts of local bodies.

Increments to sub-assistant surgeons.

507 Q.—RAO SAHIB U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) when the annual increments to sub-assistant surgeons generally fall due;
 (b) the final sanctioning authority; and the procedure adopted in this matter; and
 (c) whether it is a fact that in most cases increments were not sanctioned last year until after six months had elapsed between the due date and the date of sanction?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The information has been called for.

Medical School at Bellary.

508 Q.—MR. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government decided some time ago to open a Medical school at Bellary and also acquired a site by the side of the present hospital for the purpose;
 (b) whether the proposal was given up for the time being for want of clinical material and sufficient number of in-patients in the hospital;
 (c) whether, pending the location of a Medical school at Bellary, the Government were pleased to sanction 15 scholarships on Rs. 25 each per mensem for the benefit of the students from the said district tenable in the Medical School at Vizagapatam;
 (d) whether the scholarships were continued for some time and recently abolished and if so, what were the reasons for stopping them;
 (e) whether the Government then undertook to open the Medical school at Bellary when the condition of the Bellary Hospital improved and the strength of the in-patients increased; and
 (f) whether it is now improved and whether the Government propose to start the promised Medical school in the near future?

- A.—(a) In 1918 the Government considered it desirable to open a Medical school at Bellary. With this object, they resumed certain Government lands adjoining the hospital, which were under sivayi-jama occupation by a private person.
 (b) The answer is in the affirmative.
 (c) Ten special stipends of Rs. 25 a month were sanctioned to students belonging to the Ceded districts.

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- (d) These stipends were abolished along with other stipends for the reasons given in a G.O. No. 866-A, P.H., dated 17th June 1922, which is laid on the table.
 (e) The intention of the Government was as stated in the question.
 (f) The question of improving the Bellary Hospital has to be considered along with the improvements to other district head-quarter hospitals. A comprehensive list of such works has been drawn up by the Surgeon-General.

Classified in the order of urgency as follows:—

- Class I Very Emergent works.
 II Emergent works.
 III Works of ordinary importance.
 IV Works which are desirable but can be delayed.

The improvements to the Bellary Hospital fall under Class III and can be taken up only after provision has been made for more urgent works. Until then it is not possible to start a medical school at the place.

Town-planning.

Town-planning schemes.

509 Q.—MR. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the authority responsible for town-planning schemes in the City of Madras under section 8 of the Town-planning Act; and
 (b) the municipalities which have taken advantage of the benefit conferred by section 35 of the Town-planning Act, viz., the provision to minimise the cost of acquisition?

- A.—(a) The Council of the Corporation of Madras.
 (b) The following town-planning schemes which have been sanctioned by the Government under the Madras Town-planning Act, 1920, provide for the acquisition of lands:—

Name of municipality.	Name of scheme.
Chittoor municipality ...	1. The Vanniar Block Extension Scheme No. I.
Salem municipality ...	2. The Vanniar Block Further Extension Scheme No. II.
Tirupati municipality ...	3. The Maravaneri Extension Scheme Southern section.
	4. The Tirupati Town-planning Scheme No. I.

The Government have no information as to the actual progress of acquisition in respect of the first three schemes mentioned above. A Land Acquisition Officer has been recently appointed for the Tirupati Town-planning Scheme No. I.

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Civic Survey in Vellore town.

510 Q.—MR. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether a civic survey is being carried on in the town of Vellore;
- (b) if so, when it was undertaken and the cost incurred so far; and
- (c) whether any report has been received?

A.—The preparation of a civic survey was undertaken by the Vellore Municipal Council in February 1923. The work was nearly completed in November 1923 when the Director of Town-Planning inspected the work done and instructed the Chairman to supply certain omissions, collect and furnish further facts and statements and prepare necessary illustrative charts and maps. No report of the progress subsequently made in the matter has been received from the Chairman; nor is information available about the cost incurred by the Council so far. A report has been called for.

Section 5 of Town-planning Act.

511 Q.—MR. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any action has been taken under section 5 of the Town-planning Act in any of the town-planning areas; and
- (b) if so, the number of plots reconstituted?

A.—(a) The following schemes which have been sanctioned by the Government under section 14 (3) of the Madras Town-planning Act, 1920, provide for the reconstitution of plots, wherever necessary:—

- (1) 'The Vanniar Block Further Extension Scheme No. II' Chittoor Municipality.
- (2) 'The Maravaneri Extension Scheme, Southern section' Salem Municipality.
- (3) 'The Tirupati Town-planning Scheme No. I' Tirupati Municipality.

(b) The Government have no information.

Licences for house-building issued by Madras Town-planning Trust.

512 Q.—MR. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of licences for house-building issued by the Madras Town-planning Trust since its creation in the areas placed under its control;
- (b) whether any licence fees have been collected either by the Trust or the Corporation; and
- (c) if so, the amount collected?

A.—(a) The Madras Town-planning Trust does not issue any 'licence' but grants or refuses permission for building. The number of applications in which permission was granted by the Trust since its creation up to date is shown below:—

Mambalam area	...	...	...	...	57
Mylapore area	...	...	...	...	25
Nungumbakam area	...	...	...	...	53

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- (b) & (c) Neither the Trust nor the Corporation of Madras collects any fees from applicants to whom permission is granted by the Trust.

Education.*School fees in the Government Madrasa-i-Azam, etc.*

513 Q.—MR. MUHAMMAD MOOSA SAIT: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the practice in the two Muslim high schools in Madras, namely, the Government Madrasa-i-Azam and the late Harris High School up to its abolition by the Mission authorities in 1923, was invariably to levy school fees at half the standard rate from all Muslim boys;

(b) whether the same practice was followed in the school year 1923-24 in the Harris High School while it was under the direct management of the Government Educational department, as also in the Government Madrasa-i-Azam;

(c) whether, since the transfer by Government of the management of the late Harris High School to the managing body of the Muslim High school, the Director of Public Instruction has issued orders to the said managing body placing restrictions on the practice of levying the fee at less than the standard rates and extending similar restriction to the Government Madrasa-i-Azam with effect from the beginning of 1925; and

(d) whether the order of the Director referred to in (c) was issued in spite of the previous representations of the managing body of the Muslim High school and the board of visitors of the Madrasa-i-Azam?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative except that in the Government Madrasa-i-Azam a few exceptions were made.

(c) & (d) A general circular was sent to the District Educational Officers and the Inspectresses requesting them to invite the attention of the correspondents of schools under private and under public management to the necessity of complying with the requirements of Rule 92 of the Madras Educational Rules. In the Muslim High School the levy of fees is governed by Rules 83 and 92 of the Madras Educational Rules. The levy of fees in the Madrasa-i-Azam in accordance with Rule 92 of the Madras Educational Rules has, in view of the representations of the board of visitors, been deferred to the school and academic year 1925-26.

Co-operation.*District central co-operative banks and rate of interest.*

514 Q.—MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Provincial Co-operative Bank finances the district central banks with loans at a uniform rate of 7 per cent per annum;

(b) whether the district central banks have to limit their borrowings within eight times their paid-up share capital and their reserve fund;

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(c) whether it is a fact that the rate at which they will be enabled to lend to primary societies should be such as would leave sufficient margin for building up a reserve fund, for supervision charges, working expenses and a fair dividend to shareholders;

(d) whether the Registrar of Co-operative Societies who has the power to register amendments has to see that district central banks do not lend to societies at unremunerative rates of interest;

(e) how many district banks have reduced their rate of interest to below 8 per cent and in how many cases such by-laws have been registered;

(f) whether it is a fact that co-operative societies in the Presidency were lending at practically a uniform rate to members prior to 1914;

(g) how many societies, districtwar, have now reduced their rate of interest to individual members to $\frac{1}{4}$ and 10 per cent and so on; and

(h) whether he proposes fixing a uniform rate of interest which will leave a safe margin, at least in areas where fairly uniform conditions prevail?

A.—(a) Yes, subject to certain conditions.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Under section 11 (2) of the Act, the Registrar may, if he thinks fit, register any amendment to the by-laws of a society if he is satisfied that it is not contrary to the Act or to the rules framed thereunder.

(e) The by-laws of district central banks fix only the maximum rate of interest on loans to members. In only two district banks has the maximum rate of interest been reduced below 8 per cent by a registered amendment of the by-laws.

(f) Yes.

(g) The Government have no information.

(h) The Government do not consider it necessary to prescribe uniform rates.

Agricultural credit societies.

515 Q.—MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural credit societies have amended their by-laws stipulating that the entire share capital should be paid all at once on admission of the member;

(b) how many societies, districtwar, have such by-laws in force at present;

(c) how many times the paid-up share capital a member is permitted to borrow in such societies;

(d) whether it is a fact that even in the case of members who pay their share capital in instalments they have been allowed to borrow at reduced rates of interest for old loans disbursed out of money borrowed at higher rates from the district banks, if these members agree to pay their share amounts fully; and

(e) whether Government are aware that this leads to uneconomical working of the co-operative society, while it also gives undue advantage to moneyed people at the sacrifice of the interests of the poor?

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A.—(a) The Government understand that some agricultural societies have amended their by-laws so as to provide for the payment of share capital in full on allotment following the precedent of many long-established societies.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) The proportion varies from society to society. It is generally not less than five or more than ten times the paid-up share capital.

(d) & (e) In a few cases this was allowed, but when the matter was brought to the notice of the Registrar the practice was discontinued.

Expenditure incurred by Registrars of Co-operative Societies.

516 Q.—MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the expenditure incurred for the period from 1st July to 31st December 1924 on account of the Honorary Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies and their peons;

(b) the amount of travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn by Assistant Registrars for attending the Assistant Registrars' and other conferences from 1st March to 31st December 1924;

(c) the 'statutory' and 'non-statutory' functions of Assistant Registrars; and

(d) the amount of travelling allowance paid to Assistant Registrars, districtwar, for exercising (i) statutory and (ii) non-statutory duties for the year 1924?

A.—(a), (b) & (d) The Government have no information.

(c) The statutory functions of Assistant Registrars are those which they exercise in virtue of the powers given by the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912, and the rules framed under the Act. The other functions of Assistant Registrars are non-statutory.

Fisheries.

Government cannery at Chaliyan.

517 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased, with reference to G.O. No. 1491, dated 22nd August 1924, Development Department, based upon the report of the Director of Fisheries, dated 22nd October 1923, to furnish information on the following points:—

(a) what is the establishment of the Government cannery at Chaliyan;

(b) what are the names, the antecedents and qualifications (general and technical) of the Superintendent or Manager and assistants (if any) in charge of the cannery;

(c) how many persons have been trained as canning experts including students from Travancore and Baroda and skilled workmen in the cannery, as proposed by Mr. Harnell soon after he took charge as Director of Fisheries; and the names and position and whereabouts of the experts trained;

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(d) with reference to the statement of the Director that the cannery has not been a success because commercial methods have not been adopted hitherto, such as attractive labelling, advertising agencies, etc., (1) what was the amount spent by the department for designs, for labels, advertisement, etc., for 1921-1922, 1922-23, 1923-24 in connexion with the cannery; (ii) whether it is not a fact that Messrs. McDowell & Co. were appointed sole agents by Mr. Harnell and they tried to push the sale of the canned goods; (iii) what was the number of canned tins supplied to Messrs. McDowell & Co., how many were sold by them, what was the balance unsold and what became of them;

(e) with reference to the reply given to question No. 319, dated 20th August 1924, and the statement of the Director that 'the quantity produced is too large to dispose of without advertisement and too small to stand the heavy additional expenditure entailed by an adequate advertisement', what steps the Government are going to take to save the department from this position; and

(f) with reference to the assertion made by the Director that 'as tins admittedly improve by storage, there is no risk of loss' (i) whether the Government accept this opinion; (ii) if so, on what scientific expert knowledge it is based; (iii) whether it applies to all kinds of preserved fish and all methods of preserving, if so, which; (iv) whether any steps have been taken against tin poisoning; and (v) whether the public have been assured of a guarantee against tin poisoning?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the "List of establishment of the Department of Fisheries, Madras" which is available in the library. The Superintendent holds a Secondary School-Leaving Certificate, has had nearly two years' practical training in canning under Messrs. Prager and Hornell and has undergone a year's training at the Government Institute of Commerce, Madras, in most of the commercial subjects in the intermediate grade. His assistants have been in the cannery from the time it was started by Sir F. A. Nicholson.

(c) The following four persons have been trained at the cannery. The Government have no information regarding their present position and whereabouts:—

Mr. S. M. Iaqub—an officer of the Bengal Fisheries Department.

Mr. Kesavan Tampi—a mechanic employed by the Travancore Government.

Mr. Jagannatha Rao—an elementary school teacher from the Kistna district.

Mr. Chatari—an elementary school teacher from the Kistna district.

(d) (i) The amounts spent on labels and advertisements are as follows:—

	Amount spent on labels.			Amount spent on advertisements.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1921-22	406	6	0	486	14	0
1922-23	975	6	4	1,452	11	6
1923-24	Nil.			1,193	14	6

(ii) Yes.

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(iii) Thirty-seven thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight tins were supplied of which 9,631 were sold. Out of the balance of 28,257 tins, 12,968 were rusted and unsaleable. The remainder were available for sale.

(e) The question of advertising and sale is under consideration.

(f) (1) to (3) The Government understand that canned marine products, especially sardines which form the heaviest stock at the cannery improve by storage. The opinion of the well-known scientist Dr. W. G. Savage, M.D., D.P.H., of the Food Investigation Board, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, England, who has carried out systematic and detailed laboratory research on canned goods in his Milroy lectures for 1923 before the Royal College of Physicians, London, is as follows:—

"In canned marine products, especially Herrings and sardines, definite changes occur on storage. *Such canned fish mature and do not attain their best condition for some time, which may be several years.* As Professor Johnstone (1921) puts it 'The crude' and 'raw' taste characteristic of the freshly packed fish disappears on maturation. The bones become soft and very friable (though the scales never do become softer than in the newly packed fish) The flesh becomes soft and pasty, so that the fish easily breaks when taken from the tin. The smell changes. The flavour of the fish improves very notably, of course, and this is the result which is desired from maturation'."

(4) & (5) The expert opinion of Dr. Savage is that the danger of metallic poisoning from canned goods is practically negligible. Samples of the oldest stock at the cannery have been tested; the results indicate that there is no danger of tin poisoning.

[Note.—An asterisk * at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, before the debate in connection with the motion for reduction of the Excise demand is begun, I want to ask one or two questions to be answered by the hon. the Excise Minister. The first question is . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Can the hon. Member inform the House whether the hon. Minister is aware of these questions?"

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Yes, Sir."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"He has just given me notice of the questions, Sir, and I am not prepared with the information asked for."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I shall put the questions now only and he can answer afterwards."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member may put the questions in the usual manner."

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* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I am asking the questions in the usual manner only, Sir. I want to ask firstly whether it is not a fact that the Bombay Government . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I meant that the questions should be communicated in writing to the Secretary, and as we have plenty of time before the end of the session, I am sure the hon. Minister will oblige him with an early reply. As the hon. Minister says he is not prepared now with the information, the hon. Member can communicate his questions to the Secretary."

II

ELECTION TO THE FINANCE AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I have to announce to the House that the following hon. Members have been nominated as candidates for election to the Finance Committee and the Public Accounts Committee respectively :—

Finance Committee.—Khan Bahadur P. Khalifullah Sahib, Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja, Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi, Mr. Moosa Saif, Mr. A. Chidambaram Nadar, Mr. Muhammad Ghous Mian Sahib, Mr. P. N. Marthandam Pillai, Mr. J. D. Samuel, Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan, Mr. V. Madhava Raja, Mr. R. Srinivasan, and Mr. Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai.

Public Accounts Committee.—Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan, Mr. P. C. Venkatapathiraju, Mr. K. Uppi Sahib, Sri Man Sasibhushan Rath Mahasay, Mr. Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai, Mr. Muhammad Ghous Mian Sahib, Mr. A. V. Bhanaji Rao, Mr. P. S. Rajappa, Diwan Bahadur W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar, and Mr. Abbas Ali Khan.

"As the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies in both cases, elections by means of the single transferable vote will have to be held. Under Regulation II (5) of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, I appoint 5 p.m. to-morrow (19th March 1925) as the time for the holding of the election, and the ballot-box will be closed at 5-30 p.m. Voting papers containing the names of the candidates can be had from the Secretary from 3 to 5 p.m. to-morrow."

III

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

The Secretary laid on the table copies of a G.O. No. 222, Development, dated the 11th February 1925, passing orders on the Audit Report and accounts of the Russellkonda Saw Mill for the quarter ending 30th June 1924.

IV

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1925-1926.

DEMAND II—EXCISE.

The House resumed consideration of Demand II—Excise.

Motion No. 20.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, I rise to support the motion made by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. It is stated, Sir, that this is a token motion, and I hope that every Member of the House will note that fact. The hon. the Minister said that it was a political move, suggesting thereby

* Printed as Appendix VI on pages 262-271 infra.

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that there was something wrong about making a political move. Sir, I do not believe there is much of responsibility in diarchy, but if there is any element of responsibility in it, I do not see how that responsibility can be enforced unless we make political moves of this kind in the hope—albeit it may not be realized—that we shall be able to convert the House to our view and ask the Minister to give place to those who will be able to carry out the responsibility to the country in a better and more satisfactory manner. Sir, Mr. Legh, the Revenue Secretary, spoke last year on a similar motion as follows :

"I think therefore, Sir, that we are entitled to ask those who advocate that a man is the better for the use of liquor whether they really understand what a man's best is. Those who take this view and all those who are in favour of gradual approach to the policy of total prohibition should, I think, seriously tackle the problem in the course of the next few months'.

"This was said by him almost a year back, even to a day, on the 18th March 1924 and we are now on the 18th March 1925. And I ask the hon. the Minister what he has done all these twelve months in order to bring about that policy, and how we are to make up for the big drop in our revenue to be created by giving effect to this policy. This is your suggestion. It is not a suggestion from this side of the House, but it is a suggestion made by a responsible Secretary to Government, that we should gradually recoup the loss of revenue by making year after year some provision in the budget and by making up for the reduction in some other way. I ask the hon. the Minister whether he pressed in the joint meeting of the Cabinet which framed this Budget, any proposal in order to reduce the revenue this year. We all talk about the contribution; we are looking forward with great anxiety to the remission of Rs. 1.6 lakhs. Did the hon. Minister ask for a single rupee out of that in order that it may be set apart for the loss in Excise revenue? There is no use coming here and saying 'We have difficulties'. He does nothing inside the Government, but he comes here and says 'What can I do?' He talks of difficulties. If there were no difficulties, a clerk on Rs. 15 can manage his department. It is because there are difficulties that a capable man with courage and wisdom to work up the policy should be put there.

"Then, Sir, he prided himself on the results of his administration.

11-45 a.m. Here are some very significant figures; in 1921-22 the number of shops sold was 392, and in 1923-24 it was 393.

Sir, the retail shops in 1922-23 were 5,874 and 5,932 in 1923-24. With regard to consumption, in 1921-22 it was 1,644,417 gallons, in 1923-24 1,528,351 gallons. With regard to number of trees tapped, in 1921-22 there were 2,101,968 trees, in 1923-24, 2,238,546 trees. As regards the revenue from country spirits alone, we got 2 crores and 19 lakhs in 1921-22. We got 2 crores and 41 lakhs in 1923-24. These are very significant figures to show that the Minister has done nothing, but has practically seen these vices growing in very great proportions. My charge against him is that, in spite of what he says, he has no policy or programme. His only policy is to do nothing but to drift. He simply comes at the end and says, 'what can I do.' If he has nothing to do, why should he be there? He can as well vacate his seat. In that note which he has circulated to the Excise Advisory Committee, he attempts to say that the high rates of excise duty will tell in the proper direction. My hon. Friend, the Minister, has

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been paying tributes to him, whom he calls his guru, the late Mr. Gopala Krishna Gokhale. In one of his speeches the late Mr. Gokhale has pointed out that taxing liquor would amount to taxing the poor man, and has urged that it does not go to reduce the consumption in the country. Now I should ask, where has the loyalty to his guru gone? Sir, my hon. Friend the Minister says that such methods as to the consumer being prevented from indulging in this evil may not be effective. Again, my hon. Friend Dr. Mathai has said that if the average purchasing power is high, such methods as raising the price of liquor to the consumer may not prove effective. On the other hand where it is low, the raising of prices may impoverish the consumer without exercising a corresponding check on consumption. I do hope that my hon. Friend the Minister will keep all these things before him next year when he launches on a different exposition of his policy here and elsewhere.

"Then he talks of enlightened local option. So far as this question is concerned, I do not think that the Minister has done anything by way of change of policy. What has he done so far as this is concerned? I have got three capital instances. One is the giving of the licence to a hotel against which an emphatic protest was raised by distinguished educationists and missionaries and other people. Their opinion is:

'It seems to us that these matters should not be rushed through; but that due public notice should be given and the residents of any locality be allowed to say whether they object to the opening of a bar or liquor shops, and on what grounds. The Silver hotel is located just opposite to the main entrance to the Doveton College; because the London Mission High School is very near by; because the Methodist Episcopal Church is diagonally across the street; because St. Mathias' school is near; because St. Paul's Church and High School are in the vicinity; because the Everleigh Boys' Club is near, likewise the Collegiate school, the Y.M.C.A. for Anglo-Indians, and the King Hostel for students. To place a bar in the midst of such a religious and education centre is against the wish and the best interest of all these institutions and the enterprise is fraught with danger to the young people represented.'

"What has the Minister done in this case? He cancelled the bar licence and gave a hotel licence instead. That is the sort of local option to which the hon. the Minister has referred.

"My second charge on this ground is this: that a shop called the Alavandar Nayudu's shop was allowed to be opened very near the place where there are already liquor shops and shops entitled to sell millinery and other articles where ladies, boys and girls go to purchase them.

"My third charge against him, Sir, is about the request made by the residents of the Audiappa Naicken street. This is an example where the ingenuity of my hon. Friend the Minister is brought forward. The residents of Audiappa Naicken street requested the Collector of Madras to remove the toddy shop in Audiappa Naicken street. The Collector said 'yes.' Do you know, Sir, what happened? They changed the number of the shop and put another number. These are the ingenious ways by which my hon. Friend the Minister acquits himself, and thus he admits that he has no definite policy to carry on.

"Lastly, on this question of enlightened local option, I want to add that a very large number of municipalities have passed unanimously resolutions asking for the removal of all toddy and arrack shops from within their municipal limits and local boards as well. I would like to ask what the hon. the Minister has done with regard to those municipalities? Has he done a single thing to carry out this general desire? That is all about your talk of local option.

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"The last and great and precious gem of the hon. the Minister in this document is that he wants to encourage all genuine temperance efforts. But what was his attitude at the time when a peaceful movement of picketing liquor shops was inaugurated and carried on almost successfully by genuine non-co-operators throughout the length and breadth of this Presidency? He was a party, a willing and active party to a campaign of ruthless repression, and in his report which he has issued in the name of the department, he regrets that such efforts should have proved successful. This is his effort at encouraging genuine temperance work!!

"Then, Sir, this is the sort of help he gave to those who carried on wonderful sociological work in our midst. Reverend Leith of revered memory has told me many a time that in spite of frequent appeals to the department, nothing has been done to check the evil. There are shops in Madras which are open late in the night and which are so done with the connivance of the police and the Excise department. If this is the state of affairs in Madras, then we can all very well imagine how it would be in the mufassal. Now, Sir, he said in his speech of yesterday something about the reduction in the number of shops. I will tell you one huge trick by which the authorities manage this. What is done is this. If there are 100 shops, for each of which there are 100 trees, they have now reduced the number of shops to 50 but increased simultaneously the number of trees to 200, so that the ultimate consumption is not reduced. It is a mere jugglery, which even a child can see. Then with regard to the hours of sale, he referred us to his magic book yesterday, from which he read that he has now issued orders to the Collectors and the local authorities asking them to close the shops during fairs and festivals and to make arrangements for closing them earlier. I should like to know when the order was issued, what the terms of the order are, and whether it is a mere recommendation to the Collectors which they can ride rough-shod over. What is the date of the order? Was it very recently, probably on the eve of this motion? I am glad if we can do nothing, at least we can make him move one small step forward.

"Then, Sir, his final argument is this: that we must suggest to him some sources of revenue before he can give up this revenue. But I submit that it seems to be a very unfair proposition. Why should we, who are not now in the confidence of the Finance Member or the Ministers or the Treasury Bench, we on this side, be asked to suggest alternative sources of revenue? I think if that is the position the best thing will be for him to vacate his seat in favour of others who are here and will be able to suggest other alternatives to the situation. It seems to me that it is bankruptcy in statesmanship and financial management. Living in the days of the bureaucratic Government, I can understand my hon. Friend saying that. Assuming that we are bound to give the answer to that, I want to say that it is not necessary for us to suggest other sources of revenue. I do not want to offer one. I suppose even the Educational Minister will appreciate what I say:

Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey,

Where wealth accumulates and men decay.

"What does it matter if you are not getting all this money by taxing drunkards and providing hospitals for drunkards and their wives and children? What is it that the hon. the Minister is doing? Mr. President,

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I do not think that it is right that he should go on encouraging drink and thus make from that a huge sum by taxing the poor people and realizing revenue to the extent of about 5 crores. There is no use that he should go on levying all these taxes. In that way he can tax all vices and then ask us to suggest to him alternative sources of revenue for such income as is derived from those vices. Then, Sir, may I also suggest that he has not exhausted all possibilities of retrenchment in the direction?

"Sir, I want to say only one word to the Government Benches. Their report to the Muddiman Committee has referred to the no-confidence motion of 1923, in which they use a very significant phrase that the motion very nearly wrecked the Ministry. This is only a domestic fight among the elected members. They say that they cannot deal with the excise question; but we say that it ought to be dealt with. I now ask, Sir, why should Government get this odium of keeping in power an authority which refuses to give up this excise revenue and give their votes on the one side or the other? The Government say that diarchy ought to be worked. If they will not allow us to have even a very limited opportunity of functioning in respect of this responsibility, then it is of no use.

"Then, I have one word to say to the nominated members. The two great enemies of the classes are ignorance and drink, for both of which my hon. Friend the Minister is responsible, as he is the Minister for both Education and Excise (laughter). If my hon. Friend has done something with regard to temperance, then he would have done something to remove ignorance and drink, the two enemies.

"Then, Sir, I have got one last word to say to my Mubammadan friends. Last year a similar motion was supported by my friend Mr. Yahya Ali, sitting on these benches, who has now been taken away from us, and he said:

'I heartily associate myself with all the sentiments expressed by my hon. Friends who have spoken before me and I do it not so much as a matter of economy, or even as a matter of sentiment, but as a matter of inexorable religious objection according to the religious creed, I profess. He said, further 'he is a sinner who drinks. But he is a greater sinner who encourages drink.'

"I therefore suggest Mr. President, that the Mubammadan members of this Council whose past traditions have shown that they place their religion above everything else should vote with me on this occasion. I therefore do hope that this motion will be carried. But I am indifferent as to its fate. To quote the words of him whom my hon. Friend the Minister claims as his master, the late Mr. Gokhale, speaking on his motion to introduce the Elementary Education Bill said: 'I know the fate of the Bill and I know that it will be defeated. But I am not depressed. We know we can serve our country only by our failures. It will be given to those who come after us to serve her by their success.' The elections are coming on next year. I am now asking every elected member whether he is going to say to his constituency that he has encouraged drinking or has done something to put an end to the drink evil."

* Dr. JOHN MATHAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I want to begin by saying, that as a Member having a place in the Sub-Treasury bench of this House, I do not want to deal with the political aspect of the motion which is now before the House. I shall confine myself to the merits of the issue as it has

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been put. I have a very great deal of sympathy with those who want to make a move forward in temperance. My instinct and habits are all tending that way."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Tending?"

Dr. JOHN MATHAI:—"May I say, Sir, with reference to that remark, if my hon. Friend may remember, that there was a time when I was a backslider in this respect at Oxford. The question that has been raised now in this House is whether the measures and the policy which have been followed in regard to the question of liquor control would in any way help the country or not. That is the real issue. Now, Sir, a great deal of reference has been made in very eloquent terms by my hon. Friend, the Member for the University, to the ravages of drink in this country. In this connexion what I want to say is this. Prohibition is a very difficult proposition.

Whether you are thinking of it as an immediate measure or as a measure which is to materialize in the course of a few years, prohibition is really a difficult and extraordinarily complicated proposition. Supposing we are going to decide with our eyes wide open for prohibition. There is of course something to be said in favour of that policy; but then we shall necessarily be making up our minds to face a very considerable financial dislocation, and the hon. the Member for the University does not think that he should be responsible for an alternative suggestion.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"On a point of personal explanation, I may say that I shall feel like that so long as I am on this side of the House." (Laughter and ministerial cheers.)

* Dr. JOHN MATHAI:—"That is precisely what I mean. You have to face the possibility of a serious financial dislocation; you have to face the possibility of considerable additional expense for the purpose of control; you have to face the possibility of having to force down the throats of the people a legislative measure involving a serious element of social compulsion.

"Well, Sir, I may say at once that I am prepared to admit that all these responsibilities should be taken if I can persuade myself that the situation is really a very serious situation. If I can convince myself that the situation is really so serious, I for one would not say a word against it. But, Sir, with regard to that may I say this? If you want to judge what exactly is the position with regard to the drunkenness of the country, you should go by the best evidence and an evidence that is at the same time reliable. There are various kinds of tests that you may employ, and one of the foremost of them is the test of criminals in the districts of this province whose crimes are to be traced to drunkenness. I do not want to build much on that argument, because in regard to this question the evidence that is available is not so very reliable, and no final inference can be drawn therefrom. But this much might be said about it, viz., that so far as crimes that can be traced to drunkenness are concerned, the proportion of such crimes to other crimes is almost insignificant. The hon. the Member for the University referred us to various figures. But what proportion of those who drink are criminals as a consequence of their drink? That is our point. If you want to have a really reliable idea of it, you will have to get at the actual consumption per head; and if then you find that there is excessive consumption per head, you might begin to tackle the problem. If it be found that the drink per head is really not more than

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what is physiologically good for the individual, then there is really no evil. In this connexion such rough calculations as I have made—and I made it on fairly reliable figures—have been made by taking the number of those who are in the habit of drinking and their aggregate consumption, and thereby striking an average consumption per day of 24 hours. Then, again, we must see what amount of alcohol is contained in the quantity of the liquor consumed. I may say for the information of those that have not got drinking habits that there is not more than 4 per cent of alcohol in toddy and in arrack about 35 to 40 per cent of it. You will thus find that the quantity is really not very much. We know from experts who have investigated these matters that something like 50 per cent is considered to be the minimum, and that it is therefore a safe limit.

“Now, I would like to make an earnest appeal. My hon. Friend, the Member for the University, made a reference to the Rev. Leith. I know Rev. Leith as much as my hon. Friend does. He believed in investigation and he wanted to base all his conclusions on the conclusions that would be arrived at on such investigations. I would now appeal to this House to follow that example. If you are therefore going to make an actual investigation of the consumption of liquor, I think you will find it difficult. It will be found that there is really no such thing as a general prevalence of drunkenness” (Cries of ‘Oh! oh!’)

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“Does my hon. Friend then mean to say that consumption might be encouraged and more revenue could be got thereby safely?”

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“Fifty per cent more!”

* The hon. PRESIDENT:—“I would appeal to hon. Members to listen to the hon. Member who has evidently studied a question which is really a difficult one.”

* Dr. JOHN MATHAI:—“I am not here to burke facts. I only want to ask my hon. Friend if he is really convinced that the proportion is excessive. If that is the case I will assure him that there is no stronger ally for him than me.”

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“Then go with me this evening and I shall show you how the position stands.”

* Dr. JOHN MATHAI:—“I have in fact visited many more shops than my hon. Friend is aware of (hear, hear and applause). When we are talking of reforms on this question we have got to take into account a lot of other factors. We all talk of absolute prohibition, prohibition of everything that is ordinarily regarded as intoxicants. But then there is a very essential and fundamental difference between arrack and toddy from the point of view of temperance reform. I want to place this matter before the House. I believe that, in spite of the actual harm done by toddy, in spite of the difficulties of establishing and maintaining a system of control, toddy stands on a very different footing from arrack. I seriously maintain with all my sentiments for temperance, that a labourer in this Presidency is not really the worse for drinking toddy. As I have already told the House the proportion of alcohol in toddy is something below 5 per cent. Those that have an eye on temperance—when I say this I am not speaking

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from the point of view of an Excise administrator—have been generally making an exception of all kinds of liquor containing less than 12 per cent of alcohol. Now I will give an instance which, I think, should appeal to the hon. Member for the University. The other day I was looking into some of the papers connected with the question of temperance reform in Bolshevik Russia. There is no Government in recent years who are so keen on this question of prohibition than they, and they agreed at first to launch a policy of total prohibition. But they could not succeed, especially in Southern Russia. There is really a great difference between arrack and toddy and that is this. While toddy is merely a raw product, arrack is a distilled spirit. There is a process of manufacture in the case of arrack that makes it more injurious than toddy. The system of control becomes so extremely difficult and so expensive that any Government which has a sense of its responsibility and which has got its eyes on the administration finds itself obliged to give it up.

“Now, there was a point raised by the hon. the Member for the University which really made a special appeal to me. He said we have been asking for a number of years, and also people representing various shades of opinion in this Presidency have been asking for a number of years, for a reform of the excise policy, and people representing all shades of political opinion have joined in that appeal. He said that nothing has been done even by that ardent lover of the late Mr. Gokhale, the hon. the Minister for Excise, and that it was time he had moved in the direction. I want to say this: if you are going to put the present policy in this Presidency, viz., the policy of licensing the shops, into force, then, it must be to such an extent as would really be satisfactory. You may think of giving a State monopoly or a private monopoly. You may think of introducing the system that obtains in Scandinavia or of adopting the surcharge system or the local option system of Bombay. But I shall say this: Having made some study in the matter, of all these various alternatives, the system of local option seems to me the best to be adopted. But I am aware of and I really want every one to squarely face the probable difficulties in the way. Now the probable difficulty is that you have got to bring into existence a suitable kind of electorate before local option can be relied on at all. The electorate should be and ought to be sufficiently representative. Then there is the question as to how you want local option to be effected. Your electorate has to be sufficiently intelligent and educated so that they may know exactly the precise issues before them. It appears to me that a policy of experiment of local option might be adopted. You may select a few localities where you form your electors. The real difficulty is with regard to the electorates. In all European countries where local option has been tried there is always a theoretical opposition against it. I do not say that it is not entitled to consideration.

“At the same time you find all over the country where local option has been tried there is a great deal of feeling that the administration of it is not only difficult, but in many respects a failure. What I would suggest is because we have special difficulties in this Presidency, we have got to put the thing on the basis of experiment, so that we may be able to get material of a sufficiently reliable kind for us to act upon. I venture to say that whatever blame or credit may be attached to the excise policy during the last four years, I believe the policy is on the

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lines of making experiments with regard to local option—I like the Government to move a little more quickly (Mr. S. Satyamurti: Hear, hear)—but I do think the lines on which they are proceeding are the right ones. (Ministerialists: Hear, hear).

“One thing more and I have done. I am speaking as one who counts amongst his friends the most ardent temperance advocates in South India. While I welcome—may I say with respect—the vigorous attempts that are made at temperance reform as evinced by this discussion, I would make an appeal, if I may, to everybody in the House, that temperance is not likely to make a move forward in this Presidency unless those who are interested in it are earnest in working it, and are prepared to give a patient consideration to the complexity of factors which I have suggested.”

* Sir JAMES SIMPSON:—“Mr. President, I have listened to this debate with very great interest. There has been a very great contrast between the cool, calculating and cautious speech of the *Official* Leader of the Opposition yesterday, of the fine, free, careless rapture of the speech to-day of the *actual* Leader of the Opposition, the Member for the University. I have a great admiration for the speech of my hon. Friend who has just sat down. He told us how in Oxford he was once decoyed by a party of students into a wine bout and perhaps the hon. Member opposite has toyed with the wine at Cambridge (laughter). But in that matter, I may tell my hon. Friend, Mr. Satyamurti, that I am a Brahman (renewed laughter). From my youth up, I have touched neither wine nor strong liquor, and I am in favour of every temperance reform (hear, hear). I come from Scotland, the country that wants temperance reform most (Mr. Satyamurti: Hear, hear), the country which has had much legislation in that behalf, but a country which has not, unfortunately, made very much progress with said legislation. Now, Sir, I have come to this conclusion from my lifetime's experience; that you cannot make people sober by an Act of Parliament, that no amount of prohibitive legislation will have the desired effect my hon. Friend, the Member for the University, most eloquently urged. I am afraid the methods he has advocated will not bring us one inch nearer towards the desired goal, viz., prohibition. I should just like to ask him if he has seen a few days ago in a paper the effect that prohibition has caused in America. When he gets to the Treasury Bench, as he has recently given indication that he will (laughter), undoubtedly he will have to face this fact. I read a few days ago that as a result of prohibition a distinguished Judge of the Supreme Court in one of the States of America, who had set himself to put a stop to the bootlegging that was prevalent there, fought his level best for two years and finally committed suicide (laughter). Does my hon. Friend want to denude the High Court Bench here in the same manner? That is the actual fact, legal enactments against the liquor trade do not avail. My hon. Friend is a member for the University; let him carry on his educative campaign and educate the masses, so that they may not, like himself, touch drink.

“But, Sir, apart from all this temperance question, we have been told that this is a token motion. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition told us very frankly that 4½ years as Excise Minister is good enough for the present incumbent. The hon. Member, Mr. Satyamurti, has said the same. Now, Sir, I want to say from my experience of the Leader of the Opposition in the old days—shall I say in the old days of the more dignified Legislative

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Council when I called him ‘Honourable’ (laughter)—when he appeared in the most immaculate frock coat, though he is not less handsome than now in his khadder coat, because he is a handsome man, but handsome is that handsome does—he said he did not find any indication of the hon. the Minister for Excise making a good show on the front bench. I do not think the hon. Member for Vizagapatam could have made a better show there than the hon. Member for Berhampur has done now. Nor have I any indication now from any other hon. Member of the Opposition, including the hon. Member for the University, that he is able to make a better show than the present Excise Minister. Therefore, I have to say, speaking for myself and for those hon. Friends who sit near me (European non-officials), that we shall vote for the present Ministry because we find no alternative ministry in the Opposition to take its place. Therefore I oppose this motion.”

* Mr C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“Mr. President, Sir, I did not want to take part in the discussion as the motion had been originally discussed. I thought that as a motion questioning the confidence in the Ministers there may be several questions introduced and that there will not be time to deal with the important questions of principle in a debate of this kind. What has tempted me to speak now is the elaborate speech made by Dr. Mathai. I had great admiration for him as a philosopher and as a doctor of economics. I had great respect for him as a leader of our society. But thank God, on account of his speeches to-day I am inclined to think that as a social leader he is likely to lose our respect for him.

“Sir, I shall briefly deal with the questions dealt with by the hon. Minister for Excise as well as by the Doctor who from a backbench at the time of the general discussion has promoted himself to the Sub-Treasury bench to-day. According to him—we all pray that we may be saved from him—there are not sufficient drinkers in the country. He says that though not drunkards he wants drinkers and he expects the Government of India and the Government of Madras to give facilities for more persons to drink. He wishes all of us to be taking sufficient drinks, only he wants us to take care that we do not become drunkards and, from that point of view, he would be quite satisfied if some limitations are placed to the quantity of drink and not to the number of drinkers. Well, Sir, I do not think that if he considers this matter carefully, he will ever congratulate himself for the statement he has made to-day. I wish he would make an experiment by advising his near relations to drink that quantity which would not make them drunkards. Anyhow, we are dealing with more serious problems; we are all interested in seeing that drink, as drink, is minimised. I am not going to deal with the various aspects of the question; all I want to say is whether you cannot think of improving matters to any extent whatever. I appeal to the Minister to see whether as simple Mr. Patro, the Congress leader, when he retires from office and becomes a leader of the country, he will be satisfied with what he has done as a Minister. I am only dealing with the aspect of the Government. It has been said that the present Government has been attempting to reduce the number of shops. But we are not given the exact number of shops that have been reduced during these 4 or 4½ years. No doubt the policy of the Government on the paper is this, namely, smallest consumption at the highest price. We should like to know whether it has in any way helped to reduce consumption to any considerable extent. I

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think the Government wanted to take credit that they have been stimulating reduction of consumption. If we read the annual report of the department issued year after year, there is the admission that in spite of all that has been done towards reduction in the number of shops and reduction in the time allowed for sales, still the quantity remains the same, and if there was a little reduction in one year, it is explained by the fact that non-co-operation has contributed to it or bad season. The Government has never taken credit for the reduction (hear, hear). The hon. the Minister referred to a great step that the Government is likely to take and, that is, as regards licensing boards. I am glad to say that the hon. the Minister at the end of his speech gave some hope that the objections that are being raised to the scheme of licensing boards will be carefully considered, and my only hope lies in that. It is most unfortunate that, while the report of the Advisory Committee is still in circulation and while the report is yet to be accompanied by minutes of dissent as has been agreed upon, one enterprising paper—I won't say adventurous—but one energetic, enterprising paper of Madras has published that report and has written a leader also on that. The one thing that I fail to notice in the report is the addition that was made in that report on the 7th March, viz., that so far as arrack is concerned, the Government, subject to all questions of finance, are asked to take a forward step—to stop consumption of arrack within a certain fixed period. It was an unanimous resolution so far as the members present were concerned, only there was difference of opinion as to whether it should be 20 years (myself preferring 20 years) or 25 or 30 years. (Here the gong was sounded.)

12-50 p.m. “Sir, as I have given notice of a more or less similar motion and if you would allow me some minutes more I would be thankful.”

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“A very large number of hon. Members are anxious to participate in the discussion and even if the remaining speakers are very brief it will be impossible for me to allow them all. I must ask the hon. Member to be exceedingly brief.”

*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“Sir, I would appeal to the Government to carefully watch the working of these licensing boards. The present licensing boards have jurisdiction over the toddy shops whereas the future boards have no such jurisdiction. The existing boards have power to reduce the number of shops without any restriction as to members and the future boards are to have no such power. They are to have power only to recommend the reduction of not more than one-fifth of the existing number of shops which means that if there are only four shops in a certain locality they cannot recommend any reduction and only in cases where there are nine shops they can recommend the reduction of one and not more. Therefore I would appeal to the Government to consider this question carefully. In this connexion I would also say that such an important matter should not be left to be dealt with by an advisory committee of the sort we have. It is necessary that another committee should be appointed.

“Sir, the hon. Minister referred to what is taking place in Bombay. I read carefully the report of the committee referred to as also the resolution of the Bombay Government thereon. It is understood that the rationing system is to be continued. The hon. Minister added a qualification to it by saying that if there was excess in one shop it would be taken to the other shop. To

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this I would point out that there is the fact that the maximum quantity consumed in the Presidency is limited and would be reduced year after year. It does not matter whether a person goes to shop A or shop B. As the Bombay Government has fixed its goal as complete prohibition, within a fixed period, I would appeal to the hon. Minister and to the Government of Madras to take that into consideration and adopt that policy.

“As for toddy, Sir, it is most unfortunate that there seems to be a view that it is harmless. Dr. Mathai may say that there is nothing wrong in taking toddy, but I disagree with him. I wish him to go to Coimbatore and Cuddapah which are considered to be most offensive districts, and see for himself how injurious an effect this toddy drinking has on the populace. Perhaps even after personally seeing that, the hon. Member might say that it is not due to drink.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“May I know what are the two districts which my hon. Friend referred to?”

*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“The districts of Coimbatore and Cuddapah. These two districts are again and again referred to in the Government reports as well as on the floor of the House. I have personal knowledge of the existence of this evil in my own district of Coimbatore. It would be seen from the police records how many of the offences committed there are due to this drink evil. Therefore we of Coimbatore and of several other districts whose lives are led among the villagers among whom and especially among tenants and coolies this drink evil exists appeal to the Government not to ignore the evil of toddy, drinking, but to do something towards stopping it. The advisory board which is proposed to be constituted has no jurisdiction over toddy, and I would appeal to the Government to carefully consider this point. Now, let us hope that at least within the remaining short period of this Council, the Council as a whole would be able to give proper direction to the hon. Minister and that the Minister would insist upon his views being heard by the other Members of the Cabinet and by the Government of India. There is no use saying ‘I am not able to do much. Nobody would be able to do much’. I am sure that Sir A. P. Patro can do much more than any other human being can do and that can only be done by insisting upon his powers being recognized by the other Members of the Cabinet and the Government of India. If he will do that, he would have the support, the unanimous support, of this House. Only if we do that, we would be justifying our position in the Council as the representatives of the masses.”

*Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—“Sir, I have been listening carefully to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition yesterday and to that of Mr. Satyamurti to-day. Sir, there is in both of them no attempt at concealment of the fact that this is a motion for expressing want of confidence in the Minister with reference to his Excise administration. Mr. Satyamurti took hold of the expression used by the hon. the Minister ‘call it a move, a political move,’ and said that there was no harm in asking the Minister to give place to others. We have always considered that this motion was a bid for office. Sir, every one to whom this bid for office is made is entitled to ask the question ‘What are the credentials of the persons who make the bid?’ Sir, I have attempted to find out what their qualifications are, and what their programme is going to be by which they will, when they become Ministers, strike out with the pen the excise

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revenue; how the gap to be created by that excision of the revenue from excise is to be filled up; what are the sources by which they are going to provide money, etc. Sir, each one of them disclaimed responsibility for making that. For, each one has said: 'Put me in office and then see whether I do it or not'. Sir, I am reminded of the story we used to hear in our younger days of the famished and the hungry man going to the king saying 'You feed me well for one year and I will carry the mountain to you'. That seems to be the position. According to that story, when the king had fed the man very fat and at the end of the year called upon him to carry the mountain, that man said 'Oh, yes; find somebody who will lift the mountain and place it on my back' (laughter). That is exactly what is going to happen in the case of the Members of the Opposition who said 'See whether we will not devise a method'. They are sure to say at the fag-end of their term of office 'We were unable to carry into effect all our cherished desires because we had been unable to find sources of income by which we can replace the probable loss from excise revenue.' That, I believe, is the position. They will be no better than what we have been accustomed to during the past four and a half years.

"Let us now examine what has been done by the present Minister or for which he can take credit. I find, Sir, that while in the year 1919-20 there was a reactionary spirit there was a consumption of 19,88,000 or nearly 2,000,000 gallons of arrack, in the year 1923-24 it has gone down to 1,528,000 or 15½ lakhs of gallons. So it has gone down by nearly 25 per cent. Sir, is it not a good record of which any Minister might be proud of? (Mr. Saldanha rose to interrupt and when there were cries of 'Order, order', he sat down.)

"Again, taking the same kind of argument or statistics which Dr. Mathai wanted to apply, viz., what is the proportion of the number of drinkers—I would not say drunkards—in the year 1920 to what it is at present (I find that also is furnished in the statement from which I am reading) in 1919-20, taking 100 persons, it was 4-9 and in the year 1923-24 it was 3-7, i.e., 1-2 or nearly 25 per cent less than that in 1919-20. Therefore, drinking has gone down by 25 per cent and the number of gallons drunk has also gone down by 25 per cent.

"Sir, in spite of all this, the revenue remains the same. I do not know whether the complaint of the hon. Member for the University is against the revenue or against the drink habit. If the revenue has been forced up, it was done only to please the temperance workers who said that it ought to be made more costly and less accessible to the poor men. In the attempt to carry out the reforms which they suggested, Government find that they are also making some money. Is it a sinful money that it ought not to be tapped because it is made out of the misery of the people, poor and rich, or, is it on the ground that as it is a revenue derived from abkari it ought not to be touched? I really do not see why those who are charged with the administration of it ought not to keep a vigilant eye over the manufacture and distribution of drinks and ought not to take such revenue as is available from doing their duty of minimizing the spread of drink and spend it on policing the administration of it. Sir, if, for instance, by a stroke of the pen they say, 'Very well, in deference to the wishes of the temperance reformers, we give up all sources of revenue from excise'. What happens? By reason

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of the desire to look after the proper control of the manufacture and distribution of drink they keep a large staff to police the regulation. Very well, if they give up all sources of revenue from excise that staff will have to be disbanded as there would be no money to pay them. What happens? Every garden where there is a palmyra tree becomes a toddy shop and many households would become places of distillation of arrack in crude methods. So those who vote for total prohibition will find that they have been outwitted and their object frustrated.

"Sir, I have to mention one more point. There is no more zealous advocate of temperance than Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar who was in the former Council and who is now in the Assembly. That gentleman was appointed jointly with Mr. Strathie, then Finance Secretary and now Commissioner for Income-tax, to go about and study the excise problem as it has to be studied in the various provinces of India. They have made a report and that report says that while they compared and contrasted the benefits of the various methods obtaining in other provinces which have the rationing system, etc., they were of opinion that so far as the Madras auction system was concerned there was nothing to be desired. So, however much from irresponsible critics of the Government criticisms may be coming in, when once they deal actually with facts and figures and with the living systems, they do reconcile themselves and they do find that what is going on in the benighted presidency is much better than what is going on in the other presidencies. Sir, my fear is that in the absence of any credentials on the part of those who bid for the office, in the absence of any practical programme which is capable of realization, we would not be justified in submitting ourselves to a change. For, we might find ourselves in the position that the excise administration is being presided over by Philip drunk replacing Philip sober."

* Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—"Mr. President, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my opinion on this matter. I for one feel very strongly to join in the sentiments that have been expressed by the Opposition in regard to the policy of the Excise Minister in regard to this matter. I feel stronger in this matter because I have the sanction of religion wherein it is said that they are sinners who are addicted to drinks and that the man who encourages such drinking is a greater sinner. The first question for our consideration to-day is not purely one of excise. On the basis of the excise policy, we have been asked to come to the conclusion whether we have confidence in the Minister or not. The sum and substance of this motion that has been tabled by the Opposition is that they have no confidence in the hon. the Minister on account of the kind of excise policy pursued by him. I, as a Muslim and a devout Muslim, am with them as regards this excise matter and I strongly condemn the policy that the hon. the Minister has followed till this day; and if he persists in this policy of not doing anything to combat the drink evil, I for one would stand and vote to-day for the motion of no-confidence.

"But we have to consider the question dispassionately. We have to consider whether the steps that have been taken by the Excise Minister till this day are steps towards prohibition. My humble submission is that though they are, yet those steps are not enough to root out the drink evil. He said yesterday that the strength of liquor has been reduced. That will

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only encourage the man who is accustomed to take one dose to take a double dose. Another step he has taken to combat this evil is to levy heavy tax on foreign liquor. That again is not a step sufficient to eradicate the evil. It would only make people addicted to drink pay double the amount they have been paying. Next, he has proposed that the number of shops should be reduced. This again, Sir, is not a sure step towards amelioration. My submission is, if instead of having 100 shops, you reduce the number to 50, you will be merely increasing the crowds in all these 50 shops. So, the policy which he has adopted till this day is not one which will prove satisfactory. Another thing he promises to do is to create excise boards with non-official majorities in all the municipal towns. He has again reserved the power of veto to the Government to turn down whatever recommendations made by the boards. If the hon. the Minister will assure us that he would introduce some legislation governing the policy of the Government in regard to licensing of trees for the purpose of drawing toddy and that he would take further steps towards the complete eradication of the evil in the course of two or three years, then we may wait and see. However, we have to consider whether, after passing this vote of censure upon the policy of the hon. the Minister, anybody else would be in a better position to do anything in this matter. That is a vital question which we have to consider. It is a matter which has to be considered by every one in this House. If such a person is available, then it would be better to substitute him for the present Minister. But if the substitute, after taking his position, feels the same difficulty which is an inherent defect in the Act itself, then my submission is that there is no use in removing this Minister. Therefore, Sir, I want the hon. the Minister to give us an assurance that he will introduce legislation in this matter, and give greater power to non-official members on the excise boards to reduce not only the number of shops, but also the quantity of arrack to be sold. If that is done, I think his policy will be accepted for the present, and this no-confidence motion negatived."

MR. R. VEERIAN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I rise to-day to perform a most unpleasant duty which has been imposed upon me. Though it is an unpleasant duty, I should not shrink from performing it to the best of my ability and to the best of my knowledge. When the great and mighty warrior, Arjuna, went to the battle-field mentioned in the Mahabharata, he asked Lord Krishna 'O Lord, how can I fight against my own relatives and against my own kith and kin; I see before me mighty gurus and sages such as Dronachariyar and Bishma. How can I fight against them? My hands are shivering'. I am also shivering (laughter). When he said that, Lord Krishna asked him 'Why do you shrink like this? Why do you go behind like a timid man? You have come here to perform your Kshatriya dharma. Don't lose your courage. Remember that you are not doing any adharma but that you are doing your Kshatriya dharma. Therefore stand up and fight irrespective of the consequences'. Taking that aspect into consideration, I wish to assure this hon. House that though a sharp political weapon is given to me, I do not want to misuse it. I know how to use it. I know when to use it and I know perfectly well where to use it. (Laughter.)

"Now, I wish to point out that there were several toddy and arrack shops located alongside the public roads and these shops were safely removed and coolly located in the midst of the poorer and depressed classes. I want to know how it is possible to overcome temptation. Is it possible for anybody

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to overcome temptations? Even the mighty sage Viswamitra yielded to temptations. Is it therefore possible for ordinary people to overcome temptation, especially in these days of materialistic environments?

"The hon. the Minister said yesterday that several attempts were made by him to minimize the evil of drink; but the attempts made by him are far from satisfactory. Let me point out when he issued an order to the effect that only a certain quantity of arrack should be taken to their houses, why did he not prohibit it wholesale. There is great danger, I think, in permitting people to take half the quantity, to their homes.

"Then the hon. the Minister wants us to find funds. He is lacking in originality. When I say that, I trust he will appreciate all sorts of criticisms based on sound principles. As for my part, I would welcome all sorts of criticisms if I were to be in the place of the hon. the Minister. Sir, only through criticisms and vehement speeches, we can reform things. I wish to point out, Sir, that originality cannot be acquired by reading books on Political Economy (laughter). Only through originality, we can find funds and not otherwise. It is a matter of close observation.

"I should like to point out that there are so many beedy shops where they are making large number of beedies and I do not know why taxes should not be levied on them. Smoking has become universal like toddy. In the Madras City alone there are several beedy shops where they are employing 300 or 400 persons and they are paying them enormously, As. 12, Rs. 1-8-0, 1-12-0, etc., for a male member and As. 12 for a woman; and I think that the Government may seriously consider the matter and do the needful. With beedy leaves they are inserting gajja leaves and they are smoking as ordinary beedies. I hope the hon. Minister will do something in this direction.

"Then, Sir, from the speech made yesterday by the hon. the Minister, I gather that he is doing his very best to minimize the evil of drinking. I may conclude that he is doing his very best to fight out this curse and therefore I think that he has not become a plucked bird (laughter). Several hon. Members think that he is a plucked bird ready for being roasted. In conclusion, I support the hon. the Minister."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" There must be some time for the Government to make remarks, and we have to finish the discussion on the demand at quarter past one and not at half past one since we began discussion at quarter to twelve this morning. I am very sorry to have to ask hon. Members to be very brief. I think hon. Members will recognize the fairness of allowing the Government their say."

MR. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Mr. President, I am rather pressed for time and I shall obey your instructions and make as brief a speech as possible. Dr. John Mathai gave us a very learned lecture on the general principles of temperance reform. The crucial question how far they are applicable to the case under consideration, viz, the Ministerial policy of administration, he has carefully avoided. What we want from an hon. Gentleman of his learning and sub-treasury judgment (laughter) is not the general principles of reform, but how far they have been realized by the particular Ministry under discussion (hear, hear). Only one sentence I came across in his speech bearing on that, namely, where he said that he

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approved of the lines on which the administration is being conducted here. As regards the lines, yesterday the hon. Minister gave us a long catalogue dealing with all the measures of restriction and control which are in operation at the present time. More than one question was asked from this side of the House as to the exact date when these methods were introduced; because there was a suspicion, well founded or ill founded, that the hon. the Minister was taking credit to himself and to his administration for the entire catalogue of reforms inaugurated from the origination of the department down to the present day."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"They were introduced during the last four and a half years."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"My hon. Friend Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar and many others will bear witness that barring these things—the prohibition in the Nilgiris in the matter of the hill tribes, and with respect to women and children, most of the reforms mentioned were inaugurated by the pre-reform administration. My hon. Friend may contradict it in his reply and he is at perfect liberty to do so. But it would have been much better and very helpful to the discussion if along with the various measures he mentioned, the particular dates on which these were introduced had also been given". (Hear, hear)".

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"The Government Orders dealing with these measures give the dates."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"We have been told that there has been a considerable amount of reduction in consumption and so on. The facts as taken from the administration reports placed in my hands do not altogether support the view. And further, as has been said by my hon. Friend Dr. John Mathai, the whole thing has been in a stationary condition, no remarkable increase and no remarkable decrease. And with respect to the decrease seen within the last few years, hon. Members are aware that the economic condition of the Madras Presidency has been one of the chief contributory causes (hear, hear). Famine years are not years in which liquor consumption goes up and after the great industrial and trade boom we had during the war every student of economics anticipated a big drop in liquor revenue. It is exactly what has happened. I do not think that Government can take credit for trade depression and industrial depression; and if they want it, they had better do so."

"The hon. the Minister for Excise is a temperance reformer and his ideal, I admit, is not very much different from our own; because he has always been, I believe, aiming at the definite goal of ultimate prohibition. He says he has done all that is possible and that he could not do more. And he is supported by my hon. Friend Dr. John Mathai who thinks that we can safely keep the limit of the strength of alcohol at 50 per cent. (Hear, hear.)"

"My hon. Friend, Sir James Simpson, who happily described himself as a Scotch Brahman (laughter)—there is a feeling that Scotchmen are very much like Brahmans in some respects . . ."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Question, Sir."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I am told that in London they monopolize most of the appointments. (Loud laughter.)"

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"My hon. Friend Sir James Simpson said that we could not make people sober by an Act of Parliament. What then is the logical conclusion? Is my hon. Friend willing to apply that logic and say, 'Let us therefore have free trade in drink'. It is a very cheap kind of argument to say that we cannot make people any better by an Act of Parliament. In that case, how much of the sumptuary legislation must be thrown overboard if this principle is unreservedly accepted?"

"Then we find that the political factor was not merely dragged in but misrepresented. My hon. Friend, Mr. Ghouse Mian Sahib, in an extraordinary attempt to reconcile his religious creed with the political vote he is going to cast said that he does not approve of what has been done so far, that he does not approve of what is being done now, but that if certain assurances were given regarding what is going to be done the day after to-morrow, he will vote confidence in the Minister. (Cries of shame, shame.) May I tell him, Sir, that the elementary principle of responsibility, viz., to judge a man by what he has done, is not here! (Hear, hear.) Responsibility does not consist in promises about the future. It is enforced on the past record of the Ministry. If I do anything wrong to-day and if my hon. Friends on the other side move a vote of censure—I do not suppose that Government benches usually move votes of censure—I must not plead that I shall be innocent the day after to-morrow whatever I have done in the past. But here that is the kind of responsibility which the hon. Member (Mr. Ghouse Mian Sahib) has been called upon by his electorate to enforce on the Ministers. My hon. Friend Mr. Veerian also took a similar attitude. It seems to me that responsibility to be enforced must have some kind of relation to the work already done."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"The hon. Member is growing very vehement!"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"If my hon. Friend the Minister for Education thinks that I am vehement, I hope he will excuse me. When I am hurried for time, this is the only way in which I can get through my work. (Laughter)"

"One other point mentioned by my hon. Friend Sir James Simpson is that we the people who talk about the problem from outside could do no better. Surely, that is taking a somewhat low view of the question. Here we have a conflict not merely between different policies but between different methods. The methods for which the Nationalist party stands are well known."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"What are they?"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"We cannot go into that, because it would be a digression. Otherwise, certainly I would like to oblige the hon. Gentleman from Chingleput."

"Then my hon. Friend Sir James Simpson told us, 'Is the hon. the Leader of the Opposition going to do any better than the hon. the Minister for Education?' I thought, with his extensive knowledge of Parliamentary institutions, he would not stoop to introduce an individual comparison of that kind (Hear, hear). One might attack parties, not individuals. When we bid for power, my hon. Friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar says, 'What are your credentials, what can you do?' That is exactly the argument the European advances to the Indian when he asks for more power."

[Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi]

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He says, 'we have done so much, and how do you know that you can make Phillip drunk into Phillip sober?' I submit that only when you have tried us you can enforce the principle of responsibility, viz., that administrations must be judged on the actual record and not on the promise of the future. Coming to the negative direction, we refuse to disclose our policy. We are not obliged to disclose our policy. The Opposition's business is to oppose. We are now voting on the record of the Government. I ask my hon. Friend Sir James Simpson—who seems to have noted my hon. Leader's change from frock coat to Khaddar—whether there is anything wrong in this view we are taking. He told us that we were no better than the Minister, that he was perfectly satisfied with him, and that he has confidence in him. We are sorry we cannot have the same confidence in the Minister as he (Sir James Simpson). But there is another confidence which we are hoping to gain, and which we are almost sure to gain if recent by-elections are going to be of any educative value. Sir, in Trichinopoly, the Justice party was not able to put up any candidate (Hear, hear). A good man we put up was invalidated by nomination and he did not get it. My friend Mr. B. P. Seshadri Nayudu is a candidate for Kurnool. What doubt is there that we shall win the by-elections in South Kanara and Kurnool? Then we have also the election of Mr. Ramadas to the Council of State. If my hon. Friend here can be convinced that we have also a constituency to which we can appeal and whose judgment—with due respect to the hon. Member—is of a higher value and moment to the future of this presidency than his opinion of us, then he will please allow us to move motions of this kind whatever may be our chances of winning here. Because as I said, Mr. President, at the time when I asked for special time, we as a minority have every right and are in fact obliged to fulfil our responsibility to the electorate.

"Sir, I only want to submit one further matter. My hon. Friend, the Minister for Excise, yesterday led us to believe that in the United Provinces the licensing board system was a failure; and that in Bombay the rationing system which was recommended to us by Mr. R. K. Shanmugam Chetti, Council Secretary, during the lifetime of the last Council, has also been a failure. Just two quotations to correct the misleading impression created by the hon. the Minister for Excise. These are extracts from the Government report. Here they are. (The hon. Member passed them on to the hon. Minister)."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I do not want them."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Out of courtesy, I passed on the original extracts to the hon. the Minister and he reciprocated the courtesy by saying, 'I do not care'."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I do not need them, as I have the original report."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"I will commend that kind of temper to my hon. Friend, Sir James Simpson (laughter), who knows something of Parliamentary practice, and let him by all means test for himself by the maxim 'Handsome is that handsome does'."

"The Government of Bombay say in their report that the licensing board system is one of the successful methods. In relation to the rationing system, the extract from the report of the Bombay Government shows that it is not a failure. The figures seem to show that, in spite of the inherent

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difficulties, the rationing system is the only means which will lead to prohibition. (Hear, hear.) They regard it as the only means by which to reach the goal of prohibition. Undoubtedly it has led to illicit traffic in drink. Why, any measure tending to total prohibition will have to meet that difficulty unless the police were strong enough. I am sorry I have exceeded my time-limit. I commend this resolution to this Council, knowing full well that, even though it is not passed, there is another and higher tribunal before which we can present our case with greater hopes."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I think those who have any elementary notion of Parliamentary practice would have listened with the greatest amazement to the speech that has just been delivered by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It seems to me, Sir, that sentiments of a novel kind have been expressed and Parliamentary precedents which can only find a place where Gulliver travelled quoted on the floor of this House. In the very limited time at my disposal I do not wish to go into the question of the excise policy; otherwise I would have shown the House a little more clearly than what the hon. the Minister for Excise has done the various steps taken for excise reform. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) As a member of the Excise Advisory Committee I have known what his work and policy is in the matter. I think, Sir, that the hon. the Minister did less than justice to himself by the way in which he presented his case last night. The hon. Member for Chittoor says that they the (Opposition) have no policy at present on this question."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"May I give a personal explanation, Sir?"

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Personal explanations may wait, Sir."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"I said we are not obliged to disclose our policy. We have our policy, but we are not going to disclose it."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"If the hon. Member had only waited for my next sentence he would have seen my point. It is a very surprising thing for the hon. Member to say, 'I have got a very beautiful policy up my sleeves; I have got an excellent policy.' Just place me on that comfortable or uncomfortable seat (Treasury bench) and like a Jack-in-the-box my policy will attain total prohibition. (At this stage Mr. Ramalinga Reddi rose up to interrupt.) I object to that Sir."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"I never advocated total prohibition. (Loud laughter and applause.) I never advocated immediate total prohibition; or else what does Jack-in-the-box trotting out mean unless it means immediate total prohibition?"

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I make a present of that to the hon. Muhammadan Gentleman whose religious sentiments have been appealed to."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Let them remain neutral" (Laughter).

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Now, Sir, I have known something of the activities of parties in other countries where the Parliamentary system of Government prevails. The Liberal Party in England is putting forward its policy before the country; the Labour Party is putting forward its policy before the country and the House of Commons."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"So do we."

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Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"They never say, 'We have got something up our sleeves; and if we come to power we shall do many things. Give us blank cheques.' But this is the kind of thing that we have been listening to now."

"Can my hon. Friends suggest any steps which will immediately bring about total prohibition? My hon. Friend on the other side 1-15 p.m. says 'when you are speaking you must speak not as an individual but as one belonging to a particular party'. I ask in all conscience who can bring forward such effective measures as will completely wipe out the excise revenue. My hon. Friend from Chittoor made a very strong speech, a threat as it were, and said 'individual sentiments have no place in politics'. Have we a ready policy? Are you going to adopt the principles enunciated by my hon. and learned Friend the Member for the University? If to-morrow you occupy the place on the Ministerial bench, are you going to respect the wishes of the municipal councils which pass votes for local option and for closing all liquor shops? (Voices: yes, yes, most certainly.) Yes, that is the sort of responsibility which you carry with you, the very worst form of honesty. I say you dare not do it, you cannot. (Laughter.) (Voices: wait and see.) Yes, yes, I too am familiar with that old Asquithian phrase, but I am not going to wait and see, for I know what I have got to see. (Ministerial applause.) I know better than you. (Opposition laughter.) My hon. Friend says that he has no responsibility for the finances so long as he is on the Opposition side. In every argument of his he says that he has no responsibility for the finances at all whether he is on the Opposition side or on this side, and so long as my hon. Friend belongs to that sort of irresponsible body it is very easy for him to come forward with all sorts of fantastic notions and say that if to-morrow his party occupies the Ministerial bench they will eradicate the drink evil. Sir, what you have to realize is that this problem is a most important problem. The task is great. It is a very difficult task. Every genuine reform is a matter of hard practice. You have got feelings to arouse, you have got suspicions to allay, you have got hopes to kindle, you have got many hot heads to restrain; you should have money to compensate. In the face of these difficulties, would any Minister for Excise who has got a grain of responsibility take the conscientious step of asking my vote to be given in favour of prohibition? Whatever has been done by the Minister, so all or great, slowly or quickly, has been done with the genuine object of putting down the drink evil which is a genuine move towards temperance reform."

"My hon. Friend quoted the evidence given by Rev. Mr. Leith. I quite agree with the views put forward by this gentleman and I was one of those, though I had very little acquaintance with him, who was struck very much by the sober spirit with which he presented the case, and I join Dr. Mathai in asking hon. Members to consider this question in that spirit, quite in a practical way and not merely in that cheap fashion which appeals to popular fancies and popular phantasies. Sir, remember this is a Transferred subject. My hon. Friend says the duty of the Opposition is merely to oppose."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"On a point of order, Sir. With great respect to you, may I know whether the time-limit does not apply to any particular hon. Member?"

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Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"My hon. Friend says that the duty of the Opposition is merely to oppose. That may or may not have reference to Reserved subjects. With reference to Transferred subjects you have a higher duty to perform. You have not merely the duty to oppose, but you should place before the country, and before that section of the Legislative Council to whose sympathies you are appealing for support, your alternative policies. You are now merely asking us to give you a blank cheque. These are considerations of the gravest character which have been placed before this House."

"Now, Sir, an appeal has been to the hon. Members representing the Government not to support the Ministry on this particular motion. I say nothing about their conscience. Their conscience is quite clear. They have their duty to perform. They may vote or may not vote. But on this particular question of Excise the subject is very complicated and intermixed with Revenue considerations. If that hopeless alternative or the excise reform were to come in, it is not one single department that will suffer but the whole fabric of Government will be dislocated."

* Mr. GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—"As a matter of personal explanation, Sir. I am very sorry that the hon. Member from Chittoor has forgotten the principle that the growth of responsibility is commensurate with the growth of legislature."

The motion was put and declared lost. A poll was taken and the House divided as follows :—

Ayes.

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|---|--|
| 1. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 17. Mr. C. Gopala Menon. |
| 2. Mr. C. Ravalalinga Reddi. | 18. " K. Koti Reddi. |
| 3. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 19. " C. Maruthavanam Pillai. |
| 4. " C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 20. " S. Muttayya Mudaliyar. |
| 5. " T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 21. " P. Peddiraju. |
| 6. Mr. P. Siva Rao. | 22. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 7. " K. Uppi Sahib. | 23. Mr. G. Rameswara Rao. |
| 8. " P. C. Venkatapatiraju. | 24. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 9. Dr. P. Subbarayan. | 25. Mr. M. Seetayya. |
| 10. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | 26. " M. R. Setaratnam Ayyar. |
| 11. " S. Satyamurti. | 27. " J. A. Saldanha. |
| 12. " T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. | 28. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 13. " P. Anjaneyulu. | 29. " Sami Venkatachalam Chetti. |
| 14. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. | 30. " C. V. Venkataranana Ayyangar. |
| 15. Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar. | 31. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimha Chari. |
| 16. " M. Gangaraju. | |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 17. Sir James Simpson. |
| 2. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 18. Mr. T. M. Ross. |
| 3. " The Raja of Panagal. | 19. " J. A. Davis. |
| 4. " Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 20. " D. Appavu Chettiyar. |
| 5. " Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 21. " H. B. Ari Gowder. |
| 6. " Mr. R. A. Graham. | 22. " P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nadar. |
| 7. " Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks. | 23. " A. V. Bhanoji Rao. |
| 8. Mr. R. W. Davies. | 24. " Devendrulu. |
| 9. " E. W. Legh. | 25. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar. |
| 10. " F. L. Moore. | 26. Rao Bahadur A. M. Murugappa Chettiyar. |
| 11. Dr. John Mathai. | 27. " Cruz Fernandez. |
| 12. Mr. Abdulla Ghatala Sahib. | 28. Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan. |
| 13. " S. Arpudawami Udayar. | 29. Mr. L. C. Guruswami. |
| 14. Rai Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 30. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar. |
| 15. Mr. P. W. Partridge. | 31. " P. C. Ehirajulu Nayudu. |
| 16. " A. E. Rencontre. | |

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Noes—cont.

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| 32. Mr. J. Kuppuswami. | 54. Mr. R. Srinivasan. |
| 33. " V. Madhava Raja. | 55. " Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai. |
| 34. " T. Mallesappa. | 56. " M. Ratnaswami. |
| 35. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 57. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 36. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 58. Rao Sahib K. V. Ramachari. |
| 37. " P. N. Marthandam Pillai. | 59. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 38. " C. Muttayya Mudaliyar. | 60. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chettiyyar. |
| 39. " S. Raghuchandra Ballal. | 61. Mr. R. Veerian. |
| 40. " K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai. | 62. " K. Venkateshala Padayachi. |
| 41. " K. Prabhakaran Tampan. | 63. Diwan Bahadur W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 42. Rao Bahadur K. Krishnaswami Nayudu. | 64. Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai. |
| 43. " O. M. Narayanan Nambudripad. | 65. Khan Bahadur P. Khadif-ul-Jah Sahib. |
| 44. Mr. P. T. Rajan. | 66. Mr. Abbas Ali Khan. |
| 45. " P. S. Rajappa. | 67. Khan Bahadur Haji Abdullahi Haji Kasim Sahib. |
| 46. " B. Ramachandra Reddi. | 68. Mr. Muhammad Ghous Mian Sahib. |
| 47. " B. Obal-sappa. | 69. " Abdul Hye Sahib. |
| 48. Rao Bahadur P. Raman. | 70. " Hamid Sultan Marakkayar Sahib. |
| 49. Mr. P. Sagaram. | 71. " T. M. Moide Sahib. |
| 50. " J. D. Samuel. | 72. Janab Muhammad Qadir Muhi-ud-din Sahib. |
| 51. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. | 73. Munshi Abdul Wahab Sahib. |
| 52. Mr. K. Sarvarayudu. | |
| 53. " K. Sitarania Reddi. | |

Neutral.

1. Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. | 2. Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu.

31 voted for the motion, 74 against and 2 remained neutral.

The motion was lost.

Then Demand II, viz., that the Government be granted the sum of Rs. 42.78 lakhs for the Excise Department, was put and carried, and the grant was made.

The House then adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.).

DEMAND III—STAMPS.

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move
'that the Government be granted a sum of Rs. 6,99,000 under head III. Stamps'."

Motion No. 21.

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Sir, I beg to move
'that the allotment of Rs. 5,200 for Presidency town be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"While giving notice of this motion, I have made it clear that my intention is to raise a discussion of the amendment of the Stamp and Court Fees Acts. Sir, the Stamp Acts were amended in the year 1922 when we found ourselves in abnormal times and the financial position of the Government was not very hopeful. While introducing the amending Bill, the late Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar said:

'I as a lawyer would have been exceedingly pleased indeed not to raise the court-fees, etc., but also to reduce it. For every lawyer believes that justice is one of the elementary duties of the State and has got to be provided for from general revenues. But unfortunately the position of this province is such that it is impossible to achieve that ideal and I think that it is our duty to raise as much revenue out of court-fees, etc., as is needed to relieve the general revenues.'

[18th March 1925] [Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo]

"So, Sir, the Court-Fees Act was amended and the seal of consent of this House was given on the understanding that it was to be only a temporary measure to relieve the financial needs of the times. Times have changed now and we are returning to the normal. After the non-co-operation movement, for the last three or four years, we are having our normal revenue from all our sources of income. In the Finance Secretary's memorandum of last year it was stated that the increase in court-fees and stamp papers has had a great effect in reducing litigation. Sir, the rise in court-fees and stamps has affected the poor men. Any poor man who goes to a sowcar has to purchase a stamp paper and has to bear the increased taxation. In discussing this very question last year, the hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar said: 'I agree in saying that as far as possible endeavours should be made to see that the Government does not make money in the administration of justice.' Nay, Sir, he went further. He promised the House that he would make an enquiry into the question. He said that he had received representations from subordinate courts as also from the High Court regarding the difficulty experienced by the litigant public, and from the vakils also. He made a definite promise, Sir, to this House that he would set up an enquiry himself and the Government would be quite willing to bring forward an amending Bill as early as possible after the investigations were over. A year has elapsed and nothing of the kind is now within sight. I would request the hon. Members on the Treasury bench to realize the difficulties of the poor men and see their way to give some redress which the people very much need. With these words, I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Sir, I wish to combat in the first place the idea that when this additional taxation was imposed there was an undertaking given that it should be temporary in the sense that it should last only for a short time. In fact, when both the Bills, the Court-Fees Act Amendment Bill and the Stamp Act Amendment Bill, were introduced amendments were put forward asking for the insertion of the word temporary and in both cases they were opposed and definitely rejected by the Council. It is true that the intention of the Government at the time was that the additional taxation should be mainly, in fact almost entirely, to meet exceptional circumstances. The exceptional circumstances are not altogether the forces of non-co-operation. Various additions to the expenditure were forced upon us by the situation in the country and by the Council but the chief factor was fact that we had to pay 348 lakhs a year to the Government of India by way of contribution. I have no doubt that hon. Members who have tabled motions for reduction in the demand with the intention that the Stamp and Court-Fees Act should be amended by way of reducing the taxation had in their minds the prospect of the bettering of our financial position by a large remission of contribution which was expected this year. I do not think that even if that remission which was expected had come about it would have been possible to reduce taxation immediately though the matter would certainly have deserved consideration. But during the last week this prospect has been receding farther and farther into the distance. We relied on the Assembly at Delhi, especially on our own representatives to maintain our cause and to see that we received justice, but I am afraid our confidence was misplaced. We have no cause of complaint against the Government of India for they showed the best possible disposition towards us and if their intentions could be carried out we shall be able to look forward to a balanced

[Mr. R. A. Graham]

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budget for 1925-26 and possibly something to spare for for other purposes. I should personally have been reluctant to use our little surplus immediately for the reduction of taxation because I think there are other objects which have a prior claim, notably the repayment of what we have borrowed in past years to cover our revenue deficits. And I believe I have the sympathy of a large section of the House in that respect. However, that is a matter of opinion, and the question has become more or less academic. Influence has been brought to bear, first by our friends in Bombay, the mill-owners, with the result that the Government of India's demand under the head Customs was reduced by the cost of the establishment employed on the collection of cotton excise duty. How the influence was exercised, I am not in a position to say. I do not know whether our representatives, some of whom voted for the reduction, thought that they were quite safe because the grant would be restored by His Excellency the Viceroy. But in any case, whether it was so or not I think their action undoubtedly indicated a want of stability of purpose and of a sense of responsibility towards the province. Now, we have the news this morning that a set of muddle-headed doctrinaires led, I am ashamed to say, by one of the hon. Members from Madras has voted a reduction of the salt tax by four annas. The sole result of that reduction of duty will be to cheapen salt to the wholesale dealer by four annas a maund of 82½ lb., or by one anna for every twenty pounds. It is not going to affect the price of the retail dealer and much less the price of the buyer from him. I should like to know how it will affect the quantity which the ordinary purchaser buys in the bazaar. The result on the revenues of the Government of India has been estimated at a loss of 90 lakhs for 1925-26 and of 135 lakhs for a whole year. Our deficit if we include in the charges debitable to revenue the 9½ lakhs which we pay yearly in repayment of the old provincial loan account comes to 97 lakhs for 1925-26 and it seems quite certain now that if we get any remission at all it will not be enough even to cover our deficit. Under the circumstances the Government feel themselves bound to oppose any proposal for reduction of taxation this year."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, I would normally have waited until the demand technically put under the name of court fees had been referred to. But in the speech made by the hon. the Mover of the reduction, he referred indifferently both to stamps and to court-fees. In order to narrow the area of discussion and in order to shorten discussion on the subject, I propose, Mr. President, with your leave, to offer the remarks which I have to make on the question of court-fees also. In the first place . . ."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"There is another motion for reduction of court-fees further down in the agenda and are we to discuss both the questions here, and take votes separately on each question at the end?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"As the hon. Member who has moved the first motion referred to both court-fees and stamps, I think it would be better that everybody who wishes to speak on the reduction of the stamp duty, judicial or non-judicial, should speak now. And we shall regulate separately the question of voting on these motions."

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* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"May I represent to you, Sir, that I also have given notice of another motion on the same subject, that is, court-fees?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Has not the hon. Member dealt with the latter aspect of the question? I thought he had from what the hon. the Law Member said just now."

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"Yes, Sir."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMBACHARIU :—"I do not quite follow the order in which these motions have been tabled by the office. I have got a motion in my name—No. 205 on the agenda—proposing a reduction in stamp (general stamps) revenue, as also one with regard to court-fee stamps. And I do not know, if this motion is discussed now, I would be allowed to move mine, or whether I should speak now only."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"There is no question of asking the hon. Member to move his motion separately. Since quite a number of hon. Members have given notice of motions the object of which is to get a reduction in stamp duties, I propose that every one who wishes to speak should speak on the present occasion and that is why the hon. the Law Member is speaking about court-fees."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Inasmuch as it is a convenient mode of discussion to deal with stamps, judicial and non-judicial, within the same ambit and also because, more or less, the same considerations would apply to both, though I must say that in the case of court-fees the situation is not exactly the same, I have chosen to speak now. In the first place, let me say this, that whatever might have been the atmosphere when we all met the day before yesterday or some time ago with regard to the question of a plethora of funds from out of which we may carve out various items in several departments or may ask for ameliorative expenditure in specified departments, events in the Legislative Assembly in the course of yesterday and to-day have shown that the hopes that we, if I may say so, legitimately entertained a few days ago with regard to the Rs. 126 lakhs are not so rosy now as they once were. I do not mean to say that we have lost all hope. I trust fervently that that would not be the case, but nevertheless it is a matter involved much more in speculation to-day when the Government of India is faced with this question of the reduction of the salt duty, and when the Finance Member of the Government of India got up in his seat and said that he wanted more time to consider the question of provincial contributions."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"What he said was with reference to the Finance Bill, I think."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The Finance Bill involving the reduction of the salt duty has been passed in part, but all the sections have not been passed. As a matter of fact, we happen to know from a telegram that we have just now received."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"It is only the first reading that has been passed."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It will go on to-day and to-morrow, and the Finance Member of the Government of India

[Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar] [18th March 1925]

is going to announce the result of what is going to happen with regard to provincial contributions, and we may expect an announcement one way or the other. What I say is that we are not in a position to-day to take it for granted that we shall invariably get the Rs. 126 lakhs, but, so far as court-fees are concerned, I would not leave it there alone. I will see exactly what steps can be taken; and I shall state what steps have been taken in the matter. Very soon after I took charge of my office I found that there was a widespread idea that there were a certain number of suits which were not filed or with regard to which difficulty was being experienced or entertained by persons (in cases such as money suits) on account of the prohibitive amount of the court-fees. On the other hand, opinion was fairly unanimous that in the case of declaratory suits and other suits, such as those regarding religious endowments, etc., the increase is necessary from the utilitarian and financial points of view. The distinction that I have drawn between these two classes of suits is this: one class may be called luxury suits and the other, suits for necessities. So far as the question of luxury suits is concerned, I think I may at once say that the Government have no intention of going back upon their decision to keep the enhanced rates. But so far as what I have chosen to call the necessity suits or legitimate suits are concerned, the inquiry which was initiated has still not been completed, and I may say a reference has been made to the High Court, and the High Court has been informed that the Government would be glad to have the opinions of the hon. the Judges on this question as that would be very important. I may say that I have expressed my opinion more than once on this matter and the conclusion is fairly clear that the increase in court-fees has not produced the effect that was hoped for, and I am sure the Government must consider the whole position anew. Speaking for myself I am distinctly of opinion that while it is really very desirable to avoid troublesome, unnecessary or vexatious litigation by increasing the rates of court-fees, in other cases, especially in money suits an increase of fees might lead to a denial of justice. Apart from this consideration, I think that a restoration of the fees to the old level in certain cases, as I have said, is necessary from the utilitarian and financial points of view. And I considered that possibly the restoration of the old court-fees might even lead to an increase or augmentation in the revenues. That is the opinion I expressed, and again I said in reviewing this matter that the Government are satisfied that in the case of money suits there may be a possibility of a denial of justice, and we will not be behind hand in taking steps in that direction. I may reiterate what my policy in this matter is. In cases involving money claims and cases of small monetary value, it may be that the enquiry will disclose that the increase in court-fees has led to difficulties or denial of justice. In that case I have to get the opinions which I have called for, and I have taken great pains to see that opinions of best authorities are obtained. I have asked for the opinions of the hon. the Judges on the matter, and separate minutes will be forthcoming from them and they will be placed on the table of the House. I shall be quite willing to undertake a reduction in such cases as were mentioned by me. But I am not willing to undertake any reduction in the case of luxury suits as distinguished from the other class suits, namely, money suits, etc. That is the position so far as the court-fees are concerned. And therefore I may say that the question of court-fees stands on a somewhat different footing from that of stamps because there an enquiry is actually pending and is going on and

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the reduction will depend on the result of that enquiry and the opinions of the hon. the Judges of the High Court and their minutes which will be placed on the table of the House

"There is another aspect of this matter also, and it has been referred to by the hon. the Finance Member, and that is, that whatever may be the intentions of those hon. Members who are responsible for passing the Stamp Bill or the Court-fees Bill (for the enhancement of the rates), the financial position now is not so rosy and not so assured that we can contemplate with equanimity any speedy reduction of these duties. I, however, hope the case may be different, but I am entitled to associate myself with the warning given expression to by my hon. Colleague the Finance Member."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, I am glad that my hon. Friend the Law Member has stated that it is in the contemplation of the Government, if they find that the increase that has already been effected by the recent increments in the rates of court-fees has affected justice injuriously in some respects, to bring in a Bill for reducing the rates of court-fees in certain cases."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"By notification."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am glad that he has made that statement. At the time these two Bills—the Court-fees Bill and the Stamps Bill—were brought forward in this Council, discussed and passed, the idea was that the new increase in the rates of the stamp duties would bring in about 35 lakhs and the increase in the rates of court-fees another 35 lakhs."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Will you permit me, Mr. President, to make a supplementary remark which I omitted to make, as it would help to shorten the discussion? I find that one hon. Member in the course of the debate suggested that court-fees in the case of ex parte and small cause suits might be dealt with on a different footing from the other suits. That matter is also receiving consideration."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I was about to state, Sir, that at the time these two Bills were passed, the idea was that the increased stamp duties would bring in an amount of Rs. 35 lakhs and the increased rates of court-fees would bring in another 35 lakhs of rupees. But as a matter of fact we found in the budget of the year after these two Bills were passed, that instead of the expected Rs. 70 lakhs, the amount that was actually realized was only Rs. 35 lakhs, that is about half of what was originally estimated. I find that in the subsequent year there has been an increase, but even now the full amount expected, namely Rs. 70 lakhs, has not been obtained. Therefore to the extent of the statement that my hon. Friend has made, it is somewhat consoling and I hope he will request the High Court to send in their opinions at as early a date as possible, so that the earliest possible action may be taken with reference to this contemplated decrease. That is with regard to court-fees and stamp duties. No doubt, as the hon. the Finance Member and the hon. the Law Member have stated, the position is not so favourable as it was a few days ago so far as the possibility of a reduction in our provincial contribution is concerned. But I think that the position is not hopeless. As a matter of fact, in the Assembly they have effected a reduction or abolition of the cotton excise duties, and

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to the best of my recollection—I have read only the newspaper reports on the subject—the Finance Member of the Government of India did not say that by reason of that fact he would have to give up the idea of giving relief to the provinces. No doubt he expressed such an opinion when a reduction in

the salt duty was actually effected. In this morning's newspaper I find that it is not definitely stated that the Finance Member of the Government of India would not give effect to the reduction of provincial contribution, and let us hope that the Government of India will give effect to their promise originally made and give us a reduction of 126 lakhs. With reference to the statement made by the hon. Mr. Graham, that there was no promise at the time of the passing of these two Bills, that they would be made only temporary no doubt there was no definite undertaking to that effect. I was, however, present then and the hon. Member was not present then. I believe that the atmosphere that prevailed at the time of the discussion was to the effect that it was to be a temporary Act."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" So long as the financial condition of the province necessitated."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, if this expected reduction in the contribution is made . . . "

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I beg to state, Sir, that it cannot be expected now. It can be hoped."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I expect it now, Sir, even though my friend is not so hopeful."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I think my friend has been hopeful for the past four years."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" But since a definite promise was made by the Government of India a few days ago, we can expect that a reduction might be made in spite of the opinion expressed by the Finance Member yesterday. In any case we may see whether my expectation will be realized or whether my friend's fears will be realized. Whatever it may be, if ultimately we get a reduction of 126 lakhs, I hope the Government will consider the desirability of abolishing the increase brought about by both the Acts wholly."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I wish that we look at this question on its merits, instead of on other considerations. I quite realize that there is some doubt thrown as to our getting the provincial contribution. But may I point out that so far as these questions are concerned, it is the ease with which we passed these Bills and allowed increase of taxes that is responsible for the unjust treatment we have had. It was found that without much difficulty we would increase our taxes, though the remission due to us is not granted soon but put off. We make it clear that we feel that there has been increase of taxes beyond the necessity of the case and that it is therefore necessary to reduce stamp duties and court-fees. A statement was made by the hon. the Law Member that with reference to the court-fees an enquiry is being made and that the High Court has been consulted. We quite agree that the procedure on which the enquiry is being made is very satisfactory. But let me know, Sir, when the High Court was first consulted, what the reason for such a long delay is and whether it is not possible to finish the enquiry as early as possible."

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* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" It was in 1923 that I made the promise of conducting the enquiry. Then it was pointed out that we might wait for some time to see the working of the revised rates and then embark on that enquiry. We have got certain figures now and the enquiry was originally necessitated by the circumstances that even the increase of revenue was not commensurate with the increase in fees. That set us on the track and then various other points tended to it. The High Court was asked towards the end of the last year to report and we are waiting for the minutes and the report of the High Court."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" It is therefore clear that the matter has been under consideration for over two years. There were provinces which made the increase of stamp fees a temporary one at the time when the Acts were passed. We did not adopt that method. But when we find that there is no justification for the increase of court fees and stamp fees, why should they be allowed to continue? Therefore it is our duty to give our support to this motion."

" Now coming to the enquiry to be made by the High Court, the period of two years is really pretty long time. When the Law Member has found the necessity for the increase, I think it is the duty of this Council to give its opinion on the merit of the case independently. If the Council considers that there is no necessity for the decrease of stamp duties, we may vote for it; otherwise it may reject the proposal. I think that is the only standpoint we have to look at. Let us hope that the injustice will not be perpetrated and if it ever happens it will be our duty to put an end to it."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, in dealing with this question I heard the Law Member saying that as regards the luxury suits, the increase of court fees might not affect. I should like to draw the attention of the House to a speech in which the hon. the Law Member has said during the discussion of the Budget, that as regards the other suits, which are not luxury suits, there has been a reduction owing to the increase of court fees. But what I say is the question is not whether litigation has been reduced or not. Certainly when a litigant has a claim he has every right to pursue it. Well, he may try to put it off, as long as he is able to get money. But we cannot prevent him from pursuing his claim. Some day he may find the necessary money and he may institute the suit. I think that I have already stated the proposition which has not been challenged that the fundamental principle of judicial administration is not to make it a source of revenue."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Let me point out, Sir, that my hon. Friend is wrong in thinking so. During the debate on the Administration of Justice, I shall be able to convince my friend that the judicial administration is being carried on with a deficit."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" That is why, Sir, I preferred to put my token motion in Administration of Justice. But now it has been stated that discussion about this will go on during the discussion about the Administration of Justice. I thought that this would be the proper occasion. If my hon. Friend, the Law Member, would prefer a discussion later on, I think I can speak during the discussion of the Administration of Justice."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, there are two aspects of this matter. The argument is legitimate that you must

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not make any profit from litigation. Government must not make any profit from litigation. It has been somewhat too facilely assumed that we are making a huge profit. The facts and figures which are ready with me go to prove the contrary. But here we are considering the question of court fees and stamps. It is well to discuss this aspect of the matter, leaving the other token motion to its own merits, whether Administration of Justice is working at a surplus or deficit. I can suggest to my hon. Friend that he may argue all other matters reserving his right to the other aspect of the question, namely, the cost of the Administration of Justice, to a later time."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" May I not speak about the Administration of Justice now, Sir, in this connexion? There may be various considerations to influence the House to come to the conclusion that there ought to be a reduction in the court fees and stamp duty. It may be that there are half-a-dozen arguments for the reduction and if this one argument be now shut out, note ought to be taken again, later on on this question. We do not know the result of this motion. If we do not have any favourable result, we think that we should have an opportunity to discuss it again later on."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, I mentioned it as a matter of convenience. If hon. Members as a whole think that they are to deal with the question now, I am perfectly prepared to answer to it now. I have got the figures. It is a question for you to decide and the hon. Members may make up their minds to some sort of arrangement."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" I am not anxious, Mr. President, that the question of the court fees should be dealt with now. But the court fee as a whole should be dealt with and not each argument separately at different times."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" You have started this motion and whatever pertains to the question of reduction of stamp duty, whether under the one head or under the other, will now be proceeded with."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" I think we have now raised two questions in the discussion on civil administration, viz., one about the reduction of court fees based on the financial position of the country and the other about the civil administration as to whether it should be carried on in such a manner as to be covered by the income from stamps. I think the Law Member is of the opinion that the other issue, whether the civil administration can be carried on on lines so that the cost of the administration may be covered by the court fees, may be discussed when the general discussion of the civil administration takes place. So far as the question of court fees is concerned, the discussion on the merits may be disposed of now. I think the Law Member has agreed to that procedure. So, if the discussion that civil administration is being carried on in such a manner that the income from stamps would cover the cost of running it, is quite different, we are perfectly willing to debate it later on."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" So far as the question of court fees is concerned, I think that this is the best opportunity. If hon. Members were to lose this opportunity, I do not think that they should have another to discuss the same point."

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* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The question of court fees may incidentally arise later on. Questions such as the reason 'why you pay your judges so much when the total cost of the administration is so much, you have got so much of income, why do you want to raise that income in the way of court fees, why not pay less' may arise then. But now let us discuss the question purely from the financial point of view."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" I do not know whether I have understood the position. Mr. President, supposing that the token motion is defeated, is it open to us to discuss it later on?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I want to make myself clear, Sir. Because you raised the point that we have risen the court fees and are not spending the whole of it on the administration of justice, I wanted to point out that it was wrong."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" Then it may be open to me now to proceed with this discussion. I stated the other day that the revenue from the administration of justice was high and the expenditure, at any rate, was by far less. The hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Finance Member stated the other day that we have to take into consideration the cost of buildings for the administration of justice."

" And then there is the question of pensions. On this question the hon. the Law Member has said that these are factors to be taken into consideration in considering whether administration of justice is a source of revenue to the Government. The hon. Member has also said that the cost of buildings ought also to be taken into account. The buildings for judicial administration have never been debited to capital expenditure and they have always been debited to current revenue expenditure. If I am wrong I shall be pleased to be corrected by the hon. the Finance Member or the Law Member. But so far as I am able to find from the budget it has been debited to the current revenues. When once an expenditure is met out of revenues there is no justification to say that you are entitled to demand interest for the money that has been spent. As regards pensions, the pensions I think, will not come up to more than 10 or 15 lakhs. That therefore leaves a margin of about 50 lakhs. My submission therefore is that there is a clear profit in this item."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, we are told, that so far as our finances are concerned we do not exactly know where we stand. Probably by to-morrow we shall be able to know where we actually stand with regard to our finances and how much money is likely to come to us by way of remission in the provincial contribution. Probably then we will be in a better position to know whether we will have the full contribution proposed remitted to us or what exactly will that amount represent. So it seems to me that by to-morrow we will be in a better position to consider the question as to how far we can reduce the taxation. So I would suggest that this question along with the question of reduction of court-fees might be taken, if possible, at a later date so that we shall know what exactly is the decision we have to take on the matter. But I leave the matter entirely in the hands of the House."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am one of those that have given notice of a similar motion. I am afraid

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I cannot subscribe to the suggestion that my hon. Friend has put forward just now that after spending, I will not say wasting, an hour or so on this matter as if we are going to pass the Finance Bill, we should put off the consideration of it. I think therefore we may at once proceed to place our views before the Government so that they may deal with them as they think proper.

"One or two things have been made clear in the course of the discussion. The tax on litigation should not be a source of profit to the Government and that position I take it has been admitted, assuming that there is really a profit. For the dispute seems to be whether there is a profit. Assuming that it is so, I take it it has been agreed that the Government should forego it. In the second place, it is suggested on one side that it was originally passed as a temporary measure and that an implied promise if not a definite express promise was made at that time that when better days dawned this tax would be reduced. For my part, I am not a believer in such promises even though they have been definitely made. For, in the year 1887, I believe when they introduced the income-tax they promised that as soon as the Burmese war was over those taxes would be removed. The income-tax did not go and it is continued to this day. Further there is one great difference between the income-tax and this tax. If the people are asked as to what would be the more just tax to be imposed, I think 90 per cent would subscribe to the income-tax. I do not think, Sir, that the same thing could be said of this tax on litigation. No doubt the hon. the Law Member was pleased to draw a distinction between luxury suit or litigation and what he considered to be necessary litigation. But when he comes to the question of practical politics I am afraid he will find it very difficult to draw the line as to which suits he would consider exactly as luxuries and which suits he would place under the category of necessities. Whatever that might be it is agreed and we knew that this taxation was imposed two years ago as a fiscal measure. The Government wanted money for the village officers and especially in that year we had to find for them something like 50 lakhs. A device had to be discovered and this was one of the devices that was discovered. I think, Sir, if may I say so with great respect, that the observations both of the hon. the Finance Member and the Law Member must be taken to be satisfactory. With the reservation, however, that if we should be fortunate as to get this reduction in the contribution and if the Government is prepared to assure us that one of the first charges on that remission—I say one of the first charges because we have first of all to wipe off the deficit—and would be a reduction in this taxation, then I for one would not press the point. We are now in a speculative mood and we do not know what the powers on the Hills are going to do for us and we do not know how many of our countrymen and how many of our own representatives are going to betray us. Whatever that might be, we need not wait for that. If only the Government assure us that if they get some money they will utilize at least a portion of it for the purpose of reducing this tax, then I for one would not press this motion. May I point out that one of the signs by which a Finance Member is judged is the way in which he suggests reduction of taxation? Here is a nice opportunity for the hon. the Finance Member to take up and earn the gratitude of the people of the land. If he does so I would consider it to be the greatest act of statesmanship, a much higher act than that of spending on nation-building purposes."

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* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, it is a matter of common knowledge that the difficulties of those who have business dealings and who have to carry on transactions are of a three-fold character. Under certain statutory restrictions their transactions are required to be done in writing and for the purpose of reducing them to writing they have to be done on a stamp paper for which they have to pay a much higher stamp duty. Then under the registration laws certain transactions are required to be registered if those documents are to be legally valid and for that a very heavy registration fee has to be paid. Then again, if you want to enforce the claims on the footing of those documents you are obliged to go to courts and there you have to pay the enhanced court-fees. Hon. members are perfectly aware of the fact that ordinarily so far as money claims are concerned the increase of the court fee has been by 50 per cent. Then with regard to land suits the increase is not only by 50 per cent but is really by 300 per cent as I shall be presently able to show. Till about 1922 in respect of lands bearing an assessment of Rs. 10 a person who felt himself obliged to go to court was constrained to pay a court fee on Rs. 10 × 5 or 250 and according to the then computation it was Rs. 3-12-0. Now by virtue of the greater valuation this five times assessment has been raised to ten times assessment with a corresponding increase in the court fee. This was in respect of that same amount. If I were to institute a suit now, the condition of affairs would take me to this, viz., that instead of Rs. 10 × 5 valuation I am now called upon to pay fees on the basis of Rs. 10 × 10, viz., Rs. 100 for which the court fee comes to Rs. 11-4-0. Therefore what was really Rs. 3-12-0 till about 1922 has been raised to Rs. 11-4-0 as a result of the subsequent increase. So the difficulties are really great.

"The hon. the Law Member in the course of his observations stated that he would like to differentiate between ordinary suits and luxury suits. We might leave it alone but my hon. Friend Sir K. V. Reddi wanted to know what suits might be brought under luxury suits. For instance suits which are merely for declaration that alienations are not binding beyond the life-time of a widow or an adoption is invalid, and suits coming under such category dealing with bare declaration or which are intended to ensure rights of succession in the future can be classified as luxury suits. In respect of such suits it would be legitimate and proper to bring them under the category of luxury suits. With respect to other classes of suits, for instance, suits for money claims and other revenue suits the court fees ought to be revised. The House will remember that so far as suits of Small Cause nature are concerned though the institution fee is small, yet when we want to prefer an appeal from decrees passed thereon and this anomaly also, should cease to exist, enhanced fees are to be paid.

"There is also no reason why the appallingly large increase of court-fees in respect of land suits should not either be reduced to the old level or the Government should not seriously think of striking a mean between the old level and the present level with respect to land suits. I am one of those who think that no profit ought to be made out of justice. And looking into the administration report we find—so far as the report for 1923-24 is concerned—the total excess of income over expenditure came to about 56 lakhs, and I do not overlook the fact that very many buildings have been put up in the course of thirty or forty years.

3-30 p.m.

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Whether the cost was met from the general revenue or came from the large surplus which these three departments yielded, it is a matter on which I should like to have some light thrown by the hon. the Law Member. But, anyhow, in view of the fact that these three-fold difficulties really tell very heavily upon the people that for some reason or another are obliged to go to court for no fault of theirs, I venture to think that it is highly necessary that we express ourselves strongly on this question. I am not for holding up this question for a day or two pending any decision that may be given by the Legislative Assembly."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am very sorry, Sir, that I have to crave the indulgence of the House once again to make a statement, but I think it will conduce to brevity of discussion, especially with reference to this question of the cost of administration of justice. This matter was taken for granted until recently, and even the Honourable Judges of the High Court, in addressing their communications to us, took it for granted that the administration of justice resulted in a large surplus to Government and therefore pressed for certain increase of establishments and salaries and so forth. And in that connexion, the whole matter came under review. I think it will be useful for hon. Members of this House to listen to certain figures so that they may form their conclusions as to exactly where we stand in this matter :—

	RS.
The actuals for 1922-23—	
Revenues	146
Establishment charges	95
Thirty per cent of District Administration charges on account of criminal courts and village courts.	55

" Having regard to the fact that functionaries such as magistrates devote a certain portion of their time to judicial work and another portion to certain other work, a kind of rough and ready proportion has been drawn up. That comes to 55 lakhs.

	RS.
Charges under Judicial stamps	1.91 lakhs.
Charges under Stationery, printing, etc.	2.50 "
Charges under Pension	8.94 "
Charges for supervision by Government and Secretariat.	75,000.

The total expenditure is ... 164 lakhs roughly.

" The deficit for 1922-23 was 17 lakhs. The deficit for 1923-24 was 3 lakhs, for 1924-25, 7 lakhs and for 1925-26 it is 9 lakhs.

" For the year 1925-26, the figures are these :—The revenue is Rs. 1,59,33,500 ; the establishment charges are Rs. 97,87,000. Thirty per cent of administration charges on account of criminal courts and village courts is Rs. 56,79,780. The charges on Judicial stamps come to Rs. 1,17,000. The charges under Stationery and Printing are Rs. 2,50,000. Pension charges come to Rs. 9,44,700 ; Supervision, etc., Rs. 75,000 ; total Rs. 1,68,43,480.

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" The total deficit is Rs. 9,09,980 for the year 1925-26.

" These figures do not include further deficits by way of interest on cost of buildings and cost of maintenance and repairs. The total deficit for 1923-24, 1924-25 and 1925-26 is about 13 lakhs."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, we have no grounds for being pessimistic as to our future finance in view of the vote we have had before we adjourned for lunch in respect of the excise policy. That policy is calculated not only to increase the consumption of liquor, however bad and weak it may be (hear hear), but also to increase the importation of foreign liquor, (especially whisky (laughter). We may look therefore to the increase of excise revenues in the coming year, thanks to the Ministry in power, supported by the eloquent reasoning of their Scotch Brahman friend in this Council. As to the attitude of our Madras representatives in the Legislative Assembly, I think they acted honourably (hear, hear), instead of dishonourably adopting a policy of robbing Peter in order to pay Paul ; for it would have amounted to that unjustifiable act if they had voted for the cotton excise duty and against the reduced salt tax. With this remark, I need not reiterate the arguments which I myself urged last year in support of the reduction if they had supported this vote for reduction, notwithstanding the assurances and figures given by the hon. the Law Member.

" In England there is no such thing as court-fees at all. (A Member : That is a revelation to me.) There is nothing as court fees in France and the Continent. This court-fee is a creation of the British Government in India along with the heavy and costly litigation. I think it is the policy of the Magna Charta that ' we shall not sell justice nor delay it '. We are selling justice and profiteering by litigation. The procedure of our courts is extremely technical and, with all the uncertainties of law, leads not only to long delays, but also to selling justice which is against the fundamental principles of the British Constitution. With these few words, I support this motion."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I want to say a few words as I have given notice of a similar motion. It has been stated by the Law Member that some suits are luxury suits and others necessary suits. I do not know whether the distinction made between them is correct. Anyhow, taking his classification, I will ask him to look into the whole question in a business-like way and to see that the wages depend upon labour. Upon money suits very little time is spent : therefore the court-fee levied upon such suits should be comparatively very small."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Except in commercial cases, I hope my hon. Friend will grant that."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I do not know what the Law Member means by commercial cases ; possibly he means suits for damages. Even commercial cases are based on time spent. (A voice : The Imperial Bank Fraud case.) I am dealing with the class of suits which have to be based upon time spent. And if from that standpoint he looks into the matter, he will find that a very large proportion of the present-day suits in the ' munsifs ' courts and sub-courts consists of bond suits which take very little time for disposal. In this connexion, I want to mention ex parte suits also. Now, unfortunately, there is no difference between ex parte suits and contested suits. Sometimes suits are contested although there is

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nothing to contest. Cases are adjourned and time is wasted. That is the only thing I want to say now.

"The hon. the Law Member's words have not given us any hope whatever. Last year we carried a cut of Rs. 1,000. But we are where we were last year. Apart from other considerations, I want the Government to look into the whole thing more sympathetically. I am not for pressing here the reduction of stamp fee for all documents, but where documents are for small amounts, where a poor man borrows Rs. 50 or Rs. 100, and in cases of that sort involving small amounts, I think some rule may be made to have a reduced stamp fee. In the Court Fees Act we have got a principle, viz., in small cause suits up to Rs. 500 the old rates continue. Therefore I urge upon the Government and the hon. the Home Member and his Colleagues to consider the advisability of this suggestion. So far as the poor people are concerned, in transactions up to Rs. 500 we may have the old lower fees. It is a very important matter. So far as my experience goes, poor people suffer very much, and even when they want to recover Rs. 25 or Rs. 50 they have to spend something substantial. I shall be very glad if the Finance Member gives us some hope, apart from the question of provincial contributions. I would appeal to him, even if it is a question of a few thousand rupees, to take the matter into his sympathetic consideration."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"I move that the question be now put."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"Sir, I must say that I am astonished at the attitude taken by the House, and the little notice they have taken of the action of the Assembly which has so greatly endangered our prospects of getting any relief at all. One hon. Member has gone on in the old fallacy that it was because we increased our taxation and gave the Government of India the impression that we did not need any relief that they gave us none and that if we show ourselves in an exceedingly bad position they will come to our relief out of pity. Another hon. Member says that there is still hope, that is, that he hopes that the Government of India can find some other way of finding the money now. It seems to me that both these hon. Members are deliberately shutting their eyes to the events of the last four years. The Government of India are bound by the rules. They can help us and will help us only when they have a surplus to divide. It seems to me that the alternatives before us now are either that the Government of India should certify the salt duty or that we shall lose our contributions entirely."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"May I say, or a part of it?"

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"Even supposing that the balance is regarded as reduced by only 90 lakhs, we shall get very much less; but the recurring reduction will be 135 lakhs."

"We have had various suggestions made to us as to what should be done if we do get the full amount. A large number of Members of the Opposition pressed on us very strongly that we ought to get rid of the amount we owe on account of revenue deficits. That is my own opinion too (hear, hear). But we are not in that fortunate position. That is the state of affairs now, and I did hope that I should get some strong expression from this House of disapprobation of the way in which our representatives at Delhi have let us down. I have here the names of the Members who voted either way; they

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will probably be published in the papers; I do not propose therefore to pillory now those who abandoned our interest."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"You mean in the matter of the salt duty?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"Ten of our Members voted for the reduction of salt tax. (Cries of 'We approve of it.') I am sorry to hear that some hon. Members approve of it. I hope the House as a whole does not approve of it."

"It is a purely doctrinaire move; or it may be one of the political side-winds of which I was afraid from the very beginning. 3-45 p.m. Except perhaps a few wholesale dealers of salt it will not benefit any one; on the other hand, it will make a very big hole in our finances and leave a deficit instead of a surplus."

"Regarding the suggestion made that if and when we are in a better financial position the Government shall consider whether in the case of certain documents a reduction might be brought about, I may say that the Government would under happier circumstances have been perfectly prepared to consider the question. But until the financial position improves, I do not see how we can do anything."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"If we get the full amount foreshadowed, I wish to know whether the hon. the Finance Member would promise to consider this question."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I cannot say that now. You cannot count your chickens before they are hatched. As it is, the indications are that they are not likely to be hatched at all."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"I just want to clear the point raised by the hon. the Finance Member about the reduction of the salt duty voted by the Assembly. The reduction is only by 4 annas per maund, and I do not think that could lead to the situation described by the hon. the Finance Member unless the Government of India do not care to come to our rescue. They want some excuse by which to refuse us the relief that we are all unanimous in demanding. From calculations made we find that it would be possible for them to give us a relief of about 100 lakhs. Therefore there is no need to take this pessimistic view. Apart from that, the reduction to Re. 1 is only restoration to the pre-war level at which as a result of the agitation by Mr. Gokhale, the duty stood. From Rs. 2-8-0 it was brought down to Re. 1 as a sound financial proposition as well also on general economic principle that a tax on a necessity should not be much above the cost price of that commodity. We, therefore, both on principle and also in the belief that it will not affect the relief given to us, uphold the vote given by our representatives in the Assembly and we are not prepared to see them pilloried by any gentleman in Madras."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I may just explain that the figures given by the hon. the Finance Member of the Government of India are perfectly capable of check. He said that the reduction by 4 annas would amount to a loss of Rs. 90 lakhs this year and Rs. 135 lakhs in future years. If my hon. Friend has any doubt on the matter, he can make the check himself."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May we know if the surplus of Rs. 75 lakhs which is proposed to be given to Bombay and other provinces would be given to them if the salt tax is to be reduced?"

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* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I hope not."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"If this Government gets a reduction of 126 lakhs or somewhere about that amount, would my hon. Friend the Finance Member give us an undertaking that he would consider the question of reducing these court-fees? If he gives an undertaking to that effect, we need not press this motion. So far as I am personally concerned, if he gives an undertaking or promise to that effect, I am prepared to vote against the motion, if not, I must vote for the reduction. I believe there are others like myself whose votes may be influenced by some such consideration."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I think it is obvious that I can make no such promise at this moment. The position might be made clearer if the hon. Member would promise on behalf of the House that Members will not press the other motions tabled here which involve increased expenditure. (Voices: 'No such promise.') Very well, I leave it to the House to choose."

* Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasaya:—"I am glad the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has made the position very clear regarding the remission of the salt duty."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not think there is any occasion to make any further statement. I must put the motion to the vote and, when this motion is put, it will dispose of Nos. 195, 197, 200 and 205 on the agenda. I will put, as agreed upon by the House, the lowest amount first."

The motion was put and declared lost.

A poll was demanded by Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasaya and the House divided thus:—

Ayes.

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|---|--|
| 1. Mr. C. Mutteyya Mudaliyar. | 17. Mr. P. Peddiraju. |
| 2. " K. Prabhakaran Tampin. | 18. " G. Rameswara Rao. |
| 3. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 19. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasaya. |
| 4. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 20. Mr. M. Seetayya. |
| 5. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 21. " J. A. Saldanha. |
| 6. " C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 22. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 7. " T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 23. " V. C. Vellingiri G. anter. |
| 8. Mr. P. Siva Rao. | 24. " C. V. Venkatar manna Ayyangar. |
| 9. " P. C. Venkatapattiraju. | 25. Sir K. Venkateswari Nayudu. |
| 10. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | 26. Mr. K. Sarvarayudu. |
| 11. " T. Admarayana Chettiyar. | 27. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 12. " P. Arjuneayulu. | 28. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu. |
| 13. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasaya. | 29. Mr. Ahtas Ali Khan Sahib. |
| 14. Mr. A. Chandambara Nadar. | 30. " Muhammad Ghousa Khan Sahib. |
| 15. " K. Koti Reddi. | 31. " T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai. |
| 16. " S. Mutteyya Mudaliyar. | |

Noes.

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 12. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. |
| 2. " Mr. C. P. Rameswami Ayyar. | 13. Mr. J. A. Davis. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 14. " P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nadar. |
| 4. " Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 15. " N. Devendrudu. |
| 5. " Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 16. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar. |
| 6. " Mr. R. A. Graham. | 17. Rao Bahadur Cruz Fernandez. |
| 7. " Mr. N. E. Majoribanks. | 18. Rao Sahib P. V. Gokulan. |
| 8. Mr. R. W. Davies. | 19. Sir P. Tyagaray Chettiyar. |
| 9. " E. W. Leigh. | 20. Mr. T. Mallesappa. |
| 10. " Abdulla Ghatala Sahib. | 21. " B. Obalesappa. |
| 11. " S. Arpugaswami Udayar. | 22. Rao Bahadur I. Raman. |
| | 23. Mr. J. D. Samuel. |

The motion was carried, 31 hon. Members voting for and 23 against.

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When the poll was being taken, Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI rising said:—"May I rise to a point of order, Sir? I want your ruling whether the vote of the hon. the Raja of Panagal is valid seeing that he was not in his own seat."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Mr. President, the seats are not fixed in the Treasury bench."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I heard the Secretary reading the names in order."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"If that order is obligatory, other Members and Ministers also were not in their seats."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Seats in the Treasury bench are only labelled 'Member of Government'."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, the neutral votes also may be taken."

After some time and before the result was announced Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR said:—"In regard to neutral votes, I think some hon. Member wanted information."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I had no objection to it. But I thought that the hon. Member did not insist upon having it. I thought it was merely a matter of joke."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I really wanted it, but I left it to your discretion."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I thought that the hon. Member was not particular about it."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasaya:—"Since motions 196 and 4 p.m. 200 on the agenda have been discussed, votes may be taken on them."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think it was agreed that votes need not be taken on motions where the amounts were the same."

Motion No 22.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I beg to move the following:—

that the allotment of Rs. 48,000 for charges for the sale of Judicial stamps be reduced by Rs. 100.

"It is stated in paragraph 63 of Volume I of the Retrenchment Committee's report that judicial stamp papers for copies are now made and supplied by a particular firm whose name is given there. It is stated there that the High Commissioner for India in London has been asked to ascertain from the firm and say whether stamp papers of a different kind cannot be supplied by them. The object apparently is to effect economy. I want to know the result of that correspondence and whether the firm has given the necessary information to this Government through the High Commissioner, and if so, what that information is and whether it is possible to effect retrenchment. To elicit that information I tabled this motion."

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* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I may say that the contract with that particular firm terminated on the 31st December last. Arrangements have been made to get our stamp papers from the Government of India Security Press pending arrangements to be made for printing the papers ourselves."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 23.

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I beg to move
'that the allotment of Rs. 18,000 for Superintendence be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"I want to ask whether the answer now given applies to all kinds of stamps, whether any attempt has been made to manufacture these stamps in our own province and whether it will be more costly and more difficult."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"We have entered into contract with the Government of India Security Press for a number of years. By the time that contract is over, we may possibly be able to manufacture stamps ourselves."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know for what period this contract has been entered into and whether we cannot have a Security Press here?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"We cannot consider the question of a Security Press here until we can arrange for the building of a new Government Press altogether. The contract with the Government of India Press is for four years."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 24.

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—"I beg to move
'that the allotment of Rs. 18,000 for Superintendence be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"At page 66 of the Budget Estimate it is shown that the sum of Rs. 3,900 is non-voted. Many items in the budget are shown as non-voted. I wish to know on what principle this has been done. I shall be obliged if the hon. the Finance Member would explain why the Rs. 3,900 is shown as non-voted."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"If the hon. Member will carefully go through the figures, he will see how the sum of Rs. 3,900 was arrived at. At page 65 he will see Rs. 2,200, the pay of the Assistant Superintendent of Stamps, and at page 66 he will see Rs. 1,700 provided for 'Rates and taxes'. The total of these two amounts is Rs. 3,900."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—"I have seen both the figures. I wish to know why the sum is non-voted."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"The salary of the Assistant Superintendent of Stamps is non-votable. The Assistant Superintendent is appointed by the Secretary of State."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—"I think this matter of votable and non-votable comes under section 72 D, clause 3, and among the officers who are mentioned in the schedule whose salary is put down as non-votable

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by the Council he is not one. If he is an officer appointed by the Secretary of State, then his whole pay should be put down as non-voted instead of Rs. 2,200 only."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Section 72 D 3 (iv) says:

'Nothing in the foregoing sub-section shall require proposals to be submitted to the Council relating to the following heads of expenditure:

'Salaries and pensions of persons appointed by or with the approval of His Majesty or by the Secretary of State in Council.'

"This particular officer was appointed by the Secretary of State. Therefore his pay is put down as non-voted."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—"May I take it that his whole pay is Rs. 2,200?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Rupees 2,200 is one portion of his pay. As will be seen from page 65, the full pay of the officer is Rs. 600-50-800. One portion of his pay is debitable to '29. Political—Central' and the other portion to 'Stamps'.

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"As this question is likely to arise in several other cases, I wish to have your ruling, Sir. Suppose this officer is there on the 1st of April and he is substituted by a provincial officer who holds the appointment for the remaining 364 days, will the item ever be non-votable?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"There have been several cases like that and in such cases we take the vote of the Council."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not propose to ask the hon. Member Mr. Narasimhacharlu to speak on motion No. 205 on the agenda."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I had given some reasons for tabling this motion. But your office seems to have substituted one of their own reasons. That is the point that I wish to raise. Among the reasons I had given, one relates to the anomaly of the principle of levying court-fees; and there were other reasons also. I do not think what is given on the paper is my wording."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member says that all the purposes for which he wanted to move this motion have not been reproduced on this paper; as to that, I must say that I noticed some hon. Members had put in small speeches or speechlets along with their notices of motions."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I was not guilty of that."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"We are obliged to be a little concise as so much printing has to be done for the discussion of not more than 05 per cent of the motions which are actually given notice of. I am very sorry that all that the hon. Member wanted has not been entered, but if the hon. Member attached so much importance to it, it would have been better if he had given notice of separate motions each to cut down Re. 1 and mentioned the several objects serially."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"It is a matter of right. In the exercise of my right, I had given certain objects for tabling this motion

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and I wanted to have information on those points. With great respect to you, Sir, I have to say that I have been prevented from expressing my views in the matter."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I am very sorry; but the hon. Member overlooks the circumstance that this is a conventional procedure. I had asked hon. Members to be good enough to state the reasons for giving notice of token motions. They were not bound to do it at all. They have been so considerate as to comply with my request; and I take it that they accept generally the correctness of the procedure adopted. It has evidently answered the general convenience of the House. If certain hon. Members who had given notice of a number of points under the same motion of reduction have been disappointed in not having all their points on the paper, I am very sorry; I can only say that the matter will be considered at the next opportunity. But I do think it would be better if hon. Members could devote a separate motion to every particular point to which they attached importance. As it is, the hon. Member's points not having been mentioned on the paper, I do not think that we can take them up now. I must insist that hon. Members should consult the convenience of the House. When they have about half a dozen points, it is better for them to raise half a dozen motions for reduction so that every one of them will be attended to and not to put them all together as in the present case. All other hon. Members have understood correctly what has to be done."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"If the hon. Member will excuse me, I wish to say that I have the paper before me and that I have answered all the points raised by the hon. Member."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Information has not been given on the point of anomaly of levying court-fees raised in my motion."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I read on? 'It works hard on poor people—both judicial and non-judicial. Restore old rates to documents of Rs. 200 value and to appeals in suits of small cause nature up to Rs. 500. Refund half in exparte cases. Principle of levying court-fees is very anomalous in the case of immovables and movables'."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It illustrates what I said about speechlets."

"The question before the House is that Government be granted a sum not exceeding 6.99 lakhs, subject to a reduction of 4-15 p.m. Rs. 100 under Stamps."

The question was put and carried; the grant was made.

DEMAND IV—FORESTS.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"We begin this demand at quarter past four to-day. We shall be entitled to continue the discussion on this demand for 1½ hours to-morrow, presuming that we adjourn at 5 o'clock."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Sir, I beg to move

'that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 46.47 lakhs for expenditure under the head Forests'."

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Motion No. 25.

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I move

'that the allotment of Rs. 6,000 for pay of officers be omitted.'

"My object is to cut away the pay of the Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests. In my general remarks on the budget the other day, I mentioned that the Forest department is being worked in such a way as to do good neither to the ryot nor to the general revenues of the land. Under the cloak of scientific management, I said on that occasion, as on several previous occasions, that the working of the Forest department is nothing short of a scandal. It is common knowledge on the part of the people who know anything about the ryots and their miseries that the various forest subordinates are putting the villagers to any amount of trouble, expense, worry and other kinds of infliction. If the exchequer of the Government at least were to get a substantial benefit from the department, it may perhaps be justifiable to some extent. On the other hand it is a department which practically devours every pie of the enormous income which it earns. Simply to say that forests are managed on scientific lines does not give the ryot the benefit he wants. Forests are said to be intended for the benefit of the ryot, to give him fuel, timber for building houses, and manure leaves for his fields. But almost all these things are, in actual practice denied to him.

"I have also stated that the Forest department is overmanned. During recent years a large number of highly-paid officers have been imported into the country for exploitation and economic utilization and what not. The result is that the department is overmanned. There are, I believe, six supernumerary Extra Assistant and ten Conservators of Forests without absolutely any definite duties assigned to them. I have also pointed out on a previous occasion that a large extent of forest area has been handed over to the forest panchayats. Yet there has been no corresponding reduction in the number of rangers. Therefore it is that I object very strongly with all the emphasis that I can command to increasing the existing staff. To have one more officer as personal assistant is an uneconomic and imprudent way of managing things. Besides these a large number of officers have been imported into the department as panchayat officers. I object to the increase in the establishment and I hope I will have the sympathy of the House in that matter. I have said enough to convince the House that we must minimise the expenditure to the tax-payer in this important department. If we allow this thing to go on, we shall not be doing our duty to the electorate which has sent us here. It has become a fashion nowadays for almost every officer to have a personal assistant whether he has got sufficient work to do or not. It has almost become a contagion as we see in another page of the Budget Estimate another gentleman, another head of a department, asking for a personal assistant. The House must put an end to such extravagant demands. As the officers are highly paid we must tell them that we expect them to work and not devolve their work on their personal assistants. Hitherto they have been getting on without personal assistants; and they can also get on hereafter without them. The professed policy of the Government is to transfer the management of forests to the panchayats. We see a tardy recognition of it in the report of the Muddiman Committee that forest must be transferred in the provinces. In these circumstances, it would create a

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strong feeling in the country if another officer is introduced into the department. I therefore propose that the allotment for the pay of the personal assistant be omitted."

*The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, I am afraid that the value of a good deal of the argument of my hon. Friend will be discounted by the fact that the post of the Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests is not a new one. He was under a misapprehension on this point. The office of the Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests has been in existence ever since the Chief Conservator's post was established. As a matter of fact the charge for the current year is considerably less than it was last year. The budget for last year was Rs. 9,300. My hon. Friend desires that expenditure on the Forest department should be reduced. We have succeeded in reducing the expenditure to Rs. 6,000. I think my hon. Friend will admit that 33 per cent in one year is not a bad reduction."

*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Is not Rs. 5,700 the correct expenditure for the year ? "

*The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Yes, that is the revised estimate. In fact as my hon. Friend points out there has been a bigger reduction during the current year. We have succeeded in cutting down the expenditure from Rs. 9,300 to Rs. 5,700. I should like to point out to my hon. Friend that if he wants to effect economy in the Forest department, there is only one person who can help to do this, and he is the Chief Conservator of Forests. And in order that he may be able to effect this, it is quite obvious that he must be able to travel and see things for himself. He has rather a large charge and while he is travelling he must have somebody to look after his large office in Madras. The Chief Conservator of Forests—I do not know if my hon. Friend recognizes it—is entrusted with the management of about 4,000 subordinates of different classes. It would be quite impossible for a single officer at the head of the department who must be largely occupied by questions of policy to attend also to the small details of the office. It will be seen that below the personal assistant there is only an ordinary manager or head clerk. When the Forest department was under the Board of Revenue it had the assistance of the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, the Assistant Secretary and others. And when we established the office of the Chief Conservator it was considered absolutely necessary that he should have some one to carry on the routine duties while he was away doing his main duty, viz., to see for himself how things are going on all over the Presidency.

" My hon. Friend started with a general condemnation of the Forest department. I am aware that I am going to hear a good deal more of that in the 2½ hours before us. I shall not be surprised. And I shall not object. But I would suggest to my hon. Friend that if the special allotment for the pay of the Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests is going to be wiped off, he will not be advancing the cause of retrenchment."

*Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" But it does not take away the force of my argument that there are already too many officers without work. I mentioned six supernumerary Extra Assistant Conservators of Forests."

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*The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" If my hon. Friend wishes to urge that point and wants to abolish those Assistant Conservators of Forests, by all means let him do so. It would be more suitable if he brought that up in the general discussion on the establishment."

*Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" If they are efficiently working I do not know the reason why so many matters which have been referred to the department still remain to be disposed of."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" Are you replying ? "

*Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Yes, Sir. I do not know why so many applications for supply of manure leaves and other things from the North Arcot district that have been referred to them for months and months have not been disposed of. What useful purpose, then I ask, does the personal assistant serve ? "

*The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, I am afraid I have no materials on which to discuss the competency or otherwise of the present personal assistant. If, as my hon. Friend points out, the condition of the office work now is bad, it would be infinitely worse if he takes away the personal assistant."

*Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" As, the matter is a trivial one I do not press the matter, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 226.

*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I beg to move

' that the allotment of Rs. 75,200 for general direction be reduced by Rs. 1,001.'

" In this connexion, I want to raise the question of retrenchment. Retrenchment can be effected in two ways, by a reduction in the number of hands, and by Indianization. So far as the number of hands is concerned this is a department which like the Civil Service has a large number of hands provided for for which there is no necessity. I do not want to go into the question of the Civil Service. But by a curious method of jugglery, they have provided for a number of appointments for the Civil Service. And by another kind of calculation they say we must have double the number of officers for doing the other work. . . . Similarly the number of Imperial officers in the Forest department is fixed at a very high percentage. It is high time, Sir, that Government take steps to reduce the number of appointments. Year after year we see a large number of appointments left vacant. That shows that there is absolutely no necessity for these appointments. Still they are existing. Such a provision leads to the anomaly of a number of hands being appointed, whenever they consider it necessary, to exercise their patronage. Take the strength of the establishment even as it is. We find that there are six supernumerary Extra Assistant Conservators of Forests. It means that these are Assistant Conservators without any work whatever. These men must be taken into the department and given actual work whenever it is necessary. Lower down we see again that there are 28 supernumerary rangers. That also shows, Sir, that a large number

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of them have been trained. Appointments are not ready for them and they are waiting for vacancies to occur. Such being the case, the Government should take steps to see that somehow or other vacancies should be filled up by people who are already in service, by Indians or Europeans. In the coming year they have provided for 29 Deputy and Assistant Conservators as against 27 in the current year. My complaint is that there is a very large number of Imperial officers in the service, which means that there are a number of other hands trained in this country who have no work and who are yet borne on the supernumerary list. It is absolutely necessary that some steps should be taken to see that there is no further recruitment either in India or England for this department. That can be done by the Government if they pass an order with the necessary sanction of the Secretary of State curtailing the number of posts allotted for the Imperial service. That is one important thing.

"Then, Sir, there is the question of Indianization of the service. I believe, I speak subject to correction, it was Mr. Cox who, just before he left his place as Chief Conservator, in a memorandum submitted to the Government recommended that the number of Imperial officers should be reduced to a considerable extent. I believe the policy as initiated by him was for the purpose of putting an end to the regular recruitment in England, only making provision for special officers being taken on contract for certain periods, and that to be done chiefly in the exploitation department. I do not say very much so far as the exploitation department is concerned as there are other speakers to speak on the subject. So far as the Forest department is concerned, the ordinary people recruited in India would be quite sufficient for all the necessary purposes connected with the work of the Forest department. So, our aim should be to reduce the number of England-recruited people and I think we are strengthened in that position by the recommendations contained in both the Muddiman Report and the Lee Commission Report, the former saying that the Forest department may be a transferred subject and the latter that appointments in the transferred subjects shall be filled up by the Ministers by appointing people recruited in India. Taking these two things together it will naturally follow that recruitment in England is not at all necessary. In spite of the Muddiman Report and the Lee Commission Report, that Government should be recruiting two persons in the coming year for this department is certainly very objectionable. This takes me to the question which I have also specifically included in the motion of having one Conservator of Forests from among the Indians. We all know that it was against the wishes of the Council that the number of Conservators was increased from four to six some time ago. Then it was said that there was large amount of work, this work, that work and every possible work which necessitated the increase of the number of Conservators from four or six. Recently we were told that for various other reasons there was no necessity for this number and I thought it was said at that time—I think the hon. the Leader of the House will admit it—that there was work only for five Conservators."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"May I ask my hon. Friend to tell me when and where I said that? I have no recollection of it."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"If it was not the hon. the Home Member, it may be somebody else; I do not think I can say

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it now, but I believe it was clearly suggested by the Chief Conservator of Forests himself. Anyhow I may assure hon. Members that there is not sufficient work for six people. My proposition is that number four was increased to six against the wishes of the Council, and you will remember the discussions which took place in previous years when there was strong feeling exhibited against this increase. Still, Sir, we find that there is provision made in the current year for two additional Assistant Conservators. Hopes were entertained by a large number of Indian officers that at least one of them would get the Conservator's place. There is a peculiar circle about this matter I will not say vicious circle—that whenever Indians are to be promoted to higher appointments, seniority stands in the way. They say that no officer senior to the newly appointed junior man would like his junior to be promoted over him, and I suppose that is the reason I think why District Collectors are not brought as Executive Councillors because the Board Members who will have to work below them and who are senior to them would revolt. As a matter of fact a number of European officers have been promoted over those who were once their seniors. So far as the Forest department is concerned, I do not put it on the question of seniority or juniority. When there are six Conservators, I would certainly say that at least one should be separately listed for a Provincial service officer. All that I say is this: in the case of appointments in other departments, such as Collectors, Judges and Superintendents of Police, four or five posts are listed for Provincial service officers. Here what they say is there is the question of seniority. This question of seniority can never be got over. If the Government insist on the question of seniority, no Indian from the Provincial service can ever become a Conservator, because it is only after long service a Provincial service officer is promoted to the Imperial service and he takes the rank practically below all the officers then existing in the Imperial service. The man gets into the Imperial service when he is forty-five or fifty because they have allotted only four appointments and these four people are very low in rank with people above them who are younger than themselves. Therefore it is absolutely impossible for any Indian in the Provincial service to become a Conservator of Forests. I ask the hon. the Home Member to give me any instance in which a person promoted from the Provincial service to the Imperial service has ever become a Conservator of Forests by seniority. So far as Indianisation is concerned, as a matter of mere justice to the large number of Indians who have put in long service after great training and who have been toiling in the Government service one Conservator's post should be reserved for them. I do not suppose that the hon. the Home Member will raise the question of unfitness. It is too late in the day to bring in that question now. We must see that the next man who gets the post is not unfit. I do not care whether he is 'A', 'B', 'C' or 'X', 'Y', 'Z'. Some senior man in the Provincial service should be promoted to the Imperial service, and he must be fit to be given the place of Conservator. That can be done only by listing the appointment. I appeal to the hon. the Home Member to take a more reasonable, more just and, shall I say, a more charitable view so far as these subordinates are concerned. We have heard from both sides of this House that there is discontent among these officers and I suggest now that this discontent is not likely to be reduced by such treatment as is now meted out to them. These officers are very reliable, honest and hard-working officers and I hope that in view both of the Muddiman and the Lee Commission reports, in view of what has been said

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over and over again in this Council and as a matter of mere justice, the next vacancies or one of the next vacancies will be given to an Indian promoted from the Provincial service."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, history has a way of repeating itself and if my hon. Friend will allow me to say so, I think in this matter, particularly in the matter of appointment of an Indian Conservator of Forests, he is rather apt to imitate history. I have before me the proceedings of the 14th September 1924 in which he traversed the same ground he has covered now. I had thought that the position with reference to Conservators' appointments had been made clear and that there was no question whatever of the Government desiring to keep Indians out of any promotion to which they were entitled either by seniority or by listing. If I remember right, it was pointed out in a similar debate by Sir Lionel Davidson that in the case of Forest department the difficulty that stood in the way of listing the appointment was this: we had two alternatives open to us, either to list, as is done in the case of Civil Service, in which case the members of the Provincial service would have listed posts set aside for them, or to take the other course of promoting the Provincial service officers to the Imperial service. We chose the second course and I believe our doing was popular in the department itself. The result was, as was explained, that once you take a man to the Imperial service you debar him from any chance of getting listed posts. It was also explained if a Conservator's post were listed, the gentlemen who were promoted from the Imperial to the Provincial service would feel very much aggrieved if we set apart a Conservator's place to which they could not aspire. There would also, as was then pointed out, be another difficulty: the men who were selected for promotion from the Provincial service were not necessarily the senior men and there were one or two men who were actually passed over. They remained in the Provincial service, and in spite of having been passed over they would be eligible for the Conservator's place for which the men who had passed over them would not be eligible."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" When they are about to retire?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" My recollection is that at the time of discussion in 1922 it was pointed out that there were still one or two men who had been passed over. You have the anomalous position that these men who have been specially selected by promotion would be debarred from getting a post which they might have held if they had not been promoted. The position of the remaining men in the Provincial service would have been equally anomalous if they were eligible to be made Conservators, while their seniors who had gone on to the Imperial service were debarred. I remember that I explained to my hon. Friend in 1922 that if he asked me to retrace our steps and to restore the promoted men to the Provincial service and then list a Conservator's appointment, I was quite prepared to do it. The objection I raised—and I may repeat it to my hon. Friend—is not merely a paper objection but is a real one. I do not see myself how you can list a post for those who have been in the Imperial service."

"Then my hon. Friend referred to the Provincial service officers and said that they were always barred by seniority and none of them had any chance of ever becoming Conservators."

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(At this stage Rui Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu, one of the panel of chairmen, occupied the chair.)

"Sir Lionel Davidson in 1921, while discussing this matter, pointed out that on the list there were men who were not very far off becoming Conservators and who had every prospect of becoming Conservators before they retired. My hon. Friend argues that they would never reach that position until on the eve of retirement. What, Sir, is the position at the present moment? Among the Deputy and Assistant Conservators, Nos. 1-6 are already acting as Conservators. No. 7 is an Imperial service officer, an Indian and after him comes No. 8 who is a Provincial service officer."

"No. 8 who is probably the gentleman that my hon. Friend has in mind has now only one officer between him and the junior Conservator. That is to say, the anticipations of Sir Lionel Davidson have been completely realized. He is aged 45 and if in the ordinary course vacancies occur and if he is judged efficient, he will have something like ten years before him as a Conservator. That is a longer period than most of our present officers have had. The present Chief Conservator, I think, did not attain the rank of Conservator until his 47th year. On that point, therefore, my hon. Friend's complaint is not really so serious as he believes."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Are they Provincial service officers? I think Mr. Madan is an Imperial service man."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Yes; Mr. Madan is an Imperial service officer. Next to him comes the senior officer who has been promoted from the Provincial service. Out of the next six aspirants who will become entitled to consideration for promotion to Conservator's place, four are Provincial service officers."

"Then, on the general question of unnecessary establishment, I would like to enlighten my hon. Friend on two points. I understand the hon. Member to say that there were Extra Assistant Conservators who had no work."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I meant the supernumerary Extra Assistant Conservators."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Yes, supernumeraries who have no work to do. As a matter of fact, they have plenty of work. They are all employed; three of them in connexion with exploitation. It has already been explained to the House that the existence of these officers is due to the fact that a good many men were sent for training to Dehra Dun at a time when we were expecting large expansions in the Forest department. You cannot find your forest officers ready made and we are obliged to train people beforehand. But now we have ceased recruiting, I think, for the last three years. We have not recruited any one for the Provincial Service and we have cut down our recruitment for the Imperial to a very low figure. We have plenty of useful work for these men mainly in connexion with the work that is being done by the Chief Forest Engineer. As regards Rangers, the case has been explained to the House more than once and I feel sure that the House would sympathise with these supernumerary rangers if they really understood their position."

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* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I am afraid, Sir, that my position is misunderstood. I never wanted these men to be sent out. I was only complaining that, in addition to these supernumerary people, two new people are recruited in England this year."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" As Extra Assistant Conservators ? "

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" No, Sir, as Deputy and Assistant Conservators. "

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am coming to that, Sir. My hon. Friend referred to the supernumerary Extra Assistant Conservators and the supernumerary rangers. In regard to the ranger establishment, the explanation of what I admit to be a curious phenomenon appearing in our budget year after year is that in 1917-18 we reorganized the rangers' cadre. We abolished the deputy rangers. The question was what to do with those who had entered as deputy rangers with the prospect of rising to the ranger's position. Under the new organization they could not do so unless they went through the Forest College. They were put down to the place of foresters with the undertaking that those who were fit educationally should go for training in the Forest College so that ultimately they might become rangers. In accordance with our promise we have been putting them through the Forest College. We have put them through at a faster rate than the actual vacancies in the rangers' cadre allowed. Some one has referred to the question of discontent in the service and I think these foresters had begun to be a little discontented because having started with the prospect of becoming rangers they had to continue as foresters. What I would like to do myself if it were possible would be to send them all to the College and get them trained. We should then have a freer hand. In the meantime we are carrying on with the system which was thought best at the time of taking four of these men at a time to the College and afterwards keeping them as supernumerary until vacancies occur in the cadre. We are not recruiting rangers now from outside. All the rangers that are now are men promoted from deputy rangers. We put the men as supernumerary rangers instead of keeping them as foresters. It is really doing them the justice which the House would like to render them."

" Then comes the question of the apparent increase in the number of Imperial service officers--non-voted. I do not think it is in any way surprising that my hon. Friend has sought an explanation of it. The fact is that it does not represent any increase at all. What it means is . . . "

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Is it not a fact that two people are to be recruited in England this year ? "

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" There are some men to be recruited. But these two men do not represent them. They represent officers on the Madras list who have been away. One of them represents an officer in Coorg who has now come back. He has raised the total from 27 to 28. And the other represents an Indian whom we have recently taken direct. He is an Indian who went to England, passed through the expensive forest course and got himself fully qualified. He applied to the Secretary of State for appointment in the Imperial Service and was told to apply to us. It seemed to us quite good policy that when we had a

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qualified man on the spot we should take him and avoid the expense of training a man in England. Accordingly we took him on and I think the House will probably agree that in the circumstances we did the right thing. My hon. Friend has suggested the total stoppage of recruitment. I may tell him that it is very unsafe to stop recruiting altogether in any department. All the advantage lies in keeping your recruitment—small it may be—as regular as you can. So far as we are concerned we have kept our demands for recruitment down to a very small figure, and we had only two this year.

" I do not think that there was any other particular point that my hon. Friend raised to which I need reply. After the explanation given particularly in regard to the Conservators, I hope that the hon. Mover will not press this motion."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I just wish to say a few words by way of reply, Sir. I wanted that the supernumerary rangers should be promoted as extra assistant conservators at the earliest opportunity."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I perhaps say that the question of policy has been considered ? The Forest College, Coimbatore, gives an excellent training for rangers. We do not consider that can give an adequate scientific training for an officer who is some day to get to the top of the department. We are considering some move in the direction, of using the rangers to fill leave vacancies, but a definite policy of promoting rangers to the post of Assistant Conservators we are not prepared to adopt."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" The difficulty is more imaginary than real. If these people are given training in Dehra Dun, they will surely be fit for the place. All that we want is that room must be found for senior rangers in the department higher above."

" The hon. Member said that they had got enough work. I may in reply point out that work could be found for any number of idle hands. We can find work for them. But the fact is that the Government themselves have recognized that a particular number of rangers is sufficient, and any one over and above that number is supernumerary. The sooner they are found legitimate work the better. The same thing applies to the supernumerary extra assistant conservators. I am surprised that the hon. the Home Member should say that the mere fact that an Indian has been recruited in England would satisfy all of us. We do not want recruitment in England, European or Indian. It adds to the various difficulties we are faced with. I do not know personally the gentleman who has been newly taken. I do not want any Indian to go all the way to England, get the backdoor influence of the Secretary of State and use it in getting an appointment here. We have heard of so many things in so many departments. When men should be appointed in England, appoint them subject to the rules prescribed for recruitment in England. The fact that one person went to England, got trained at his own cost would not in any way appeal to us. We are still of opinion that it seems to be a very great mistake that the appointment should be so made. And I find that two more are to be recruited this year. That will be an addition to the 29 already existing. With the prospect of the Lee Commission Report being given effect to as a result of which there should be no recruitment in England for some years, it is not fair to rush

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on with new recruitment in England as they did in 1919. So far as the Conservators are concerned, I do not carry the ages of the officers in my mind. But I believe that all these people are people recently appointed and I do not know whether there is any one junior to those two or three gentlemen whose names have been read out. My impression is, I speak subject to correction, that one of them probably junior to Mr. Venkataramana Ayyar or to Mr. Littlewood has been promoted."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I may inform my hon. Friend that that is not the case."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Not even to an acting appointment, Sir? I know it will take time for my hon. Friend to tell me whether it is a fact."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I do not know if there has been promotion in some short local vacancy ; there has been no regular appointment."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Possibly so, Sir. I think Mr. Littlewood is a little old. All that I wish to say is that if you take the age of the people above Mr. Venkatarama Ayyar or Mr. Littlewood, they are younger than they. There is therefore very little chance of their retirement or vacating the office unless they choose to go on proportionate pension. About listing one appointment, the difficulty felt is again mostly imaginary and nothing more. I have been suggesting to the Government one easy solution which, I am sure, they will never accept. That is, to list only one appointment not necessarily to those in the Provincial Service but to people who have served in the Provincial Service. If that is done, the whole difficulty vanishes and such of those who have come into Imperial from Provincial will have a chance."

"Let the other five appointments if necessary, go to those who have been recruited in England, and let one appointment at least out of the six be listed for those officers who are considered to belong to the Provincial Forest Service, because the rules are so manipulated or created as not to enable them to get this post. So, the whole difficulty will be solved in a way if one appointment is listed for those who have served in the Provincial Service ranks, which will include people who are seniors and people who did meritorious service. So in this way all these imaginary difficulties will vanish if my suggestion is accepted. I do not suggest that they should be pushed back into the Provincial Service. I do not think there will be any difficulty if sufficiently capable men are forthcoming. If you list one appointment to be reserved to those people who are either in the Provincial Service to-day or promoted thereto, that is to say, people recruited in India, there is no difficulty. Even with regard to Mr. Venkatarama Ayyar I thought that he was old or was going to retire very soon apart from the question of age. Anyhow, it may be one case after all. If you take the age of people into consideration, then they will have very little chance of getting up. Therefore it will be very highly necessary that you should have one post at least reserved for these people. Again I may say that 16 per cent is absolutely nothing in regard to the Forest Department. Therefore, unless the Government is going to make a promise of the kind I have already indicated, I desire to press my motion."

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* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"May I just get one point cleared up, Sir? May I ask the hon. Member if I am right in taking it from him that if one post is to be listed for officers recruited in India, the other five posts may be reserved for officers to be recruited in England?"

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I did not say that. That is only incorporating into my speech what I did not say. I said it might be done if necessary."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid my recollection of what the hon. Member said differs from what he now says. I thought he agreed that the other five might be reserved for men recruited in England."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I never said that. All that I said and now say is that one post may be listed for the Provincial Service people. As for other people getting other posts, unless the rules are changed, I do not think there is any chance of that."

The hon. the CHAIRMAN (Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhachari) :—"Is the hon. Member going to press his motion?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Yes, Sir."

The hon. the CHAIRMAN :—"Is any other hon. Member going to speak on this motion?"

VOICES :—"Yes."

The hon. the CHAIRMAN :—"Then, the House shall adjourn and meet again at 11 a.m. to-morrow."

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 475 asked by Mr. A. Chidambaram Nadar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 18th March 1925, page 170 supra.]

Rules of the Palni Hills Game Association.

The name of the Association shall be "The Palni Hills Game Association".

2. The object of the Association shall be the preservation of the game and fish in the Palni Hills and adjoining areas and the introduction and preservation of other game birds, animals and fish.

3. Every person holding a licence granted by the Collector to shoot and fish shall be a member of the Association for the period for which the licence is issued.

4. The management of the affairs of the Association and the control of its funds shall vest in a Committee consisting of a President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary and four Members of the Association.

5. The Collector of Madura for the time being shall be ex officio a Member and the President of the Association and the Chairman of its Committee.

6. The District Forest Officer of Madura for the time being shall be ex officio a Member and Honorary Secretary of the Association.

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7. The Members of the Committee shall be annually elected by the Members of the Association at a General Meeting of the Association, to be held, if possible, during the months of May or June.

"No voting by proxy shall be admissible at any Committee or General Meeting."

8. The Committee may elect as Honorary Members of the Association gentlemen who are interested in sport whether they hold licences to shoot or not. Gentlemen so elected shall continue as Members only till the end of the current year.

9. Vacancies occurring in the Committee between General Meetings may be filled by the Committee from Members of the Association.

10. Three Members of the Committee shall form a quorum and the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

11. In the absence of the President and Vice-President from any meeting of the Committee the Members present shall choose their own Chairman for that meeting.

12. The decisions of the Committee shall not be modified or set aside except by a resolution duly passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present and voting at a Special Meeting of the Association called and held in accordance with rules 13 and 16.

13. A Special Meeting of the Association shall be held at any time of the year on the application, in writing, to the Honorary Secretary or five Members of the Association. Such application shall specify the subject to be discussed at the Special Meeting.

14. Before vacating office the Committee shall publish a statement of receipts and expenditure for the year ending on the previous 31st March and a report of the Proceedings of the same period.

15. An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held, on a date to be fixed by the President, and if possible during the months of May or June, at which the Committee shall present its Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and the Members shall elect a Committee for the ensuing year.

At this meeting any subjects connected with the Association and its management may be discussed and resolutions passed thereon without previous notice, except as modified by rule 16 infra.

16. No existing rule of the Association shall be modified or a new rule established except in accordance with a resolution passed by a majority of two-thirds of the Members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting and unless a copy of the proposed resolution shall have been sent to Members of the Association fourteen days before the date fixed for that meeting.

17. The Honorary Secretary shall give Members 14 days' notice of all Special and General Meetings and in the case referred to in rules 13 and 16 such notice shall state the subject to be discussed at the meetings. At such meetings seven members shall form a quorum. In the absence of the President and Vice-President the Members present shall elect their own Chairman. The Chairman shall have a casting vote.

18. Resolutions passed at a Special or General Meeting shall not be modified or set aside within six months of the date on which they were passed.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 476 asked by Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 18th March 1925, page 172 supra.]

District.	Rate per cartload.			
	RS.	A.	P.	
Kurnool ...	2	0	0	The rates vary according to local conditions and requirements.
Bellary ...	2	0	0	
Anantapur ...	2	0	0	
Nellore ...	2	0	0	
South Arcot ...	2	0	0	
Salem ...	2	0	0	
Tinnevely ...	3	0	0	
Coimbatore ...	3	0	0	
Chingleput ...	1	8	0	
Cuddapah ...	1	0	0	
Chittoor ...	1	0	0	

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 496 asked by Mr. P. Siva Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 18th March 1925, page 190 supra.]

Copy of letter L. Dis. C. No. 7315/24-A-3, dated the 13th January 1925, from the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Clause V.—Final dates for presenting water applications were fixed in 1922—

Sugarcane ...	31st January.
Paddy second crop ...	30th November.

Clause VI.—As the channels are under the control of the Public Works Department, the water applications are disposed of by the Public Works Department authorities. The Subdivisional Officer, Hospet, says that there was some delay in disposing of water applications at the beginning, but after the dates for the presentation of water applications were fixed and after the entertainment of a temporary clerk in 1923, the work was regulated and there was no delay in the disposal of applications except in a very few cases which had to be returned to parties for incomplete information.

Clause VII.—The amounts collected by way of penalty in Hospet and old Siruguppa taluks are noted below :—

Fasli.	Hospet.	Old Siruguppa taluk (present Bellary taluk).
	RS.	RS.
1331 ...	...	...
1332 ...	5,091	2,767
1333 ...	7,495	5,243

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APPENDIX IV.
[Vide answer to question No. 505 asked by Rao Sahib U. Kama Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 18th March 1925, page 195 supra.]

Statement.

1st January to 30th June 1924.										1st July to 31st December 1924.								
Number of operations.		25	64-29.	63	29	9	219	Number of operations.		2	85	75	4	39	10	215		
Wards.			S-1	S-2	H.S.	R.M. O.		Wards.			S-1	S-2	S-3	H.S.	R.M. O.			
Name of officer in charge.								Name of officer in charge.										
List of operations.								List of operations.										
Operation on nose Tumours .. Tonsils .. Amputations .. Hernia .. Abdominal operation .. Rectal .. Male generative organs .. On bones .. On joints .. Empyema thorax .. Cancers .. Abscess liver .. Lymph glands .. Mastoid .. On skull .. Plastic operation .. Totals ..	Major W. C. Gray, Superintendent, six months.	Dr. S. M. Trasi, first four months.	Major W. C. Gray, May and June.	Dr. S. P. Sarma, six months.	Dr. C. R. Krishna-swami, six months.	Dr. E. A. Stevenage, six months.	Total.	Operation on nose Tumours .. Tonsils .. Amputations .. Hernia .. Abdominal operation .. Rectal .. Male generative organs .. On bones .. On joints .. Empyema thorax .. Cancers .. Abscess liver .. Lymph glands .. Mastoid .. On skull .. Plastic operation .. Totals ..	Dr. P. F. Mathias, Superintendent.	Dr. S. M. Trasi, six months.	Dr. S. P. Sarma, six months.	Dr. Md. Abdul Khabig, six months.	Dr. C. R. Krishna-swami, six months.	Dr. E. A. Stevenage, six months.	Total.			
	.. 1	.. 6	.. 2	.. 1	.. 7	.. 1	1		.. 1	.. 4	.. 2	.. 1	.. 5	.. 2	.. 1	.. 6		
	.. 3	.. 11	.. 4	.. 13	.. 1	.. 4	6		.. 3	.. 2	.. 1	.. 15	.. 5	.. 5	.. 4	12		
	.. 7	.. 10	.. 6	.. 7	.. 2	.. 3	36		.. 1	.. 14	.. 10	.. 12	.. 1	.. 4	.. 4	39		
	.. 9	.. 8	.. 4	.. 16	.. 4	.. 1	41		.. 1	.. 22	.. 12	.. 9	.. 1	.. 5	.. 4	27		
	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 2	.. 1	.. 1	16		.. 1	.. 8	.. 2	.. 20	.. 6	.. 1	.. 4	28		
	.. 2	.. 6	.. 2	.. 2	.. 2	.. 1	3		.. 2	.. 2	.. 2	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	12		
	.. 3	.. 2	.. 2	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	3		.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 7	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	10		
	.. 3	.. 2	.. 2	.. 2	.. 3	.. 1	9		.. 3	.. 3	.. 2	.. 2	.. 1	.. 2	.. 1	3		
	.. 3	.. 3	.. 2	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	6		.. 5	.. 4	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	8		
	.. 3	.. 3	.. 2	.. 2	.. 1	.. 1	5		.. 5	.. 4	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	1		
	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	1		1	.. 4	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	.. 1	2		
	.. 25	.. 64	.. 29	.. 63	.. 29	.. 9	219		Totals ..	.. 2	.. 85	.. 75	.. 4	.. 39	.. 10	.. 215		

APPENDIX V.

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[Vide answer to question No. 508 asked by Mr. P. Siva Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 18th March 1925, page 197 supra.]

G.O. No. 866-A, P.H., dated 17th June 1922.

In passing orders on the memorials submitted by certain medical students in February 1921, the Government undertook to examine in detail the question whether the system of stipending students in medical schools should continue and, if so, whether it should be restricted to particular classes or communities. The Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government also in his speech in the Legislative Council on the 26th March 1921 promised to give the question his careful consideration.

2. Owing to the cessation of the war and the recent improvement in the pay and prospects of sub-assistant surgeons, the Government do not anticipate any difficulty in securing an adequate number of students for the medical schools in this Presidency. They are also informed that for the next few years there will be more sub-assistant surgeons available for service than can be actually employed. In view of these circumstances the Government have decided to restrict the grant of stipends to women students and to students from the backward and depressed classes with effect from 1st July 1922.

3. Five stipends tenable for four years will be granted this year to pupils of the depressed classes who will be guaranteed an appointment in the Civil Medical Department if they qualify. The Surgeon-General is requested to notify this decision and invite applications for the stipends.

4. The present stipendiaries will however continue to draw their stipends subject to the existing rules governing them.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Local Self-Government)

F. J. RICHARDS,
Secretary to Government.

To the Surgeon-General.
" Accountant-General.
" Finance Department.

[18th March 1925]

APPENDIX VI.

[Vide item III. Communications to the Council on page 204 supra.]

G.O. No. 222, Development, dated 11th February 1925.

READ—the following papers :—

I

Reference from H. TIREMAN, Esq., Acting Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Development Department (through the Accountant-General), dated the 7th October 1924, No. 6058/24-2.

I forward herewith a copy of Messrs. Fraser & Ross' report and accounts relating to the Russellkonda Saw Mill for the quarter ending 30th June 1924 with the following remarks.

2. *Paragraph 4 of the report—Sundry debtors.*—The reasons for the bad and doubtful debts were reported to Government in my letter No. 2924/24-5, dated 23rd July 1924, recorded in G.O. No. 1400, Development, dated 7th August 1924.

3. *Paragraph 5—Cash with the treasury.*—I request that orders may be passed on the proposals to allow the mill to open an account with the local branch of the Imperial Bank of India.

4. *Paragraph 7—District Forest Officer.*—The Accountant-General has since instructed the District Forest Officer, Ganjam, that the sum of Rs. 43,314 should be adjusted in his accounts as forest revenue under the head "Timber and forest produce removed by Government agency."

5. *Paragraph 8.*—The proposal to close the mill temporarily was approved by me and the fact was reported to Government—vide my letter Routine No. 193/24, dated 28th April 1924, recorded in G.O. Mis. No. 1208, dated 2nd July 1924.

6. The quarter was a bad one, but as the mill was out of action for 45 days it could not be expected to show much profit. Messrs. Parry & Co. inform me that the timber trade in Calcutta is suffering at present from a very serious depression. This is most unfortunate as the agents look to Calcutta as one of their chief markets.

ENCLOSURES

RUSSELLKONDA SAW MILLS.

Report on the Balance Sheet as at 30th June 1924, and on the Profit and Loss Account for the quarter ending that date.

1. *Fixed capital expenditure.*—The original cost of assets under this head is the same as at 31st March 1924, no additions during the quarter having been made.

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2. *Machinery spare parts, stores and tools in stock* have been valued at cost. Tools in use are depreciated and we believe them to be stated at fair values.

3. *Stock.*—The value of cut timber at the mills is stated to be Rs. 1-10-0 per cubic foot. The cost of conversion during the quarter was Rupees 1-7-11-342 per cubic foot, but we are advised that the quantity of stock on hand as at 30th June 1924 consisted mainly of stocks on hand as at 31st December 1923.

The Agent of the Russellkonda Saw Mills argues that he should be allowed to value his quarterly stocks at a fixed rate of Rs. 1-10-0 per cubic foot, to be subject to adjustment on the average conversion cost for the year on completion of the accounts for the year ending 31st March 1925. In view of the fact that the average sale-proceeds exceed Rs. 3 per cubic foot, we agree that he may be allowed to adopt the fixed stock rate of Rs. 1-10-0 per cubic foot for the purpose of intermediate accounts.

Stocks at Berhampur and Calcutta are valued on the same basis, allowance being made for the cost of cartage and railage to those depots.

4. *Sundry debtors.*—The sum of Rs. 3,954-7-5 still remains doubtful. We are advised that the managing agents are endeavouring to realize these outstandings. No recoveries in respect of outstandings shown as doubtful as at 31st March 1924 have been made.

5. *Cash with the treasury.*—We pointed out in our report, dated the 26th June 1924, that it is very inconvenient to have to deal with the treasury. We again urge that an account should be opened with the local branch of the Imperial Bank of India. We suggest that the treasury be authorized to furnish certificates of the balance as on the last day of each month for, as no pass book is issued, it is not possible to check actual entries into the treasury accounts.

6. *Capital.*—During the quarter Rs. 23,000 has been repaid to Government out of the original working advance of Rs. 40,000. Capital account is still further reduced by the debit balance on profit and loss account. No acknowledgment of receipt of this amount has been shown to us.

7. *District Forest Officer.*—Against timber supplies a sum of Rs. 43,314 has been paid. No receipt for the amount has been seen.

8. *Production costs.*—The production costs work out at Rs. 1-7-11 342 per cubic foot as against Rs. 15-5-424 for the previous quarter and Rupees 1-6-0-459 for the previous year. The loss on conversion from log to sawn timber was 58-3 per cent as against 55-87 per cent for the previous quarter. The mill was not working for a period of 45 days during the quarter, though the whole establishment was engaged on the complete overhaul of machinery and on the turning over and re-stacking of timber stocks, work which cannot be carried out while the mill is working.

9. *Depreciation and interest on capital* have been charged at the rates adopted for the year ending 31st March 1924.

10. *Profit and loss account—General.*—The loss on the working for the quarter was Rs. 2,075-12-5.

The loss for the year ending 31st March 1923, Rs. 6,216-0-9, was refunded by Government during the period.

RUSSELLKONDA SAW MILLS.

Balance sheet as at 30th June 1924.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

PROPERTY AND ASSETS.

	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Capital—									
Government of Madras									
—Forest Department—									
Balance as per balance sheet as at 31st March 1924.	..			4,64,041	12	4			
Less Repayment towards Mill Working Finance.	..			23,000	0	0			
Less Profit and Loss Account—				4,41,041	12	4			
Loss as per balance sheet as at 31st March 1924.	65,411	4	7						
Loss for the quarter ending 30th June 1924.	2,075	12	5						
Less Amount received from Government being refund of loss for 1922-23—vide G.O. No. 1035, Press, dated 28th May 1924.	67,487	1	0						
	6,216	0	9	61,271	0	3			
Reserve for expenses credited to Government—							3,79,770	12	1
Audit fee	..			2,388	13	3			
Interest on capital ..	..			57,207	0	7			
							60,595	13	10

	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Fixed capital expenditure—									
Buildings—									
At cost as per balance sheet as at 31st March 1924.	..			1,34,142	5	2			
Less Depreciation to date.	..			7,514	4	9			
							1,26,628	0	5
Machinery—									
At cost as per balance sheet as at 31st March 1924.	..			2,42,672	8	10			
Less Depreciation to date.	..			28,942	13	3			
							2,13,729	11	7
Tram line—									
At cost as per balance sheet as at 31st March 1924.	..			4,000	0	0			
Less Depreciation to date.	..			400	0	0			
Furniture—									
At cost as per balance sheet as at 31st March 1924.	..			6,138	11	3			
Less Depreciation to date.	..			673	13	6			
							5,464	13	9
							3,49,422	9	9

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District Forest Officer, Ganjam—									
For logs as per balance sheet as at 31st March 1924.	..			71,389	8	0			
For 16,266 cubic feet logs at Rs. 4 per cubic foot.	..			4,066	8	0			
Less Payment made on 25th June 1924.	..			75,456	0	0			
				43,314	0	0			
							32,142	0	0
Reserve for bad and doubtful debts.	..			..			3,954	7	5
Liabilities—									
For expenses	..			1,390	6	3			
For other finance ..	..			1,647	5	1			
							3,037	11	4
Total ..							4,79,500	12	8

Motor and other conveyances—									
At cost less depreciation.	..			..			17,590	12	0
Stores and spare gear—									
Machinery spare parts.	..			4,982	11	8			
Tools and stores in stock.	..			6,994	2	8			
Tools in use	..			411	13	0			
							12,388	11	4
Stock—									
27,808-68 cubic feet cut timber.	..			49,588	8	1			
641 cubic feet logs ..	160	4	0						
Transport charges to mill.	6	10	10				166	14	10
							49,755	6	11
Sundry debtors—									
Due for timber sold considered good.	..			23,690	11	10			
Due for timber sold considered doubtful.	..			3,954	7	5			
							27,645	3	3
Deposits and advances.	..			..			311	8	0
Cash and other balances—									
Cash with treasury ..	..			22,129	2	10			
On hand	..			257	6	7			
							22,386	9	5
Total ..							4,79,500	12	8

[18th March 1925]

We report that we have examined and audited the balance sheet of the Russellkonda Saw Mills as at 30th June 1924, and above set forth and that we have received all the information and explanations we have required; we certify that, in our opinion, such balance sheet exhibits a true and correct view of the state of the affairs of the mills as at that date according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the mills.

MADRAS,
9th September 1924.

FRASER AND ROSS,
Chartered Accountants, Commercial Accountants and
Auditors to Government.

Profit and Loss account for the quarter ending 30th June 1924.

	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
To Stock—			
36,722·11 c.ft. timber.	..	..	66,456 5 4
„ Purchases—			
16,266 c.ft. logs at	4,066 8 0	..	
4 As. per c.ft.			
660 c.ft. logs,	165 0 0	..	
stock on 31st			
March 1924..			
16,926 c.ft.		4,231 8 0	
Less 641 c.ft. logs	..	160 4 0	
uncut in			
stock			
16,285 c.ft. logs	..	4,071 4 0	
worked.			
„ Cart-hire on logs ..	..	169 10 2	
„ Machinery running	..		
costs ..	..	1,328 15 4	
„ General Stores ..	..	213 15 6	
„ Mill establishment ..	..	4,250 14 6	
„ Boiler fuel ..	..	129 0 0	
Cost of sawn timber,			10,163 11 6
6,791·33 c.ft. at			
Rs. 1-7-11·342 per			
c.ft.			
Loss on conversion			
9,493·67 c.ft.			
16,285 c.ft.			

	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
By sales—		
Rejections and firewood ..	963 9 0	
15,704·76 c.ft. timber at Rs. 3-2-1·727	49,218 10 1	
per c.ft.		
		50,182 3 1
„ Stock—		
19,371·80 c.ft. timber at the mills at	31,479 2 9	
Rs. 1-10-0 per c.ft.		
6,789·45 c.ft. timber at Berhampore	13,578 14 5	
at Rs. 2 per c.ft.		
1,647·43 c.ft. timber at Calcutta at	4,530 6 11	
Rs. 2-12-0 per c.ft.		
27,808·68 c.ft.		49,588 8 1
„ Net loss for the quarter	..	2,075 12 5

1,01,846 7 7

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„ Cart-hire and loading	..	..	215 9 0
charges.			
„ Cart hire, Berhampore	..	..	2,871 7 3
Charges, Calcutta.	..	..	851 13 6
„ Berhampore Depot	..	..	1,053 7 6
expenses.			
„ Managing Agent's	..	..	1,050 0 0
fees.			
„ Office establishment.	..	..	3,416 5 1
Stationery and ad-	..	..	165 1 10
vertising.			
„ Postage and tele-	..	..	102 2 4
grams.			
„ Travelling expenses.	..	..	261 12 6
General expenses ..	..	..	23 13 0
„ Commission on sales.	..	..	2,282 10 7
Repairs to buildings.	..	..	43 9 7
„ Motor-car expenses.	..	..	162 15 7
„ Depreciations on—			
Buildings ..	..	888 6 3	
Machinery ..	..	3,215 13 9	
Furniture ..	..	76 11 6	
Motor, etc. ..	..	1,038 3 6	
Tram line ..	..	200 0 0	
			5,369 3 0
„ Interest on capital..	..	..	6,905 8 0
„ Audit fees and	..	..	450 0 0
expenses reserved.			
			1,01,846 7 7

[18th March 1925]

II

Endorsement of the Accountant-General No. H. A. Comml. 12-410, dated Fort St. George, the 20th/21st October 1924.

Forwarded.

2. Further expenditure of Rs. 876-11-3 was incurred in the quarter on the construction of the well referred to in paragraph 3 of letter No. H. A. Comml. 12-357, dated 18th September 1924: this amount with the usual 15 per cent for departmental supervision must be added to Government Capital Account and the value of the assets correspondingly increased in the balance sheet. As it was reported that the mill agent was not generally aware of the details of such expenditure incurred on his behalf by the Forest department, I have since arranged that the District Forest officer should furnish him monthly with full particulars of such items (vide this office letter No. H. A. Comml. 12-380, dated 3rd October 1924, copy enclosed).

3. I have no objection to the method of valuation of the stock of sawn timber proposed by the Auditors in respect of the intermediate quarterly accounts subject to later adjustment on the basis of the average annual conversion cost.

* * * * *

5. I enclose for the information of Government a copy of reference made to the Treasury officer, Ganjām, regarding the inconvenience, if any, felt in crediting cheques at the Berhampur sub-treasury, and of his reply. It has been already agreed that Government commercial concerns should not be allowed to open a private account with the bank and copies of this office letter No. H. A. Comml. Genl.-1-386, dated 10th October 1924, giving detailed instructions for the maintenance of treasury pass books, have been communicated to the mill agent, the local Treasury officer and the Auditors.

6. Depreciation will have to be charged on the timber and lorry sheds referred to in paragraph 3 of this office letter No. H. A. Comml. 12-357, dated 18th September 1924, which have not yet been included as assets in the balance sheet.

7. The rate of interest to be charged in 1924-25 has to be fixed by Government and amount debited to profit and loss on this account will require correction with reference to the orders passed by Government on the basis of the charge, and the additions to Government Capital Account referred to in paragraphs 7 and 3 of the above letter.

J. F. MITCHELL,
Accountant-General.

To the Secretary to Government, Development Department.

[18th March 1925]

ENCLOSURES

(i)

Copy of letter No. H.A. Comml. 12-380, dated 3rd October 1924.

I have the honour to state that it has been brought to notice that the undermentioned items of fixed capital expenditure debited to the head 'Investments in Government commercial undertakings' in 1923-24 were not communicated by you to the mill agent, Russellkonda, for making a note in his books. I would request you therefore, to keep the agent fully informed of the outlay on works executed by you, on behalf of the mill in future. The figures under 'Investments,' etc., in your accounts must be advised to the agent monthly with full details therefor and a copy of your intimation sent simultaneously to this office.

Expenditure in 1923-24.

	RS.	A.	P.	
Timber shed at Berhampur..	2,759	6	5	} plus 15 per cent for departmental supervision.
Shed for lorry and trailer ..	1,203	13	5	
Sinking a well (in progress) ..	719	1	4	

(ii)

Copy of reference No. H.A. Comml. 12-361, dated 20th September 1924, to the Treasury Officer, Ganjām.

I have the honour to inform you that Messrs. Fraser & Ross, Commercial Accountants and Auditors to the Government of Madras, have remarked in their audit of the accounts of the Russellkonda Saw Mill that the proceeds of the sales are paid principally by cheques: such cheques must be cashed through a local bank, which operation takes time and then the proceeds must be deposited in the Treasury. A good deal of entirely unnecessary annoyance is occasioned to the Agent at the Saw Mills by such a procedure.

2. The sub-treasury business at Berhampur is conducted by a branch of the Imperial Bank of India and the procedure for credit to Government account of cheques in payment of dues prescribed in Article 6 of the Civil Account Code, Volume I, does not appear to be a source of any inconvenience. I will, therefore, request you to be good enough to ascertain and report at an early date what exactly is the procedure followed in crediting cheques to the Personal Deposit account of the Mill at Berhampur and what difficulties, if any, are experienced in working the rule in Article 6 of the Civil Account Code, Volume I, in this case.

3. A copy of this letter is being sent to the Agent of the Imperial Bank of India at Berhampur, and Messrs. Parry's Agent at Russellkonda.

(iii)

Copy of reply No. R.O. 1197-D-11-23, from the Treasury Officer, Ganjām.

With reference to your foot-note R. C. No. 1197-D-11-23, dated 28th September 1924, I beg to state that such cheques are endorsed in the name of the sub-treasury officer, by the Agent, Saw Mills. They are cashed by the

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sub-treasury officer. The cheque and a chalan in triplicate crediting the amount in the Imperial Bank are sent to the Bank after making an entry in the Personal Deposit Register. This procedure does not appear to cause any inconvenience. There is no objection to follow the procedure laid down in Article 6 of the Volume I of the Civil Account Code.

Copy to the Accountant-General with reference to his letter, dated 20th September 1924. The procedure laid down in Article 6, Civil Account Code, Volume I, is quite suitable and will be followed.

III

Letter from the Accountant-General, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Development Department, dated Fort St George, the 8th December 1924, No. H. A. Comml. 12-461.

[Russellkonda Saw Mill.]

* * * * *

2. It may also be stated whether any decision has been arrived at as to the revised rate to be charged for timber supplied to the mill for sawing, in view of the fact that the present rate of 4 annas per cubic foot is considerably below the actual cost of exploitation which averaged over 11 annas per cubic foot (vide paragraph 56 of the audit report for 1923-24).

3. The favour of an early reply is requested.

Order—No. 222, Development, dated 11th February 1925.

Recorded.

2. *Paragraph 2 of the Accountant-General's endorsement, dated 21st October 1924.*—Messrs. Fraser and Ross are requested to add to the capital account the further expenditure of Rs. 876-11-3 referred to by the Accountant-General together with 15 per cent thereon for departmental supervision if this has not already been done in the accounts for the quarter ending 30th September 1924 or 31st December 1924.

3. *Paragraph 3 of the Accountant-General's endorsement.*—The Government approve the proposal that the Agent of the mill should be allowed to value his quarterly stocks at a fixed rate of Rs. 1-10-0 per cubic foot subject to later adjustment on the basis of the average annual conversion cost.

4. *Paragraph 4 of the Accountant-General's endorsement.*—The Chief Conservator of Forests is requested to offer his remarks on the Accountant-General's suggestion that the commission payable to Messrs. Parry & Co. should be calculated on the sale price actually realized.

[18th March 1925]

5. *Paragraph 6 of the Accountant-General's endorsement.*—The attention of Messrs. Fraser and Ross is drawn to the Accountant-General's remarks in this paragraph.

6. *Paragraph 7 of the Accountant-General's endorsement.*—The question of the fixation of the rate of interest to be charged in 1924-25 is still under the consideration of Government. On the question of debit of interest on the Profit and Loss Account the Accountant-General's attention is invited to G.O. No. 1941, Development, dated 13th November 1924.

7. *Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Audit Report.*—The Chief Conservator is requested to issue instructions that whenever money is paid receipts should invariably be taken.

8. With reference to his letter No. H.A. Comml. 12-461, dated 8th December 1924, the Accountant-General is informed that no decision has been arrived at in regard to the revision of the rate to be charged for timber supplied to the Mill.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

G. T. H. BRACKEN,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Conservator of Forests.

„ the Accountant-General.

„ the Finance Department.

„ Messrs. Fraser & Ross.

„ the Auditor-General (with C.L.).

„ the Secretary to the Legislative Council for placing the Government Order on Council Table.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 19th March 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI AVARGAL, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Agency.

Proposal for reserving Bointi Forest of Makavaram mutta.

* 518 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) with reference to the Administration Report for 1923-24 of the Vizagapatam Agency whether the proposal for reserving Bointi Forest of Makavaram mutta in the Gudem taluk was made before the outbreak of the fituri;

(b) whether the said proposal is one of the causes of discontent among the hillmen;

(c) whether a similar proposal in 1892 synchronized with the outbreak of fituri led by Santa Bhupati; and

(d) whether any portions of reserve are disafforested in 1924-25?

A.—(a) The proposal to reserve the Bointi forest was made in 1916-17, i.e., before the outbreak of the fituri.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) No. The Bointi forest has not yet been notified as a reserve.

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Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" May I know the reasons why the question is still under consideration—I mean the question regarding the reservation of the Bointi forest which has been pending from 1916-17 until this date—and why there should be so much inordinate delay ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not agree that my hon. Friend is entitled to assume that there has been inordinate delay. The proposal was made in 1916-17, but it has not been carried out."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" My question was whether there was any proposal again before the outbreak of the fituri."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" No, Sir, not to my knowledge."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" The answer to clause (d) says that the forest has not yet been notified as a reserve. Am I to understand that the question is still pending consideration ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Not by Government, Sir."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" I am not able to understand what the hon. the Home Member means by saying 'not by Government'. But we always understand when a proposal is made by the subordinate officers of the Government, that that proposal is under the consideration of the Government"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid that he cannot expect the Government to be responsible for every proposal that may enter the minds of their subordinate officers. All that I say is that we have no final proposals of any kind before us that I am aware of. If it would satisfy my hon. Friend, I am prepared to leave out the word 'yet' in clause (d) of the answer."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" My question was raised on a fact mentioned in the Administration Report of the Agency for 1923-24. There it is stated that the question of the reservation of the Bointi forest is under consideration. Therefore I say that the Government may be supposed to have been informed as to the proposals when they made that reference in the Administration Report. That is why I ask whether the Government is cognisant of that fact."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" At present we ourselves have no intention of reserving that forest, and, as far as I can make out, the officers of the Agency have no such intention either."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" When the Government have made a specific reference in their Administration Report that the matter is under consideration, they may well say that they have come to a conclusion not to reserve the forest."

Forced labour among hillmen in Gudem taluk.

* 519 Q—Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) with reference to Mr. Happel's report regarding Rampa disturbances whether Mr. Happel stated, basing on his personal knowledge, that the hillmen did object to do any work at all ;

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(b) whether there is the practice of Government servants insisting upon the muttadars to give forced labour ;

(c) whether labour is being impressed for Government works ; and

(d) whether forced labour is not one of the causes of discontent among the hillmen in Gudem taluk and if so, what steps Government have taken to improve the system ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) One of the conditions on which many of the muttas are held is the supply of labour when required.

(d) The Government understand that in the circumstances of the tract the impressment of labour cannot be altogether avoided. Beyond ensuring that the impressment of labour is not resorted to more than is necessary and that it is duly paid, it does not appear that any action on the part of Government is called for.

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" May I know, Sir, the purposes for which Government consider that impressed labour is necessary in the Agency ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" It is necessary, Sir, for various public works, buildings, and roads."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Is it not a fact that in most cases the Agency people are impressed to carry the chairs of the officers, and even of the constables ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" As my hon. Friend reminds me, there is a provision in the agreement with the muttadars that men should be provided for carrying samans. As for carrying the chairs of constables, I am afraid I have no information."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to clause (b) of this question, the answer is that 'one of the conditions on which many of the muttas are held is the supply of labour when required'. But the question is 'whether there is the practice of Government servants insisting upon the muttadars to give forced labour.' I want to know if the answer is that one of the conditions is supply of forced labour, if required."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I take it, Sir, that the very words 'supply of labour' when applied to the muttadar, would mean 'impressment of labour'. So far as Government are concerned, they call upon the muttadar to provide it, and he accordingly provides the labour."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" And the Government is indifferent whether the labour is supplied by compulsion or by recruitment in the open market ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" We understand that we cannot avoid impressment, the reason being that there is no professional labouring class in the Agency. And the only possible way of getting labour is by continuing the system of impressment."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to clause (d), may I ask what are the circumstances of the tract that necessitate the impressment of labour ? The Government say that they 'understand that in the circumstances of the tract the impressment of labour cannot be altogether avoided.' I first of all

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want to know the basis of the Government's information. And secondly, I want to know what are the circumstances which make it impossible for the Government to avoid the impressment of labour."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"The basis, Sir, is the report of our local officers. The circumstances are those to which I have already referred, namely, the absence of any free labour market of professional labourers whose service can be obtained without impressment."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"With regard to this impressment, why should not Government impress labour directly instead of doing it through the muttadar?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I may say that question has been considered. We can well imagine what objections would be raised if an outsider were to come in and impress labour in the Agency: and we hold that the better course is the continuance of the present system under which the headman or the muttadar undertakes to provide labour for the Government, and, after so providing it, gets payment for it."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether he considers that the Government is civilised and impressment is uncivilised? So, will Government take steps to recruit this labour from outside the Agency, although it may cost a bit more?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid I do not agree with my hon. Friend that impressment is uncivilised? It has been in practice all over the world in recent years."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Is there impressed labour in England?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Yes, in England. If my hon. Friend would call to his mind the years of the war, he will recognize my point."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Is there war now in the Agency?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Not that I know of. I was only discussing the general question as to whether the impressment of labour is in all circumstances uncivilised."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"Are the Government aware of the fact that this forced labour is utilized by Government officials for their private purposes without payment?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"If it is used without payment and if my hon. Friend specifies the case of any officer who used labour in such a way, I shall enquire into the case."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"If it is a question of one officer, I could have brought it to the notice of the hon. the Home Member, but it is a general case."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"So far as the Government are concerned, the position is that we expect our officers to realize that though this labour is impressed, it must be paid for."

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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"But I should like to know what provision has been made to insist on the officers making payments when they utilize the services for their private purposes."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"The same provision which lays down that the officers should pay for work done for a public purpose holds good when they get work done in their private capacity."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA BAJU:—"Will Government circularise their subordinate servants and insist that the labour should be paid for, and ask the superior officers to see that this is observed and submit reports year after year?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I have no objection to call the attention of the officers of the Agency to this discussion."

Emigration.

Ships conveying emigrants from Madras, etc.

* 520 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) which are the various ships available for conveying emigrants from Madras and other parts in this Presidency;

(b) what is the age of each of these ships;

(c) the space available for each individual;

(d) the number that can be conveyed in each vessel;

(e) the number of kitchens and latrines in each;

(f) whether a complaint book is kept in each of these vessels for enabling passengers to record their needs and grievances;

(g) whether it is examined by any official of Government; and

(h) if not, what arrangements are made or contemplated for enabling passengers to bring to the notice of the authorities their complaints?

A.—(a) The ships are the British Indian Steam Navigation Company's "Teesta", "Tara", "Torilla", "Umfali", "Ellenga" and "Baroda" and the South Indian Railway Company's ferry steamers "Elgin", "Curzon" and "Hardinge".

(b) to (f) The Government have no information.

(g) & (h) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to section 4 (c) and (d) of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, and paragraph 2 of notification No. 413, published on page 724 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 17th July 1923.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"I want to know, when there are so many officers, the Protector of Emigrants and others, who are exercising supervision over these ships, why can they not give information required in my question, if they are asked for it."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member is requested to ask questions."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Therefore I ask the Government to call for the information and give it to us, instead of their saying 'The Government have no information'."

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The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid I cannot see any possible purpose that will be served, either for the hon. Member or myself or the public, by ascertaining the age of these ships and so on."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"It is an important point for us to consider. We want to know what sort of ships we have got and what accommodation there is in each. The hon. Member says that he does not understand what possible purpose will be served. I think every possible purpose will be served by getting this information which is required in all the clauses of the question, except perhaps one."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I must make my position clear. If one knows the number of emigrants carried in a ship at a particular time, it might be of use to know what space was available for each individual. But to know in general that each of these ships has so much space, so many kitchens and so on is to my mind of no advantage to anyone."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"Has it been brought to the notice of the Government that these emigrants are huddled together as so many cattle, and the space available is very very limited, the kitchen arrangements are extremely bad and the latrine arrangements equally so? Have all these discomforts been brought to the notice of the Government by any individual or body of individuals?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The answer to the question shows that there is regular inspection made of these emigrant ships at the time when the ship returns. A statutory inspection is made on all these occasions. In connexion with that inspection, we have not received from the inspecting officers any information to show that the arrangements were defective."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"My submission is whether any private individual or set of individuals interested in these emigrants have brought to the notice of the Government recently that these ships have no proper accommodation and so forth?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"If my hon. Friend would refer to the next question, he will find that an individual has written to the newspapers about this matter."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, arising out of the answer given by the hon. the Home Member, namely, that it is no good giving the space and other details of the ships, may I ask him to ascertain how many passengers or coolies the ship is intended to carry as well as the capacity of the ship, so that we can judge whether there is sufficient room for the emigrants to move about or not? May I also ask the hon. the Home Member to tell us the age of the ships? We certainly want to know whether it is an old ship built perhaps on the type of the Spanish Armada ships, and it is necessary for us to know whether the ship is seaworthy and up-to-date."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"May I say, Sir, for the information of the hon. Member that the ships come under statutory enactments, the Merchants Shipping Act and the Indian Passengers Act. It is for expert officers to decide how many passengers should be carried in each ship. And very little purpose would be served by getting the information as all these points are decided on expert opinion."

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Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"I know, that, Sir. I have seen much of the tyranny of these experts. But still I would like to ascertain how the number of passengers carried in, or rather the cubic contents of the ship, compares with the passenger space provided in other ships. Simply because they are coolies, if the expert should fix a particular standard which would reduce them to a position of cattle huddled together, I would not very much care for the expert opinion."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"In view of the answer to my hon. Friend's question, are we to convince him that the accommodation is inadequate?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"My hon. Friend opposite referred to the safety of the passengers and also to the number of passengers that each ship could carry. The ship can carry obviously the number as allowed under the Merchants Shipping Act and the Indian Passenger Act."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I am asking as to the adequacy of the arrangement, in clause (e) of the question, namely, 'the number of kitchens and latrines in each' which tend to the comfort and health of the passengers. May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether he still thinks he need not call for any information in order that we, in this House, may know what accommodation is provided in each ship, for the very elementary conveniences of the passengers?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid that I cannot meet my hon. Friend in this matter. It is quite open to the hon. Member to complain in regard to any particular ship with reference to the number of labourers carried and, if a definite case is put forward, I am quite prepared to bring it to the notice of the Government of India. I may point out that this is not a matter under our control but under the control of the Government of India."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"My hon. Friend suggests that I should go and satisfy myself and substantiate the charges. Am I to go to a court of law? Whenever we ask him to investigate certain things, he refuses to investigate and he asks us to go and do the investigation."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"May I ask my hon. Friend to specify any fact that he has put before us?"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I was referring to the next question, because my hon. Friend was generally asking us to go and investigate. Sir, if this is so, we should not be here. I know we are foolish enough to come here."

Accommodation in S.S. 'Teesta'.

* 521 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state with reference to the letter of Mr. C. R. Nayudu in the *Swarajya* of the 10th February regarding accommodation in S.S. 'Teesta'—

(a) the reasons why Mr. Paddison's report of his inspection of the ship was not published;

(b) whether the report will be published;

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(c) whether in the ship there are in all only about 18 seats in the latrine meant for about 1,800 passengers;

(d) whether the Government have received reports from Mr. Reilly, the ex-Collector of Madras, and Doctor Mathias, the Medical Officer, as regards the ship and whether the reports will be placed on the table of the House; and

(e) whether the floor of the ship during the voyage is always damp?

4.—(a) Mr. Paddison has not submitted any report on the inspection of the ship.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are 35 seats.

(d) No reports have been received by the Government from Mr. Reilly and Dr. Mathias about this ship

(e) No.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With reference to the answer to clause (d) of the questions, may I ask the hon. the Home Member to kindly tell us whether the officers have inspected the ship, whether those officers had been called upon to submit their reports of inspection, and whether they have submitted their reports of inspection?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I do not know any reason why they should send any report to us unless specially called for."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Is it a fact that the present Collector of Madras visited the particular ship about this time, and if so, has he made any report?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid that I must ask my hon. Friend to be more precise."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"I wanted to ask whether the present Collector of Madras, in his capacity as the Protector of Emigrants, ever inspected the ship."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I have no information."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Will the hon. the Home Member call for the information? I ask this because I am told that the Collector of Madras inspected the ship and has written a very very unfavourable report regarding the condition of the ship. I should like the hon. the Home Member to call for the report and lay it on the table of this House."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"If the present Collector has written a report to any one on the subject, I am prepared to call for it."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"The reason why I have to request the hon. Member to get this information is that it is very difficult for us to know exactly how things are. But here we can look to the Government Benches to furnish us with the information."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I take no exception to the first statement of my hon. Friend. If he takes the responsibility for the statement that the Collector has submitted a report, I shall call for it."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, with reference to clause (c) of the question, the answer is 35 seats. I want to know whether these 35 seats are quite

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sufficient for 1,800 passengers. In all conscience, I want to know, whether the hon. the Home Member is satisfied that the ship is adequately provided for, when there are only 35 seats."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid I cannot give either an expert opinion or a layman's opinion in the matter. A statement was made that there were only 18 seats. I have stated that the correct figure was 35."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether there are any bathing places for women with necessary privacy?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid I must have notice."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"May I request the hon. the Home Member to tell us whether there was any case of labour on the part of some women emigrants and that there was no room even for the confinement of those women under conditions of decency?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I have not seen any report."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"I have heard one or two complaints about it, viz., that it was absolutely impossible for the women emigrants to be delivered with the necessary privacy?"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With reference to clause (e) of this question, I am afraid that the hon. the Home Member has not answered my question. Does he mean that it is always damp?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"No, Sir. My information is based on the report of the Protector of Emigrants of Negapatam. This is what he has said :

'The decks have to be washed down at intervals. But they become dry very quickly and, if there is any dampness after that, it is primarily due to the passengers themselves carelessly handling their water pots.'

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"May I also ask whether the inspection report was to the effect that the ship was in a very bad condition, and whether the Agents of the Steamer Company wrote subsequently to the Collector saying that the ship was clean at a particular moment and when it was asked to be inspected."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I do not find any reference to that in my file, Sir."

Forests.

Pathway through the forest reserve near Jetni Gutta village, Bellary district.

* 522 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the people of Jetni Gutta of Harpanahalle taluk, Bellary district, who have to take their cattle to Hosakeri Gunda for water should necessarily pass through the neighbouring reserve if they have to avoid a circuitous route and thus expose themselves to risks of prosecution for trespass into the reserve?

4.—The villagers in question have been permitted to take their cattle to water along a path through the reserve in compliance with their request to the District Forest Officer.

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Fencing of areas closed for grazing in reserved forests of Bellary.

* 523 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the areas closed for grazing in forest reserves are properly fenced away from the adjoining portions for which permits are issued for grazing and if so, in what reserves of the Bellary district?

A.—No. The cost of any effective fencing is prohibitive.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, in one and the same reserve there are some portions open for grazing and there are other portions which are not open for grazing. There is nothing to separate the portions which are closed for grazing and the portions which are open for grazing. In any event, what I would like to know from the Government is, how do they expect the cattle to observe this imaginary line between open and closed areas and abstain from trespassing?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I expect the person who is in charge of the cattle to distinguish between the two."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I would like the hon. Member to bear in mind that cattle go in large herds. Does he expect the boys, who usually attend to the cattle, to be at the same time by the side of each and every one of them and see that they are not trespassing?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"What does my hon. Friend suggest? Does he want to close the grazing ground?"

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"It is not my look out. It is up to Government to find out some means of avoiding the trouble. I can suggest some way. But it is Government's duty to find that injustice is not caused and it is for them to put up some sort of fence or other. Or they may close the entire reserves?"

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"May I also suggest that this step would be good, at least to keep the departmental subordinates' hands off the poor ryots?"

Issue of permits to take fuel from Jagikkal Gutta reserved forest, Bellary.

* 524 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether permits are issued for taking fuel from the Jagikkal Gutta reserve, Harpanahalle taluk, and, if so, at what rates?

A.—Permits are not issued for taking fuel from the reserve as there is no demand for fuel.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I take it, Sir, that if there is a demand, permits will be issued?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"That is a hypothetical question, Sir."

*Jails.**Complaints of ill-treatment of Mappilla prisoners in Bellary jail.*

* 525 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received any complaints of ill-treatment of Mappilla prisoners in Bellary jail;

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(b) when any officer of the Government other than the Superintendent of Jail inspected the prison; and

(c) whether the results of the inspection will be laid on the table of the House?

A.—(a) No.

(b) & (c) Extracts* from the Visitors' Book are laid on the table.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, with reference to the answer to clause (a) of the question, may I ask the hon. the Home Member to be good enough to say whether since his giving the answer, he has received any complaint?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"This answer was given after I had received a report from the Bellary jail, which showed that there was no foundation for any complaint of ill-treatment."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I hope the rumour that some persons were beaten to death is without foundation?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"It is absolutely and entirely false."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"With reference to clause (b) of this question, may I invite the hon. Member's attention to the appendix at page 17, wherein the hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar has stated that 'the prisoners look very happy and contented . . .', and then down below where the hon. the Deputy President says that 'few men can be happy and contented in a prison. A prison is a prison . . .'. Sir, are they very happy or are they very unhappy?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid that I have not got further information. I suggest that my hon. Friend should interrogate the Member to my right."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"May I ask the hon. Member what the second statement 'We have ten bed-ridden men, eight of whom have been put up for release and turned down' means. I do not understand what is meant by 'turned down'. I want to know whether it is a fact that they are not to be released?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Their release has been refused."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"May I know by whom are they to be released? Are they to be recommended by the Superintendent?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Releases are ordered by Government on the advice of the local Committee."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know the reasons?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid, Sir, I want notice."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to make a reference to the Superintendent again and ask if he still recognizes the need for the release of these men and if so, kindly to advise?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I have already stated at the last meeting of the Council that I am quite prepared to get the information."

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Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to say whether any prisoners are still chained."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Yes."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I invite the attention of the hon. the Home Member to the statement, 'For want of proper safeguards and in the absence of bar fencing, prisoners are chained in night time. A dire necessity no doubt, but a barbarous relic.' You have got another note by a jail visitor who says, 'I am sorry to note the practice of chaining the convicts during the night is still continuing and hope that this inhuman practice may be stopped by finding some other method to restrict the convicts from going out. The disadvantage to them is if any one wants to answer calls of nature or to go to the privy he will find it difficult and he will have to disturb the whole batch from sleep.' Now I want to know what steps are being taken to put an end to this barbarous relic."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I entirely agree with Mr. Kesava Pillai that the system is inhuman and I can tell him that as soon as we get money, we will see that it is put an end to."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask how much money is wanted?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I think the estimate is Rs. 2,40,000."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Is it included in the Jail Budget?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"No."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Will the hon. the Home Member be kind enough to tell me whether this barbarous relic should not be put an end to?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The buildings that are occupied by the prisoners are excellent buildings constructed for European troops. They are very airy. The prisoners are sleeping in the open verandas, and as there are no iron bars, the prisoners are chained at night. If the verandas are closed by iron bars then the system of chaining the prisoners can be put an end to."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I know why there is no provision made now in the Budget? The Government have got the powers of certification and so on. Why could not the Government provide for it in the Budget?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"We have the power of certification; but we have not got the money."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"May I ask whether this chaining is the modern substitute for the old method of maiming prisoners in the Middle Ages to prevent their running away?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"It is not a modern substitute. It is a very old arrangement."

Criminal Justice.

Travelling allowance to village headmen for attending criminal courts.

* 526 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the approximate annual expenditure incurred by the Government under the head of travelling allowance to village headmen in

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the Presidency for attending the criminal courts (i) for two years previous to the passing of G.O. No. 10, Judicial (Magisterial), dated 6th January 1923; and (ii) for two years after the date of passing the above Government Order?

A.—The Government have no information.

Civil Justice.

Official Referee and Official Assignee, Madras.

* 527 Q.—Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the nature of the work done by the Official Referee and Official Assignee, Madras;

(b) how the work was done prior to the establishment of these offices;

(c) whether it is a fact that owing to the concentration of work in the hands of these officers there is a great delay in the submission of accounts and in the disposal of cases; and

(d) whether the Government have under consideration any scheme which will employ the talents of the junior members of the bar in the discharge of duties now performed by the Official Referee and Official Assignee?

A.—(a) A summary^a of the important duties of the Official Referee is laid on the table. In regard to the nature of the work done by the Official Assignee, the hon. Member is referred to Part IV of the Presidency Towns Insolvency Act, 1909.

(b) Prior to the appointment of the Official Referee, the work was done by a Judge sitting in Chambers. Cases involving the taking of long accounts both in English and in the vernaculars as well as partitions of properties, sales of properties, etc., were referred to Commissioners by the Court. The Official Assignee was appointed in 1848 after the passing of the Indian Insolvency Act, and it is not possible to say how the work was done prior to 1848.

(c) The Government have no information.

(d) Both the appointments vest in the hon. the Chief Justice.

Elections.

Division of Madras City Constituency for purpose of election.

* 528 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons why the Madras City Constituency is proposed to be divided into two for the purpose of election to the Madras Legislative Council;

(b) from whom the initiative proceeded in the matter; and

(c) whether the Legislative Council will be given an opportunity of expressing its opinion on the matter before the rules become final?

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4.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the proviso to rule 4 of the Madras Electoral Rules.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) The draft of the proposed regulation dividing the Madras City Non-Muhammadan constituency into two divisions was published for criticism on page 269 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 10th February 1925. The Government will be glad to consider any suggestions that may be received.

11-30 a.m. Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, am I to understand that the Government took the initiative in the matter?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"We were asked by certain persons to start a system of subdivision. Thereupon after consideration we have sent out the notification published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and we have invited opinion as to the desirability of the course. We will follow the trend of public opinion."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Is it possible to know who these persons are, officials or non-officials?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Officials."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"May I know why they were particular about Madras and why they have not attempted it in the mufassal?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"We left out the mufassal because most of the districts are not capable of being sub-divided, having regard to the rules relating to reservation. Suppose there are three seats in a district it is not capable of being sub-divided into two and one because there is no reservation. In Kistna alone there was a possibility of that kind."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"Why not then do away with reservation wholly?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"That is a matter, Sir, entirely in the hands of the Secretary of State, the Viceroy and such high authorities."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"With reference to the answer to (b) that 'the question does not arise', may I point out that the question has been raised? I do not see how the question did not arise. The question is 'from whom the initiative proceeded in the matter?'"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Under the rules the Government were asked to elicit public opinion in this matter. The rule is that where the local Government thinks that it can divide a particular constituency into two or more divisions they can elicit public opinion in the matter. Certain petitions have reached us in the matter and certain proposals were put forward and they are now circulated for public criticism. If the public opinion is in favour of the division, then we will divide, and if it is against the division, then we will not divide."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Arising out of the answer, may I request the hon. Member to tell us from whom these petitions proceeded? I may

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make my position plain without beating about the bush. I want to know whether those people from whom it is presumed that the initiative proceeded are non-party men or whether it proceeded from party organization."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"So far as I know, it is not due to any party organization whatsoever. So far as the opinions are concerned, I may say that the Commissioner of the Corporation himself is in favour of the division as it would be convenient."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"With all apologies to such an impartial person as the Commissioner of the Corporation, may I know if the initiative proceeded from him?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"If the suggestion is that any party organization meaning thereby that any party organization in this House or outside it was responsible for the idea, the statement is wholly without basis."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"As a constitutional question, may I know on what grounds my hon. Friend is going to decide the possibility or otherwise of the sub-division?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"We have already published the proposal in the Gazette and we will collect and collate the opinion received in favour of and against the proposal and go by the trend of public articulation in the matter. For instance, the Commissioner of the Corporation has said that he was in favour of it purely from the point of view of convenience."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether he is not responsible for taking the initiative in this matter as the Member in charge of the portfolio which deals with elections?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I am responsible for the subject."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"Also for taking the initiative?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The responsibility is mine; but the actual initiative did not come from me."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Did the Commissioner take the initiative?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"No."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"But then how can it be said that he is one of those in Madras who took the initiative in the matter?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I did not say so. I only said that in response to the request calling forth opinions, the Commissioner of the Corporation of Madras expressed himself in favour of the division."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Did he give any reasons?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, may I suggest that if there is any reason in favour of or against the division, they may be put forward? The Government will consider the whole matter before coming to a decision."

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Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" May I suggest that instead of the Government proceeding with the matter now they might do so when there is some amount of general agreement in the matter ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" If, as a matter of fact when they are going to come to the demand on elections, I find the House votes for it, I shall take it that the House agrees to the procedure ; otherwise I am perfectly willing to be bound by their opinion."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" I would go further and suggest that instead of taking the decision of the House and be guided by the majority or minority, I would urge the much higher principle of the Government doing nothing unless there is a general feeling in the matter."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I point out to the hon. the Law Member that with reference to clause (c) of this question, whether this Council will be given an opportunity to express its opinion before it is decided finally ? There is no answer given at all."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Considering that there is apparently a strong feeling held by some Members, I am perfectly willing, on behalf of the Government, to undertake that no further action will be taken until this Council has had an opportunity of discussing the matter and voting upon it."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Is there any proposal to divide the electorate in the mufassal ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" It is impossible under the rules to divide a three-member or two-member constituency into subdivisions."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Then what about Kistna ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" When the bifurcation takes place . . . "

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Is there any such proposal ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" If the administrative bifurcation takes place."

Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

Attendance of Government servants at garden parties held in their honour.

* 529 Q.—Mr. V. PANTULU AYYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government servants are allowed to attend garden parties given in their honour either during their stay in a particular district or when transferred by private individuals ; and

(b) whether district officials can attend such parties mentioned in (a) when the entertainer is pitched in legal disputes in courts of law against persons of the neighbouring locality ?

A.—The Government would prefer not to give an opinion on a hypothetical case.

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, may I point out that when you have admitted the question it follows that it is not a hypothetical question ? The question, Sir, is whether Government servants are allowed to do certain things. There ought to be some kind of order in the matter and I am asking the Finance Member to be good enough to tell the House whether there is any understanding or rule in this matter."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I deprecate its being assumed, because I have admitted the question, the Government are bound to return an answer. I must say this, that many questions which are asked by hon. Members are such that if I were entirely left to my discretion in the matter, I would not allow them. It is not every matter that can be threshed out on the floor of this House. Sometimes hon. Members want to have information on some particular matter and I merely pass it on and leave it to the Government to say what they like because they are in a much better position than I am to say whether a particular matter is their primary concern and whether it comes under their administrative control. I therefore do not want it to be assumed from the mere fact that I have admitted a question, that the Government are bound to answer it."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" I can understand the Treasury Bench saying that they decline to answer. But the reply given is that they would prefer not to give an opinion on a hypothetical case. Here there is no hypothetical case because information is asked for in a definite matter, which already must be there in the rules, viz., whether Government servants are allowed to attend public meetings, etc. Where the hypothetical case is, I cannot understand."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is open to the Government to explain what is meant by hypothetical. I understand it in a particular sense. But it is open to the Government to define their position."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" Each case must be decided on its own merits. The rules governing the conduct of Government servants are available to any hon. Member who chooses to study them."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is what I should have thought myself. The Government meant that there was no reference to any details or persons or facts and therefore they were not prepared to consider a hypothetical question like that."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Sir, can we not ask in our ignorance about the rules which are in force as to what the general principle enforced by Government is and may we not be given the particular reference ? "

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" The rules are available to everybody, Sir. But in a particular instance whether a thing is permissible or not permissible . . . "

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" I may mention that if the hon. Member had, instead of saying as he has done, referred us to the particular rule we should not have taken objection to that at all. Here there is no question of any hypothetical case being presented for the judgment of the Government and when an answer of the kind that has been given is made I am constrained to say that we do demur to it."

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The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I say that the question is entirely hypothetical. I presume hon. Members are aware of the rules for the guidance of Government servants."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"If we had only been given the reference it would not have led to so many supplementary questions being put."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I see the difficulty now. Everybody that has been in Government service for even a day knows the existence of these rules and the Government probably assumed that even non-official members of this Council know about them. I do not suppose that there was any other reason for their declining to answer the question."

Marine.

Installation of a kerosene oil depot in Mangalore.

* 530 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government in the Revenue (Special) Department (Marine) through the representation, dated 6th November 1924, of Messrs. A. J. Saldanha & Sons and certain other merchants of Mangalore that an installation of a kerosene oil depot is being erected by the Standard Oil Company in close proximity to several warehouses containing coffee, cardamoms and other combustible goods;

(b) the distance between the several kerosene oil depots and the nearest warehouses;

(c) whether the danger of fire has been increased by the Port Officer allowing the stacking of firewood and grass very near the large coffee and cardamoms warehouses;

(d) whether the kerosene oil installation could not have been erected without any risk of fire in the large sand pit opposite the river or elsewhere on the riverside and within the town and whether the firewood depot could not be transferred to the reclaimed area to the north of the harbour;

(e) whether it is a fact that the site of new installation in front of the present bunder is badly needed for erection of warehouses for the large export produce of Mangalore which will be prevented from being erected on account of the close proximity of the kerosene oil installations of the Standard Oil Company and other companies;

(f) the area of the projected reclamation;

(g) what area has been occupied and will be occupied by the kerosene oil depots and of which firms;

(h) whether it is a fact that the present bunder was once a much frequented promenade for the residents of Mangalore and that it is now disfigured by the kerosene oil installations and the firewood depots; and

(i) whether it is a fact that protests on the subject addressed by a large number of the people of Mangalore to the Port Officer and the Shipping and Landing Dues Committee were ignored?

A.—(a) to (i) except (g). The Standard Oil Company had already been granted a lease before the representation referred to was received. The Company's application for permission to erect an installation on the site in question was approved by the Chief Inspector of Explosives, the Presidency Port Officer, the

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Collector of South Kanara, the Municipal Council of Mangalore and the Landing and Shipping Fees Committee of that port. The Government have no detailed information on the other points raised by the hon. Member's question.

(g) Seven hundred and forty-five square yards by the Standard Oil Company of New York. Details regarding the area occupied by other oil installations are not available.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"With reference to clause (g), the Government say that details are not available. As this matter is causing much discontent among the Indian merchants at Mangalore, may I ask the Government to get fuller particulars and place them before the House?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"Sir, I do not know if the Government can get any further information which the hon. Member is not already aware of."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"The complaint of the Indian merchants is that the local authorities have not consulted them with regard to their feelings and grievances and that is why I want all the details to be made available."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"The Government, Sir, are not prepared to go beyond the opinion of the local authorities concerned."

Collectorates.

Time-scale of pay to unpassed men of Revenue Department.

* 531 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the proposition statement as regards the pay of the unpassed servants in the Revenue Department as fixed according to time-scale was accepted by the Board and the Accountant-General;

(b) whether all permanent unpassed servants in all other branches of service except the Revenue Department get the time-scale increment in their pay unreservedly;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to—

(i) B.P. No. 2871, Routine, dated 18th July 1923, insisting on the sanction of the Board as a condition precedent to a clerk getting the increment in time-scale pay of Rs. 35—1—50—1—60; and

(ii) G.O. No. 168, Judicial (Police), published on page 472 of Part I of *Fort St. George Gazette*, indicating that any break in the rise of pay according to time-scale, is inconsistent with the intentions of Government;

(d) whether there is any special reason why Revenue clerks deserve a different treatment from that of clerks in other departments;

(e) whether it is a fact that the said clerks were first allowed to draw increased pay and they were subsequently required to refund the incremental portion of the same; and

(f) what steps, if any, the Government propose to take or have taken to put the unpassed Revenue clerks on the same footing as those serving in other departments of Government?

A.—(a) The time-scale of pay is attached to appointments not to the men who hold them. No proposition statement has been sanctioned fixing the pay of unpassed men in the Revenue Department in the time-scale.

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(b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (a) of question No. 265.

(c) The Government have now perused the Board's Proceedings. The effect of G.O. No. 168, Judicial (Police), dated 10th April 1923, is not as stated by the hon. Member.

(d) & (f) The rules apply to unpassed men in all departments alike.

(e) The Government have no information.

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" Sir, with reference to answer to clause (a), am I to understand that the unpassed men holding such appointments will not get the benefit of the time-scale of pay ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" The pay is personal ; what was intended here is that the proposition statement does not affect the case. "

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" If the pay is personal, if a man is competent to do the work, then is he to work without any increment ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" That matter is explained in the answer to the question which is quoted in clause (b). "

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" I have got the answer in my hands. It is not satisfactory. That is why I repeat the question. "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I am sorry I can add nothing to what is stated there. "

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, with reference to clause (b), am I to understand that if unpassed men hold the appointments, they will have the same grade as passed men ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" That is explained in the answer to question No. 265. "

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Does the hon. Member know that there is difference in this matter in various departments of the Government, including the High Court ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I want notice. "

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" Was it not in practice till February last that all unpassed candidates in other departments were allowed to draw this increment ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I know that the rules were interpreted differently by different departments. Latterly the Government have issued an authoritative order to cover all cases. "

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" With reference to clause (e), may I request the Government for information as to how many persons were submitted to this hardship ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" If it is a hardship, we have not come across any case asking for remission or refund. "

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" May I draw the attention of the hon. the Revenue Member to the answer to question No. 265 which says ' the Collector of South Kanara misinterpreted the rule. . . and the Board of Revenue

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corrected the error. The cases of 28 clerks were in question, etc.' In the light of that, may I request the hon. the Revenue Member to give us information as to how many in other districts have suffered in this way ? "

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" The hon. the Revenue Member said that the rules were interpreted differently by different departments and that latterly the Government have issued a ruling defining in what way the rules should be interpreted. May I know when that order was issued ? "

" May I also ask the hon. the Revenue Member whether the Board's Proceedings referred to in clause (c) have been placed on the table of the House and if not whether they will be so placed ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I must ask for notice. "

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" With reference to clause (c), may I ask whether it is not contrary to the spirit and intentions of the Government to keep a man always on Rs. 35 ? "

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" A passed man can rise. "

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" Before the so-called alterations were effected, all persons confirmed on initial salary were taken to be competent. Should they not be eligible for increments ? (Hear, hear.) "

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" Certainly not. "

Deputy Collectors.

Alleged assault on the Revenue Divisional Officer of Coimbatore.

* 532 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to the news published in *New India* of 9th February 1925 under the heading " An Officer Assaulted "—

(a) whether it is a fact that Captain Green, the Revenue Divisional Officer, Coimbatore, passed through the district board toll-gate at Karumathanpatti on the 3rd February 1925 in his motor cycle, without paying the toll-fee or otherwise satisfying the toll-farmers or their agents ;

(b) whether it is a fact that, on the toll-gate men insisting on the payment of the fee, the said officer first used physical force on one of the toll-gate men which resulted in their assaulting the officer ;

(c) whether the officer proceeded to Avanashi and bringing with him half a dozen police constables from there, had all the men who took part in the assault arrested ;

(d) whether any complaint was lodged by the Divisional Officer against the toll-gate men for assault and if so, before whom and who sanctioned the warrant of arrest in this case ;

(e) whether out of the seven men arrested, four have been left free and three are still under arrest ; who ordered the release of the four men ; and

(f) if the Government have no information on these points, whether they will call for and furnish the same ?

A.—The Government have no information beyond what has been reported in the newspapers and have asked the Collector of Coimbatore to report whether or no a case is pending.

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Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, may I ask whether any reply has been received from the Collector?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" The question appears to have been received by the Government on the 20th February, as the date here indicates. It was only a simple reference that the Government made to the Collector to 'whether or not a case is pending.' May I know why there is such a long delay in getting a reply?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" A report was called for as soon as I saw the papers in the case which was only a few days ago."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" It is stated here that the Collector is asked to report as to whether or no a case is pending. May I know whether the Government have called for any report as to the behaviour of the Revenue officer?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I am sorry I do not follow the question."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" May I know whether the Government have called for a report as to the behaviour of the Divisional Officer in this case?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" We have not got the facts of the case."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Am I to understand from the hon. the Revenue Member that the report of the Collector who is engaged in the matter will be laid on the table?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" We have first to learn that there is such a case."

Land Revenue.

Alleged irregularities in the collection of revenue, etc., Bellary district.

* 533 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of land revenue due from the villages of Talur, Gosbal, and Bairapuram of Bellary taluk, Bellary district, for the fasli 1333;

(b) the month, or months, and the year in which the above sums should have been collected in the normal course and in what instalments in each month;

(c) the month and the year in which the collections were actually begun and the amount collected and remitted in January 1925 from each of the said villages;

(d) whether the whole of the arrears of fasli 1333 was collected from most of the pattadars in the month of January 1925 alone, though the time for collecting kists is from February;

(e) whether the pattadars who were asked to pay up their arrears did so, after borrowing at high rates of interest from sowcars in Bellary, Tekkalakota, Harivanam, Karur and other places;

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(f) whether the rates of interest work out in some cases to 24 per cent involving continuous attendance for days together at the place of business of the money-lenders, and in other cases to over cent per cent, as, for example, when debtors are required to repay a loan of Rs. 50 within a month or so together with a maund of cotton for interest;

(g) whether even the village officers of the villages in question had to borrow money to pay their arrears in January;

(h) who conducted the jamabandi of the said villages and settled their accounts and when;

(i) whether at the time it was noted by anybody that the arrears remained uncollected without any authority for it;

(j) whether subsequently D.C.B. statements were submitted every month in which the arrears of these villages were included, and whether, in them, any remark was made that the village officers concerned had omitted to collect the arrears without their having been authorized to do so, and if so, in the statement of what month;

(k) the state of the crops and the average yield of korra, cholan and cotton in the said villages in fasli 1333;

(l) whether any, and if so, which of the following officers—Revenue Inspector, Deputy Tahsildar, Divisional Officer and Collector—having jurisdiction over the villages, recommended the suspension of the collection of the revenue due for fasli 1333;

(m) the officers responsible for (i) non-inclusion of the villages in question in the list of those recommended for suspension, if they should have been so included, or (ii) for the omission to notice in time the fact that the arrears remained uncollected without due authority, if the arrears should strictly have been collected as in the case of villages whose revenue was not suspended, and (iii) the collection of the entire arrears of fasli 1333 in one instalment in January 1925 without waiting for the harvest to be completed or even the usual kist season to begin; and

(n) what action has been taken in regard to the conduct of the officers responsible for one or other of the irregularities referred to above?

A.—The Government have no information, but have called for a report.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if the report has been received since? I have complained of several irregularities in the matter of collection of kists." (Hear, hear.)

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Secondary schools under the Malabar District Board.

* 534 Q.—Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) how many secondary schools are run by the District Board of Malabar and how many of them—

(i) receive the net cost from Government,

(ii) receive proportionate grant from Government, and

(iii) have their total cost met by the district board;

(b) the amount of pay of the secondary grade teacher in the Government service;

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(c) whether the Government have sanctioned the same pay in the case of teachers of district board schools whose total or partial cost is met by the Government; and

(d) whether the district board requested the Government for the introduction of the scale of pay of Government secondary grade teachers to teachers under the district board management as well?

A.—(a) There are 15 secondary schools under the management of the District Board, Malabar. The net cost of one school is met from Provincial funds and Government contribute a portion of the net cost of 12 other schools. The cost of two schools is met entirely by the District Board.

(b) The scale of pay of a trained male teacher of the secondary grade in Government schools is Rs. 35—35—1½—50—1—60 and of a trained female teacher Rs. 45—3—90.

(c) The scale of pay sanctioned for teachers in Government schools does not apply to those in Board schools. The scale of pay in a Board school is fixed according to the local circumstances and needs.

(d) No such request has been received from the District Board and, in any case, the subject is one for the Board itself.

Rao Sahib, P. V. GOPALAN :—“Sir, with reference to answer to clause (c) may I ask the hon. the Minister for Education whether the local circumstances and needs of the secondary grade trained teachers in Government schools are quite different from those of teachers in board schools?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“The Government have got a scale and the boards lay down a scale of their own. There must be difference between the two.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“The hon. the Minister for Education is aware that the system in aided secondary schools is the same as in Government schools.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“The principle is the same.”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“May I know, with reference to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee, what system the boards should pursue in the matter of aids for secondary education?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“It was considered and conclusions would be arrived at.”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“May I know if the conclusions to be arrived at on the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee will have reference to the general question as to the principles to be followed in making aids to local board secondary schools?”

“Is it a fact, Sir, that in some cases, three-fourths and in some cases half the net cost is paid and in some cases no aid is given and there is no fixed rule?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“It depends on local circumstances and needs. For instance, in the Ceded districts, the scale of grant is larger than the scale for Nellore or other richer district.”

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“Even in the Ceded districts, three-fourths is given in some cases and the net cost in another cases.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“I may refer to the Cuddappah school and the Pulivendla school where different scales are fixed.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“It depends upon the circumstances of each case.”

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“May I ask whether the Government are aware that teachers of Collegiate training who were appointed in the secondary schools of Malabar were offered a grade at the time of their appointment, and that the district board have not given effect to it owing to financial difficulties?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“I am not aware of it, Sir.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“Sir, this question (referring to question 533) was given on the 10th February and evidently it was despatched from the office on the 14th, whereas the other question shows date 17th as the date of receipt in the Council Office, and 28th as the date of despatch to the Government Department.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“We have passed that. If the hon. Member has got any complaint to make, I shall ask him to make it after question time.”

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“The Government say that in one school the net cost is borne by the Government. Will the Government be pleased to consider the question of helping the District Board with contribution promised to that school at least?”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“With reference to the statement of the hon. the Minister for Education that the Government had considered the report of the Financial Relations Committee, will he be pleased to refer us to the Government Order?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“It is ordinarily passed by the Local Self-Government Department.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“Will the hon. the Minister for Local-Self Government be pleased to say what he means by ‘ordinarily passed’?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“The hon. the Minister for Education has said that orders have been passed by Government on the recommendations of this committee; several Government Orders were issued on the recommendations.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“Sir, the hon. the Minister for Education told us that the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee regarding the grant to local boards have been considered. Am I to understand that they only considered them and no orders were passed? I know that Government Orders have been issued from time to time regarding some aspect of the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. So far as I am aware no orders have been passed regarding the recommendations for aid in the matter of secondary education.”

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I see that the old method of dealing with the question, namely, refusing grant in one case, giving half grant in another and so on, the same policy which was condemned by the Committee, is being pursued."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"As far as I am aware, there was no educational officer represented in that committee. If any specific recommendations are brought to the notice of the Government, I am willing to consider them."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—"Considering that the status and efficiency of the teachers in secondary schools in Government service are exactly the same as those of the teachers in Board Schools, is it not the duty of the hon. the Minister for Education to come to the rescue of board teachers and see that they get their legitimate share of the pay?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"If there is any need and if they press their case before the Committee, there will be no objection."

Mr. V. MADHAVA RAJA :—"Are the Government going to consider this case at least when they are pressed?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Has the district board applied for increase of pay to the teachers?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"The Financial Relations Committee was presided over by Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah. Do I understand that because there was no one representing Educational Service in that committee they could not take action and they would wait for further proposals?"

Road-side tree planting, Mangalore.

* 535 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to refer to the answer to question No. 195 at the last sitting and to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the part within the Mangalore town (called Balmatta road) of the main trunk road between Mangalore town and Charmadi Imperial road is suffering from the absence of road-side trees, that the trees were cut down and that the plants that have replaced the old trees are growing very slowly;

(b) whether the Government regard the question of rapid development of road-side tree planting as one of more than local importance and are taking steps to see that local boards and municipalities are adopting vigorous measures to carry out their instructions; and

(c) whether though in one of the accompaniments to the Government instructions it is stated that "the chief object in planting avenue was to give shade to travellers" the officers of the Public Works Department hold that roads become unfit for motor-car driving by drippings of rain water from trees and whether wholesale cutting of avenue trees was carried out in Mangalore and some other places in this Presidency on this ground?

A.—(a) & (c) The Government have no information.

(b) The Government have issued necessary instructions. They cannot fetter the discretion of local bodies in the matter.

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Sign-boards in the Ambur union

* 536 Q.—MR. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) why boards reading in a reproachful manner, viz., Ambur Parai Theruvu Nos. 1 and 2, are exhibited by the Ambur union board, North Arcot district, in the locality of the depressed classes, Ambur; and

(b) if the Government have no information with reference to clause (a), whether they will call for the information?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

Representation of the depressed classes in the Ambur union board.

* 537 Q.—MR. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government are aware that no Adi-Dravida member was appointed to the Ambur union board by the President of the Vellore taluk board though there are several suitable Adi-Dravidas?

A.—The Government have no information.

Medical.

Compensation for damages caused by the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Tondiarpet.

* 538 Q.—S. R. Y. ANKINEDU PRASAD Bahadur : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Corporation of Madras have made arrangements to pay for the damages, if any, which may be claimed by the residents of Tondiarpet for possible infection carried from the Infectious Diseases Hospital or for the mental worry and anxiety arising from its proximity; and

(b) whether any steps have also been taken to pay compensation for the reduction of value of the house property brought about by its location or to purchase the property affected if the owners should so desire?

A.—The Government have no information.

Leper Asylum, Chingleput.

* 539 Q.—S. R. Y. ANKINEDU PRASAD Bahadur : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government have recently constructed an Asylum near Chingleput to accommodate about two thousand patients suffering from leprosy to which the patients located in a Leper Hospital in Rayapuram have been or are being removed?

A.—A settlement for lepers is under construction at Tirumani near Chingleput. At present accommodation is to be provided for about 400 patients but the settlement has been designed so as to provide ultimately for 2,000 patients.

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The district hospital at Tanjore.

* 540 Q.—Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the information said to have been called for with reference to questions Nos. 1168, 1169 and 1170, on 13th November 1924 regarding the hospital at Tanjore has been received; and

(b) whether the information will be laid on the table of the House or otherwise made available to the Members of the Council as soon as it is received?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The information is laid on the table.^a

Qualifications of practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine.

* 541 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state, with reference to his answer to question No. 1381, dated 4th December 1924,—

(a) whether the question of qualifications of practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine has been decided by the Association which the Government have constituted; and

(b) if the answer is in the negative, whether the Government will fix the qualifications for such practitioners soon, so that it may facilitate the work of local boards in engaging their services in furtherance of the rural medical scheme?

A.—The Government have not constituted any Association of practitioners of the indigenous systems of medicine. Some of these practitioners formed themselves into an Association called the Indian Medical Association, on the suggestion of the Government. One of the objects of the Association is to maintain adequate standards for professional training. The Government do not at present propose to fix any standard of qualifications for practitioners of the indigenous systems.

Public Health.*Alleged forcible vaccination of Adi-Dravida women, Vellore taluk.*

* 542 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that during the last week of January a vaccinator forcibly vaccinated, with the aid of a village munsif, about 12 Adi-Dravida women whose ages range from 25 to 40 in the village of Selur, near Ambur, Vellore taluk; and

(b) whether even 15 days after the vaccination the wounds were profusely bleeding and the women were suffering from fever and were thus disabled from working and earning their livelihood?

A.—Information has been called for.

^a Printed as Appendix III on pages 359-360 infra.

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Town-planning.*The work of the Director of Town-planning.*

* 543 Q.—Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the duties of the Director of Town-planning, Mr. R. Dann;

(b) the work done by him during the last three years, that is, from the date of his appointment till the 6th of December 1924;

(c) how many schemes were prepared by him and what they are;

(d) whether any of them have been executed up to date, or its execution commenced or proposed to be commenced within the next three years;

(e) the estimated cost of each of those schemes; how it is proposed to finance each of those schemes;

(f) whether the services of Mr. R. Dann have been continued since the 6th of December 1924, when the term of his engagement was over; and if so, whether the consent of the Legislative Council or of the Finance Committee was obtained before the 6th December 1924 and if not, why not;

(g) whether Mr. Dann prepared any schemes, plans and estimates for the use of any private individuals or bodies; if so, for whom; whether he received any remuneration from such individuals or bodies and if so, how much in each case;

(h) whether Messrs. Jackson and Barker, architects, Georgetown, or any other architects complained to the Government about Mr. Dann's work for private individuals or bodies; and if so, whether Government will be pleased to place all such correspondence on the table of this House;

(i) how the work of town-planning was carried on before 1921;

(j) whether the Sanitary Engineers and their staff can do the work of Mr. Dann and his staff efficiently;

(k) whether it is a fact that Government have two architects of their own in Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Tasker Taylor;

(l) whether the qualifications or experience of the said two officers are in any way inferior to those of Mr. Dann and whether they are overworked; whether it is a fact that one of them has the additional advantage of having served for some time in the building of New Delhi; whether Government have ascertained if those two officers can spare time for the work of advice while the actual preparations of schemes is undertaken, as before, by the sanitary staff;

(m) what is the amount of travelling allowance drawn by Mr. Dann during each of these three years of service under this Government;

(n) whether the work of training any Indian is undertaken by Mr. Dann in this line; if so, who that Indian is; if not, what the object of short-term contracts of service like that of Mr. Dann is when the services of the Director of Town-Planning are wanted for many many years;

(o) what was the original salary on which Mr. Dann was engaged; whether it is proposed to retain him on a higher salary; if so, on what salary; and

(p) whether the question of his future salary was placed before the Local, Municipal and Public Health Advisory Committees; if so, what was their advice; whether such advice, if any, was altered later and, if so, under what circumstances; how many chairmen of municipalities and how many presidents of district boards are there on those Committees and what are the places of their residence?

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- A.—(a) The duties of the Director of Town-Planning are to advise the Government in all matters connected with town-planning and to assist local bodies in carrying out the duties imposed on them by the Madras Town-Planning Act, 1920.
- (b) The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the answer to clause (c) of question No. 412.
- (c) to (e) A statement^a containing the information available is appended.
- (f) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and that to the second part is in the negative. The previous consent of the Legislative Council and of the Finance Committee was not required for the continued employment of the Director of Town-Planning. The proposal was, however, considered by the Finance Committee on the 7th January 1925.
- (g) Mr. R. Dann has done private work as shown below :—

Nature of work done.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| (1) Women's Christian College, Madras. | } Design for chapels. |
| (2) Wesleyan Mission, Tiruvallur. | |
| (3) London Mission, Erode ... | |
| (4) United Medical Mission, Vellore. | |
| (5) Donhavur Nurseries ... | Design for prayer hall. |

He has received a fee of Rs. 200 for item (2) and a fee of Rs. 10,000 for item (4). The bulk of this money is reported by Mr. Dann to have been paid to Mr. Angus, M.A., A.R.I.B.A., who came from Europe in connection with these works.

- (h) Complaints were received from Messrs. Jackson and Barker and the Chamber of Commerce, Madras. The Government do not consider it necessary to place the correspondence on the table.
- (i) Prior to the appointment of Mr. R. Dann, the Sanitary Engineer and the Director of Public Health were the expert advisors of the Government in town-planning matters. During the years 1914 and 1915 the services of Professor Geddes and Mr. H. V. Lanchester were engaged with a view to stimulate interest in town-planning and Messrs. E. S. Lloyd, I.C.S., and J. K. Lancashire, I.C.S., were placed on special duty to examine town-planning and town extension schemes in detail.
- (j) The answer is in the negative.
- (k) Yes.
- (l) The qualifications required of a town-planning expert are different from those of architects. The question whether the architects are overworked and can attend to town-planning

^a Printed as Appendix IV on pages 361-365 infra.

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duties does not therefore arise; nor will any useful purpose be served by a comparison of the qualifications of the several officers referred to.

(m)

Period.	Amount of Travelling Allowance drawn.		
	RS.	A.	P.
Seventh December 1921 to 6th December 1922.	2,654	4	0
Do. 1922 Do. 1923.	3,383	6	0
Do. 1923 Do. 1924.	1,871	10	0

- (n) The answer is in the affirmative. The Indian is his Personal Assistant Mr. R. D. Narasimham. The latter part of the question does not arise.
- (o) Mr. Dann's original salary was Rs. 1,500 per mensem. It has been decided to retain him on a higher salary as follows :—Rs. 1,750 per mensem for the first year, Rs. 1,850 per mensem for the second year and Rs. 1,950 per mensem for the third year.
- (p) The Advisory Committees first recommended a scale of Rs. 1,600—1,700—1,750; but on reconsideration agreed to the scale of Rs. 1,750—1,850—1,950 for the reasons (1) that Mr. Dann's appointment being on a temporary footing he cannot enjoy any of the privileges of a permanent incumbent and (2) that a trained specialist cannot be expected to be content with an increase of only Rs. 100 (from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 1,600) after a service of three years.
- Five Presidents of District Boards and two Chairmen of Municipal Councils are on the Local and Municipal Advisory Committee. Two Presidents of District Boards and two Chairmen of Municipal Councils are on the Public Health Advisory Committee.

Education.*Amending Bill to the Madras Elementary Education Act.*

*544 Q.—Mr. V. PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are likely to introduce an amending Bill to the Madras Elementary Education Act and, if so, when; and

(b) whether any draft copy of an amending Bill to the Madras Elementary Education Act, was supplied to any of the Teacher Managers' Association in the Province, and, if so, whether all associations were supplied with copies and, if not, the names of those associations that had not got the draft copy?

A.—(a) Yes; as early as possible.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative; the second part does not arise.

[19th March 1925]

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.**Forests.***Forest panchayats in western taluks of Bellary district.*

545 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the forests in the western taluks of the Bellary district for which (i) panchayats have been constituted and (ii) panchayats are yet to be constituted?

A.—The information is appended.^a

Labour.*Activities of the Labour department in the Presidency.*

546 Q.—Mr. M. RATNASWAMI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what principle governs the bringing in of districts within the purview of the Labour department;

(b) the districts in which the Labour department is operating at present;

(c) the kind of work performed by the Labour department in the Ceded districts in the year 1924-25;

(d) how many new districts will be thrown open to the activities of the Labour department in the coming year;

(e) the amount spent by the Labour department in each of the districts in which it is operating and the chief classes of work on which expenditure has been incurred district by district in the year 1924-25 up to date; and

(f) the total number of persons on whose behalf the Labour department might be expected to work in each of the Ceded districts?

A.—(a) The operations of the Labour department are extended as funds permit to districts where special work for the amelioration of the depressed classes is considered necessary.

(b) Bellary, Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Chingleput, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, South Kanara and the Madras City.

(c) & (f) The special staff of the Labour department is working only in the Bellary district and not in the other Ceded districts. In the Bellary district the number of members of the depressed classes is about 154,700 according to the census of 1921. The work done by the Labour department falls under the following heads:—

- (1) Acquisition of house-sites;
- (2) Extension of education either by opening separate schools for the members of the depressed classes where necessary, or by making arrangements for their admission into the existing schools;
- (3) Starting of co-operative societies;
- (4) Provision of drinking-water wells;
- (5) Extension of village roads, burial-grounds, etc., and
- (6) Assignment of lands for cultivation.

^a Printed as Appendix V on pages 365-366 infra.

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Detailed information is given in the annual administration reports of the Labour department which are placed on the Editors' Table.

(d) It has not been found possible to extend the operations of the department to any new district during next year.

(e) The information is given in statement appended.^a

Gazettes.*Rates of advertisements in the District and Fort St. George Gazettes.*

547 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the rates of advertisements and notifications published in the District Gazettes and in the *Fort St. George Gazette* have been altered, what the present rates are and what the previous rates were; and

(b) whether the charges levied for the publication in the gazette of notices under the Provincial Insolvency Act are fixed and uniform or whether they differ?

A.—(a) The rates for private advertisements and notifications have been altered with effect from 1st March 1925. The old rates which had been in force since 1884 and the new rates are given in the statement appended^b.

(b) The actual cost is charged for notices published under the Provincial Insolvency Act. This will vary with the quantity and nature of the matter.

Land Revenue.*Revenue from sale of lankas in the Godavari river.*

548 Q.—Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the revenue derived annually during the last ten years by sale of Government lankas in the Godavari river situate in the Godavari and Kistna districts separately; and

(b) the extent of the land in the said lankas granted to private individuals on patta during the said period and the extent granted to the depressed classes?

A.—The Government have no information.

Village establishments.*Village officers and honorarium.*

549 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to refer to the answer given to question No. 86 at the last sitting of this Council and state—

(a) whether it is a fact that village officers (called patels in South Kanara) receive an honorarium of not more than Rs. 150 per annum plus travelling allowance for journeys made beyond their village for public duties; and

^a Printed as Appendix VI on page 367 infra. ^b Printed as Appendix VII on page 367 infra.

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(b) whether the Government have considered this aspect of the question and if so, what view have they formed on the point?

A.—(a) Village headmen in ryotwari tracts in the Presidency including South Kanara get a pay of Rs. 15 per mensem with a few exceptions—vide page 123 of the Civil Budget Estimate for 1925-26.

Besides pay, the village headmen get travelling allowance for certain special journeys outside their jurisdiction, e.g., for jamabandi.

(b) The question is not understood.

Town-planning.

Schemes under sections 8, 9 and 10 of the Madras Town-Planning Act.

550 Q.—MR. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the action so far taken by the municipalities under sections 8, 9 and 10 of the Madras Town-planning Act;

(b) the municipalities which have submitted schemes under these sections; and

(c) the number of schemes sanctioned by Government?

A.—(a) A statement^a showing the information is laid on the table.

(b) The schemes mentioned in items 26, 27, 32, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, 64 and 65 have been submitted to the Government.

(c) The schemes mentioned in items 32, 45, 54, 55, 56, 61, 63 and 64 have been sanctioned by the Government.

Education.

Board middle and elementary schools in headquarter stations, Bellary district.

551 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of the Board middle and elementary schools, respectively, in the headquarter stations of the Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars of the Bellary district;

(b) in how many of them, respectively, there is not even a single pupil of the depressed classes; and

(c) whether in stations with schools any other arrangements exist for the education of the Adi-Dravida pupils, and if so, what they are?

A.—The information asked for is not available.

Government Training School, Tanjore.

552 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government Training School, Tanjore, is reported to be in a very unsatisfactory condition;

^a Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 368-370 infra.

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(b) whether the District Educational Officer, Tanjore, has remarked that the return for half a lakh of rupees spent on the school is not adequate;

(c) whether the bad condition of the school is due to the incompetent and ignorant conduct of the headmaster; and

(d) what steps the District Educational Officer has taken or proposes to take to improve the efficiency of the school?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) The Director of Public Instruction was asked to examine the matter.

Amalgamation of Secondary Training School and Elementary Training School, Tanjore.

553 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons for the amalgamation of the Secondary Training School at Tiruvalur with the Elementary Training School at Tanjore;

(b) how far the union of the two schools has been effective in maintaining the efficiency of the two schools;

(c) whether it is a fact that the excellent work and the good reputation of each school before the amalgamation have been shattered after the amalgamation of the schools;

(d) whether the poor condition of the school is due to the inability of the new headmaster who is new to the work in the Secondary Training School; and

(e) whether the assistants of the school protested against the unmannerly action of the headmaster?

A.—(a) The arrangement was considered to be more economical and efficient.

(b) The amalgamation was effected in June 1924 and it is too early to offer an opinion.

(c) If the condition of the school is unsatisfactory, this would not necessarily be due to the amalgamation.

(d) No.

(e) The Government have no information.

Industries.

Products of Government industrial concerns.

554 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to place before the House a statement showing the various products of the Government industrial concerns, and the agencies and shops through which they are sold?

A.—The various products are soaps, canned fish, inks and jam. A statement^a showing the places at which and the persons by whom these are sold is laid on the table.

^a Printed as Appendix IX on pages 371-372 infra.

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Expenditure incurred on the British Empire Exhibition.

555 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) what are the various amounts spent by the Madras Government on the British Empire Exhibition including the charges on travelling for the officers and other persons sent by them;

(b) what is the loss and profit account;

(c) whether the Government have decided to spend any money in connexion with the Exhibition this year; and

(d) whether they will be pleased to place on the table of the House a report with accounts in connexion with the Exhibition last year?

A.—(a), (b) & (d) The report of the Chairman, Executive Committee of the British Empire Exhibition, which contains all the information asked for by the hon. Member, will shortly be placed on the Council table.

(c) The question is under consideration.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Hon. Members will notice that only about 12 noon. 26 questions have been put on the paper for this day and yet we have not been able to reach the last of them."

II

DELAY IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I just want to draw your attention to the delay caused somewhere in the despatch of questions from one office to another. For example, taking question No. 540 it would be seen that it has taken fourteen days to reach Government after its receipt in the Legislative Council Office."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"We have not come to question No. 540."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MADALIYAR:—"That is true, but I wanted to raise the general question of delay. Some questions have been delayed twelve days, some four days, and so on. I want to know, Sir, why it is that some are promptly despatched while others are not and whether something cannot be done to avoid such delays."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Hon. Members will notice that for the first time three dates have been inserted against each question. It was done under my directions. I was anxious that hon. Members should know exactly what course is being followed in answering their questions. In regard to this particular question (No. 540) I may say that as the hon. Member (the Interpellator) referred in it to three or four previous questions, some time was taken by the office in putting up references and correspondence before the question could be admitted and passed on to the department concerned. In that way delay is caused in some cases."

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III

TIME-LIMIT ON SPEECHES.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I noticed yesterday that the hon. Member Mr. Anjaneyulu raised some point about the time-limit. At that time I did not want to interrupt the course of the debate as we were reaching the end of the allotted time. But if the hon. Member has any complaint on the subject, I would like the House to be aware of it and myself also, because I did not hear him very well."

* Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"I thank you, Sir, very much for giving me this opportunity. All that I wished to convey to you was this: Sometimes it so chanced—if I am wrong I stand to be corrected—that when some hon. Members were speaking the time-limit was not correctly enforced as I understood it, as it was in the case of other hon. Members. I thought therefore that the best thing would be to clear this impression in the minds of some hon. Members by bringing it to your notice, so that such things might be avoided and any misunderstanding cleared."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"That is precisely the reason why I wanted the hon. Member to refer to it now so that we might do away with the necessity for complaint on the subject. Hon. Members are aware that there is a time-limit indicated by the ringing of the bell at the end of 5 or 10 or 15 minutes as the case may be. But then hon. Members repeatedly ask for a little more time and I have always endeavoured to comply with that demand. Although I ask them to finish their speech within the next half a minute or one minute, I do not stop them in the middle of a sentence. If I have sometimes exercised my discretion in the matter of granting the requests of hon. Members for more time than they are entitled to, it is nobody's fault. I may assure hon. Members that I wish the business of the House to get on as expeditiously as possible and that there is nobody that dislikes this time-limit more than I do; because, from what I have seen in other Assemblies which I have visited, it is not the case that time-limits are universally observed. Opinions may differ on the matter. However, we have agreed to enforce time-limits and I hope the House will co-operate with me in doing so; on my part I shall co-operate with them in enforcing the rule as far as possible."

* Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"Thank you, Sir."

IV

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE TO DISCUSS THE ACTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN VOTING FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE SALT-TAX.

Sir JAMES SIMPSON:—"Sir, with your permission, under Standing Order 20, I beg to move for an adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the situation created in this Presidency by the action of the Legislative Assembly in accepting motions whereby the remission of the contributions of this Presidency has been placed in jeopardy, and the serious effect likely to be produced by such action on the finances of the Province."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member has handed to me a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed. Before I rule whether the motion is in order or not, I would like to know if anybody has anything to say."

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* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, we have always adopted one test in these matters, viz., whether the matter in respect of which an adjournment is asked for can form the subject-matter of a resolution under the rules governing resolutions. I submit in all humility that the action of the Assembly is not a matter on which there can be a resolution in this House. A resolution, as you know, is a matter recommending to the Local Government some specific action to be taken by the Government. This is not a matter which is primarily or even secondarily the concern of the Local Government. Again, Sir, it seems to be that if we are to sit in judgment over the actions of another legislature, there will be no end to this kind of discussion over the proceedings of another Assembly. Apart from that point of order, I also submit that we shall be setting a bad precedent, if you are going to encourage legislatures in this country to sit in judgment over one another's actions. There will be no end to this. To-morrow the Assembly may move a vote of censure on the Legislative Council of Madras for moving this motion. This is a very difficult and important matter, and I trust that my points commend themselves to you and that you will kindly rule this motion out of order."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I deprecate any construction being put upon a motion like this, taking us beyond the intentions of the motion as I read it. It is open to the hon. Member to explain himself. It is not a protest against anybody's action."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The wording is 'for the purpose of discussing the action....' It is neither a protest against it nor an endorsement of it."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Apart from the joke, may I ask the hon. the Home Member, if he is in the confidence of the hon. Sir James Simpson, whether he has moved this motion for the purpose of protesting against it or for endorsing it?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The terms of the motion are clear."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Is it for the purpose of endorsing the action of the Assembly or for protesting against it?"

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"It seems to me, Sir, that we are not going to protest against what the Assembly has done. We are only going to consider the action taken there as affecting our finances. It is a matter in which we are vitally concerned. I think it is absolutely necessary that in order to express our views as representatives of the people, we should discuss this matter. It is more a representation than a protest. I do not think it can be viewed in any other light. Further, we have got a precedent in the Bombay Council where they passed a motion for adjournment of the House for a similar purpose. Therefore, I do not think this motion can be considered as a vote of censure on the Legislative Assembly."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"Sir, as I heard the motion read out, I understood it to mean that we should, in this House raise our voice against certain possible consequences of a certain action that is being taken elsewhere. That being the case, whatever be the powers of

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this House or the jurisdiction of this House, if I may use a legal expression, I think it cannot be denied that we have got a right to tell those in authority that if a particular action is taken certain consequences will follow in this Presidency. For instance, if in consequence of this action in that other place our contributions would not be reduced as we expected them to be reduced, certainly, Sir, we have got a cause of action, and this House must be at liberty to express its opinion in the matter. Although I do not agree with the exact wording of the motion proposed, I do think that we should tell the Government of India and, if necessary, the Assembly that if by any action of theirs our contribution is not to be reduced, then certainly : we have no confidence in them."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Sir, my hon. Friend's former objection would not hold good if the wording of the motion is changed thus : 'the possible consequences to this Presidency in the matter of Provincial contributions on account of the action taken by the Assembly'."

"Then, Sir, in order to make the motion definite I think Sir James Simpson should tell us exactly what the motions are that he refers to in this motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I understand that the change in the wording which Sir James Simpson is willing to accept is this : 'the situation created by the action of the Legislative Assembly in accepting motions whereby remission....' and the serious effect likely to be produced by such action on the finances of the Province."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"I would like to have a ruling whether the motion in this indefinite form '.....in accepting motions....' is in order or whether it would not be necessary to say '... in accepting such and such motions....'."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I do not know if it is very necessary to define the 'motions' seeing that they are introduced there only by way of reference and in order to explain a matter which probably is sufficiently explained already."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"With all due deference to you, Mr. President, I may say that we ought to be able to debate this question and for that we want to know what motions are referred to in it. Secondly there is the possibility of some of us taking the view that in a matter of this kind the motions of the Assembly as a whole and not one or two motions should be taken into consideration. If the motions of the Assembly as a whole are taken into consideration they would have shown savings by which in spite of the particular motion referred to by my hon. Friend, provincial relief also can be given."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Two motions may affect the provincial relief. One is the reduction of salt tax and the other the reduction of the duty on petrol."

* Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO :—"Duty on petrol has not been reduced."

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* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I am only saying that there is nothing definite mentioned in this motion. There have been two motions for reduction which are likely to affect the provincial contributions. Petrol alone would bring in fifteen lakhs."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I just wanted to mention in reply to the observations made by my hon. Friend from Chittoor that if we are to take the actions of the Assembly as a whole there would be any number of amendments coming in. Therefore, I think it is only in that general form that the entire action of the Assembly should be taken into consideration by this House. I do not think any definite particularization of the action of the Assembly is necessary."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I take it that Sir James Simpson is not prepared to modify his motion further than he has done."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"I do not want the form to be changed. I do not think by specifying the motion, the form would be changed; because it would still be 'the situation created by the action of the Legislative Assembly' in accepting the reduction of the salt duty or the petrol duty or any other matter that might be in my hon. Friend's mind. The form is, in no way, affected. I would also like to urge on my hon. Friend that he ought not to ask us to pronounce a judgment on one action taken, isolated from the other actions of the Assembly with reference to the whole matter of the budget. It is not fair; so, I would suggest to him to amend the motion in this way:—"the situation created by the action of the Legislative Assembly with reference to the recent budget and to the Finance Bill."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I wish to know whether the action of the Government of India 'in having given a large portion of the surplus of 75 lakhs to every province except Madras', cannot be added to this motion."

Sir JAMES SIMPSON :—"I am not willing to make any further amendment to my motion. I shall tell the House briefly my object on which I will speak later on in the day. I wish to speak on the motion entirely in the spirit which animated my hon. Friend, Sir K. Venkatareddi Nayudu."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir James Simpson has said that he is not willing to disclose the resolution on which he proposes to speak."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"He did not say that. He said he was not willing to amend his motion further than he had already done."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—"I stand corrected. Rule 12 says that 'the motion must not deal with a matter on which a resolution could not be moved'. I should like to know from the hon. Member Sir James Simpson what exactly the wording of the resolution will be, which can be moved on this matter, so that we will be in a position to know whether it is in order or not."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"It is for the President to consider whether the wording of the motion is such that it can be converted into a resolution. Considering the precedents in this House and that the identical subject has

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been discussed before, I have no doubt that the motion is convertible into a resolution. I have no doubt on that point."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—"I shall be much obliged, if not other hon. Members, if I may know what may be the resolution into which this motion can be converted."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think I must demur to the course suggested by the hon. Member. It is for the President to be satisfied, and I am satisfied?"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"May we at least know what are the motions he refers to, so that we may be prepared?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The rule says that if the President is of opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, he shall read the statement to the Council. I am of opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order and I have already read the statement: to move for the adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the situation created in this Presidency by the action of the Legislative Assembly in accepting motions whereby the remission of the contributions of this Presidency has been placed in jeopardy, and the serious effect likely to be produced by such action on the finances of the Province."

"I ask whether the hon. Member has the leave of the House."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I object."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I have to request those hon. Members who support the motion to rise in their places. Since more than 20 Members have risen, I intimate that the motion will be taken up at 2-30 this afternoon after lunch."

V

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1925-1926.

DEMAND IV—FORESTS—cont.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The House will now resume discussion of motions on Demand No. IV. The discussion began at 4-15 p.m. yesterday and we spent upon it three-fourths of an hour yesterday. To-day we may devote as a maximum one and three-quarters of an hour after the commencement of this business. The business commences at 12-20. We are entitled to go on with it for some time after we reassemble after lunch. But I think hon. Members will be satisfied if they discuss it until they rise for lunch. I think hon. Members have no objection to that course."

Motion No. 226—cont.

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Am I to understand that my motion is to be discussed along with that of Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar?"

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Yes."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"My hon. Colleague from Coimbatore raised yesterday the question of appointing an Indian Conservator of Forests and he also spoke about the general reduction of charges. My intention in tabling motion No. 226 on the agenda is slightly different. As I have been saying more than once in this House, I think that the difficulty in the cost of administration in this country is not going to be solved by simply promoting a few Indians from the Provincial to the Imperial Service. I do not think, Sir, that is exactly what is wanted by the people. I do know that so far as the officers themselves are concerned, they would welcome nothing more than themselves being drafted into the Imperial Service. That is no doubt true. But so far as the country is concerned, I do not think that is what it wants. It wants a cheaper administration and administration by the people who can be had in this country for less pay than what we pay to the Imperial Officers at the present moment. That is the view-point of the people and in that point of view I beg to submit, Sir, that this device of putting more Indians in the Imperial Service does not answer the purpose at all. No doubt, the question of Indianisation is a different one; that will come later on; we have to consider it separately in another connexion."

"But when we are dealing with the cost of administration in the Forest Department and other departments, I beg to submit the question whether the person is Indian or European does not matter at all. We have had a big Commission which went through the whole country and made proposals with reference to this matter; I mean the Lee Service Commission. That Commission has made its recommendations and it is some time since the recommendations reached the Government. It was said that even before the report was submitted to the Government of India and the Secretary of State, the local Governments were asked for proposals with reference to giving effect to the recommendations contained in the Lee Commission's Report. I do not mean to say that the Lee Commission's Report was sent to them. What I mean to say is that more or less the drift of the report was known to them. The recommendations of the Commission regarding additional pay to officers already in service and the constitution of the several services in future were referred to the local Governments. It was said also that the reply of the local Government had been submitted to the Government of India. I should like to know the stage at which the whole matter is, whether the recommendations of the Lee Commission have been accepted, or if they have been accepted with any amendments, and, if so, what the amendments are; what is going to be the future position of the services; and which service is going to take the place of the present Imperial Service. Well, Sir, the question does not affect the Forest Service alone, but it will affect all the services in the Reserved Department at the present moment."

"There are three possibilities with reference to these services. One is to provincialize the whole as is to be done in the Transferred Departments. I may, in this connexion, commend to hon. Members the recommendation of the Muddiman Report that 'Forest' may be transferred. Then there is the second position of having an All-India Service for which recruitment can be made from the whole of India. Then the third position is the continuance

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of the Imperial Service with more Indians as is now being done. Indianisation to the extent of 75 per cent has been recommended. We want to know wherefrom the recruitment of the 75 per cent will be made. Is it in the new service that is going to be created? These are matters about which I should like to know how things stand. What has been done by the Secretary of State and the Government of India and what is the local Government going to do? It is for eliciting information on all these matters that I have given notice of this motion and I hope that the hon. Member who has been in charge of the department for a long time will be able to give us detailed information about all these matters and will not simply say that the matter is still under consideration."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Mr. President, Sir, in 12-30 p.m. replying to the question raised by the hon. Member for Coimbatore at the meeting of the Council held on the 18th March 1922 regarding the difficulties under which the Provincial Service officers were labouring under, the hon. Sir Lionel Davidson referred to the question of the technical training required for the purpose of ensuring efficiency and said:

'It is immaterial whether the training was in England or in India. The point is that their technical training is very different from any training given to a temporary clerk, a deputy ranger or a ranger. The training in the Forest Colleges at Dehra Dun or Coimbatore is definitely inferior to the training given to the officers directly recruited for the Imperial Forest Service. We have had for some time past under consideration the general question of the methods of training recruits for the Forest Department, whether in England or in India. But whatever changes may be made in the future, it is generally recognized that the present training of Provincial officers at Dehra Dun or Coimbatore is definitely inferior to the grade of training requisite for incumbents of Imperial posts (page 3100).'

"Sir, I must point out that during these three years some changes have occurred and I am anxious to know whether any conclusions have been arrived at as to the definite policy to be pursued regarding the Indianisation of the Forest Service. In this connexion I wish to avoid altogether any discussion about the relative merits or demerits of individuals. It is only a question of policy that I wish to raise on this occasion. In considering the question of the Indian Forest Service the Lee Commission Report says:

'39. So far as this Service is concerned, we endorse the views expressed by the Islington Commission to the effect that every effort should be made to discover and recruit competent men in India and that it should be possible to meet the whole of the normal requirements of the Imperial branch in India within a reasonable period.'

'Since that Commission reported, arrangements have, we are informed, been made which will ensure that the instruction and training available at the Forest Research Institute and College at Dehra Dun will be not inferior to that obtainable in other parts of the world. We further understand that instruction and training on the superior scale contemplated will be commenced in 1925.'

"Sir, taking all these factors into consideration, considering that hereafter the ratio must be 75 per cent Indian and 25 per cent European, considering also that the Forest department is to be a transferred one, and considering also the fact that this subject has been before the public for a very long time, I should like to know what the hon. the Home Member has done to give effect to the suggestions made in 1922. I should like to know what the hon. the Home Member proposes to do to give effect to the recommendations of the Lee Commission. The Lee Commission Report has stated that the normal requirements would be met in India. I wish to know whether any proper arrangements have been made to give the different courses of training to Indians here."

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* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Sir, both the hon. Members who spoke last have devoted their attention to the larger question of policy. But as, I think, the hon. Member from Coimbatore anticipated, it is a matter on which it is almost impossible for me to give any definite and final answer. As he recognized, a proposal has been made by the Lee Commission that recruitment in future should be 75 per cent Indian and 25 per cent European. The arrangements to be made for carrying that proposal into effect is a matter which is out of our hands; because even under those conditions the service will still be an All-India Imperial Service. The decision as to the arrangements to be made for carrying out the Lee Commission recommendations will be made by the Government of India and the Secretary of State. Of course it will be otherwise if the proposal that has been made for the transfer of this service is carried out and the service becomes a transferred one. My hon. Friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chetti, raised certain general questions as to what the position of the service would be when it is transferred. That of course is a matter which cannot possibly be dealt with now. It will probably have to be solved by my hon. Ministerial Colleague when the time comes. Mr. Ramalinga Chetti anticipated, I think, a very large reduction in the cost of the service if transfer takes place, that is to say, when it becomes a Ministerial Service. I am not quite so confident as he is as to what is going to be the result. I know a particular officer in another department; he anticipates that his department is going to be transferred and he is in a very great state of alarm less if he is to be put in the transferred department he should find his pay cut down. He is an Indian, and the particular point to which I want to draw attention is that he, being a man of European qualifications, is strongly averse to the suggestion that he should serve on a smaller pay than his European predecessors. That is one of the difficulties which my hon. Colleagues on the Ministerial Bench will have to face when they make arrangements for the transferred service.

"On the general question, I am afraid that I cannot satisfy either of my hon. Friends opposite. With regard to the particular question indicated by my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishna Rao, viz., the suggestion that we now have men available in India and need not recruit from England, I am afraid he is rather premature. I fail to find any indication that the Government of India have yet inaugurated the new and improved training. So far as we are concerned, the practical question whether we can get men from Dehra Dun who if not trained is as highly as the men recruited for the Imperial Service, but are sufficiently highly trained to carry out satisfactorily the work of the Forest department. The position of the local Government is that if they can get such men from Dehra Dun they will be content to employ them. It still remains to be seen whether the proposals for new and improved training in Dehra Dun are going to materialize. Unless and until we have some guarantee that Dehra Dun can supply the men, I think it would be altogether wise for us to stop training men in England for the department."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Are there not some Indian gentlemen available who had their training in England at their own cost?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Yes, there are. As my hon. Friend anticipated, we are appointing such men also.

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"Sir, the interval that has elapsed since we discussed this matter yesterday evening has given me an opportunity—I rather wanted it—of analysing and considering a little further the points which were made by the Mover of the resolution. I do not propose to keep the House very long. But I am compelled to say that my hon. Friend left in the minds of the hon. Members an erroneous impression on the questions he raised. One is the appointment of an Indian Conservator. As the hon. Member from Coimbatore has just pointed out, the service itself is prepared to leave matters as they are. My hon. Friend the Mover has put forward a suggestion that it would be better for us and better for the service if, in addition to promoting Provincial Service men to the Imperial Service, we definitely listed posts for the men who have been or are on the Provincial Service. The answer to that is that my hon. Friend does not quite understand what 'listing' means. It consists in taking away posts which belong to one service, viz., the Imperial Service, and definitely setting them aside for the use of persons in another service."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"In what dictionary is it so defined, Sir?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"It is not defined in any dictionary. It is so defined in the whole of the correspondence."

A VOICE. "In the Act of 1870?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"In the official correspondence it has a certain meaning; if my hon. Friend wants to use it in another meaning, I cannot help it."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"I am sorry to interrupt the hon. Member. May I ask him whether 'listing' means reserving posts exclusively for a particular service?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Yes, Sir, taking theirs from one service and reserving them exclusively for another service. The claim of the original service or any member of the original service is cancelled at once so far as the listed post is concerned. It will therefore be seen that the listing of posts, if my hon. Friend's proposals are given effect to, would make the members of the Imperial Service ineligible for those posts.

"There is another question to which my hon. Friend attached a good deal of importance, and that is the number of supernumerary officers. His line of argument was that if we had six supernumerary Extra Assistant Conservators of Forests the proper course was to stop recruiting from Europe and put these six men to do the work of Imperial officers. That would not effect his object. The cadre of the Imperial Service is fixed by the Secretary of State. No one can occupy a place in the Imperial cadre unless he is appointed by the Secretary of State. We have not got the power to appoint men to that service. There is no means by which we can take these men from the Provincial Service and put them in the Imperial Service. It is entirely out of our power. The only way in which we can get rid of the supernumerary men to whom my hon. Friend objects so strongly is to give them notice and send them away; and I am quite sure it is not the object of my hon. Friend. We have work for them to do; some of them do the ordinary division work and some exploitation and so on. I may assure my hon. Friend that we have very good use to make of them.

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"My hon. Friend went further and suggested that if we can get rid of the supernumerary Assistant Conservators of Forests by putting them into the Imperial ranks, we would then be able to provide for the supernumerary rangers, another bugbear of my hon. Friend. As I have already explained there is no harm in having these supernumerary rangers. It is a perfectly innocent arrangement."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I never raised any objection. I did not want to get rid of them."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The hon. Member would not get rid of them; but he would put them in the cadre of the Provincial Service. You can't put them in the cadre of the Provincial Service without transferring a corresponding number of men from the Provincial to the Imperial Service and that requires the Secretary of State's sanction. Even if you could add to the cadre of the Provincial Service I do not see any purpose in doing so. The only way to deal with these supernumerary men is to leave them where they are. They are not full rangers; they are only foresters who have undergone the training for rangers and are waiting for appointments. We could have called them by another name and then my hon. Friend would not have raised any objection. My hon. Friend's suggestion to include them in the cadre of the Provincial Service would involve giving them more pay. That would involve additional expense. They are fairly contented where they are. As I have suggested to my hon. Friend it would be very much better, so far as they are concerned, to leave them alone until they are absorbed in the ordinary course."

"My hon. Friend coupled his remark with another suggestion to which, I am afraid, I cannot in the least agree. This was that we can very easily make room for these rangers by promoting some of them to the Provincial Service whether they are eligible or not."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"After giving them the necessary training."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Did my hon. Friend say that? I did not hear him say so."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I remember to have even mentioned the place of training, Dehra Dun."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"If that is so, I have no objection to my hon. Friend's suggestion. From what I heard I gathered that these officers should automatically go right up. If on the other hand my hon. Friend's suggestion is that they should only go up if trained for superior duties, I have no objection to that as a matter of principle."

"I do not know, Sir, whether on this particular motion there is anything more that my hon. Friend has got to say. Is my hon. Friend going to offer any further objections? Is he going to reply?"

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I do not want to reply to the observations made by the hon. Member, Sir. But I request you to give one or two minutes to make a few remarks."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am quite content to leave it at that, Sir."

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12-15 p.m. The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think the hon. Member, Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, spoke yesterday. If he wants to speak again, I would request him to be very brief in his remarks."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I shall be very brief in my remarks. I never thought that the hon. the Home Member would do me the injustice of saying that he had not understood me completely. This motion is intended only to show that we want the expenditure to be reduced and that by reduction of the existing number and also by Indianization as much as possible. I said there were a number of supernumeraries among Extra Assistant Conservators having no work and they may be given the work of new Imperial Service officers."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"They are given work."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Yes, but what I say is that two more Imperial appointments that are to be made ought not to be made and that there are plenty of officers already in the department. My objection is for recruitment of two people this year and two people next year. It does not matter whether they are Indians or Europeans. The creation of these posts is most unjustifiable."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"May I tell my hon. Friend that we are not recruiting men in the current year? The provision for two men which appears in the budget has been explained in other ways."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I thought that there will be one appointment made in 1925-26 and there was provision made for one in 1924-25, so that two men are to be recruited from England. I think that absolutely no recruitment should be made in 1925-26. Anyhow the explanation of the hon. the Home Member does not minimise the force of my argument that the recruitment of two people in the current year is unwarrantable. The hon. the Home Member was saying that there was plenty of work for these men. Supposing you create two more appointments, there will be plenty of work then also. The House will very soon be approached with a demand to appoint panchayat officers and that will further reduce the work of the Forest officers. There is no use of hon. Members on the Front Bench saying 'this is a matter concerning the Secretary of State.' Now there are only 37 officers and 54 appointments. At any time 17 people more may be appointed to this cadre. So, it is the duty of the Government to write to the Secretary of State to reduce this number as, I believe, the hon. the Ministers have been reducing the establishments in the departments under their charge."

"I want to say one more thing and that is this. No one on this side of the House has ever said that the pay of these officers should be reduced. So I cannot understand the hon. the Home Member—I do not know whether I am quoting him rightly or wrongly who said—'One officer says save me from the Ministers; save me from the transferred departments because when the subject is transferred our pay will be cut.'"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"On a point of personal explanation. As several hon. Members raised that question, I wished to know whether it was expected that the service would be an All-India Service, or whether it

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would be converted into a Provincial Service. I merely indicated that the sentiments of the officials concerned would stand in the way of a reduction of pay when the subject is transferred."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I simply quoted the other hon. Member from Coimbatore who said that we should not care for the sentiments of these officers whether they are Indians or Europeans. Whether these officers are Indians or Europeans we have no mind to reduce the pay of these men. It is all about the clamour which has been created that we object to. For instance, they say 'this is an Imperial appointment and you must therefore go to the Secretary of State and you must not ask us to do anything in the matter.' Thus saying, the Government create some posts and then attach some name to these posts. This Government is responsible for recommending a large number of Imperial appointments leaving them into the hands of the Secretary of State to be filled up and I hope the latter will see that the number of appointments in the Imperial cadre is reduced. To-day there are 37 or 38 officers in the Imperial Service and about 64 appointments. To-morrow some 15 more officers may be appointed by the Government. A large number of posts is bracketed and shown as vacants."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" No, Sir, it is 64 and 40."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" It may be. I have not got my assistant secretaries and others who can give me readily the correct figures."

"One word about the meaning of the words 'listed appointments'. The word 'listed,' I think, is used in different meanings in different circumstances. In this department the Government make a departure so far as the use of this word is concerned. They have promoted the Provincial Service officers to Imperial posts. They must give a different meaning to the word 'listed' in that department. Otherwise we cannot understand why people are recruited from England to 'listed' posts to which persons should be recruited in India. Under these circumstances I urge upon the Government that out of the six appointments at least one should be given to a person recruited in India. That does not mean that all the five other appointments should go to other people, whether you call the service Provincial, Imperial or anomalous service, it does not matter much. But what I say is that at least one appointment should be given to a person recruited in India."

"Sir, I think the Government is acting very unsatisfactorily with regard to the Forest department and is increasing its expenditure which is inadvisable and unjustifiable, in spite of the recommendations of the Lee Commission and Muddiman Committee Reports."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I did not want to intervene in the debate but for certain remarks which fell from my hon. Friend who preceded me which I thought were likely to be misunderstood by a certain class of people to whom we owe a certain amount of respect. In my opinion the remarks that the Members of this House did not care a copper pie for the sentiments and feelings of the services is a most unfortunate and uncalled for one. Sir, the services whether they consist of Englishmen or Indians are servants of the nation and of this country. They are a noble band of

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men who are serving the country just as we are trying to serve the country in this House. The mere fact that they are receiving some pay need not make them such creatures as not to deserve the respect of this House."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" On a point of personal explanation, I did not say anything whatever about their respect. I said we need not necessarily care for the sentiments of these people, so long as we do not do them any injustice. My friend forgets that and comes with the word 'sentiments'."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Not only it is unnecessary but it is impolitic to say so, unnecessary because it serves no useful purpose in this case and impolitic because it creates an increased irritation in their minds, and unnecessary again because if my hon. Friend had followed the trend of debates in the Assembly and if he had read the report of the Lee Commission he could have at once seen that those who are already in service would not in the least suffer, for although Forest department is going to be made a transferred subject all those who are in the Imperial Service will continue to be in the Imperial Service and they will directly be under the control of the Secretary of State, and those who are hereafter to be appointed will come under the Provincial service with the result that no one in the Provincial service will be affected."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" The recommendation is not only to bring the subject under the Ministers but also to keep the persons who are already in the Imperial service under the powers of the Secretary of State. We do not want that these officers should be under the powers of the Secretary of State."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" It is because they have entered the service under certain conditions, it is not fair for you to ask them to change those conditions. I do not think I need say further."

The Motion was put to vote and lost.

Motion No. 27.

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—" The motion that stands in my name runs as follows :—

'That the allotment of Rs. 75,200 for general direction be reduced by Rs. 100'.

"In commending this motion to the consideration of the House, I beg to state that this is the second motion of its kind which I move in this House. The object of the motion has been placed before hon. Members beforehand and it is this; whether it is desirable to extend the Government Forest Act to the Proprietary Forests in this Presidency. Sir, before coming to any conclusion I beg hon. Members of this House to make a distinction between the district officers who are in charge of the district forest administration, and the private proprietors owning various proprietors' forests. The Government Forest Act of 1884 vests in these various officers certain summary powers such as the power of compounding and pounding, detaining a cartload or loads at any place at the whim and caprice of the Forest officers. It is the proprietor himself or the nominee of the proprietor that is invested with such powers. Sir, while moving a token motion in this Council on 19th March 1924 the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp said :—" If it

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is the case I am perfectly willing to make an enquiry of the working of the rules in the zamindaris'. I shall presently show what sort of enquiry has been made during the past year. A number of representations were sent to the Government from various ryots' associations from Ganjam, also from my humble self, as also from other gentlemen who are concerned with the zamindari tenants. Without looking into their grievances, I believe it was forwarded to the Collector of Ganjam and after a lapse of ten or eight months, after reminders and special reminders, I got a letter from the Development Secretary to the effect that the Collector who wanted to enquire into some other grievances and who posted certain cases to be heard before him on some day in December did not get any representation regarding the forest grievances.

"One cannot but pity such acts. When cases are posted for hearing by the Collector, it is natural to expect that the Collector would hear them. It is not possible for the ryots to go on making any representation that they think necessary, nor for the Collector to hear them all within the short space of two or three hours that the Collector happens to halt at this place. This is the enquiry that took place in the month of December. Just after a month, in January last, His Excellency the Governor visited the Ganjam district. A deputation of the Ryots' Association which waited upon His Excellency submitted a memorandum regarding the forest grievances of the zamindari tenants. I would just read a portion of the memorandum :

"There have been unfortunately strained relations between some of the zamindars and ryots in this district. We may invite your Excellency's attention to the action taken by the Police under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code against the late Raja of Bodokhimedi in 1922, the Dharakote Estate dacoity sessions case of 1924 and the projected action of the Police against the zamindar of Jarada and many criminal cases and revenue suits filed by the Raja of Mandasa and the zamindar of Kallikote and Attagada against the ryots. Such being the relationship between a good number of zamindars and ryots in this district, it is but natural for the landlords to apply for new powers which the extension of the Government Forest Act to the zamindari forests gives them."

"And then, I also beg to inform the hon. Members of this House that the tenants are in no way opposed to the preservation of forests. Under section 23 of the Forest Act of 1884, clause (a), whenever any proprietor wants to have the benefit of the Forest Act, he could hand over the forest to the District Forest Officer under the Act. We have no objection whatsoever to the proprietors handing over the forests to the control of the Government. Far from it, we much welcome it. But we do not like it to be said—I am sure I focus the opinion of the tenants when I say this that the tenants are as a body opposed to the extension of the Forest Act. If you think that it is a necessary evil we are prepared to submit ourselves to it. But what we press on the attention of the Government is that we have as much a claim for protection as the zamindars for the preservation of their forests. I would therefore request the Government to enquire into the matter without any bias and see how far the Forest Act is working before it is extended to the forests in any other district. I am sorry that there has been a tendency on the part of all the zamindars to seek the benefit of the Act. When I moved a token motion in this Council last March on this very matter, the operation of the Act was confined to only three zamindari areas. Now it has been extended to two more zamindaris within the space of one year. And I have reason to believe that the Government will extend it to other zamindaris. As such a course will affect the relations between the

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zamindars and their tenants, and knowing as we do that very summary powers have been conferred on the zamindars and proprietors under the provisions of the Act, I would request the Government to consider, to give their earnest attention to the matter and redress the grievances of the zamindari tenants."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am not quite sure, Sir, whether I may take the hon. Member's remarks as indicating an idea in his mind that the present tendency to ask for the application of the Forest Act to estates is to be interpreted as pointing not so much to a bonafide desire to protect the forests as to a desire on the part of the zamindars to increase their influence. If that is so, Sir,—"

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS MAHASAYO:—"Certainly, Sir."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"If there is any foundation for that idea, I may say at once that I would exercise the greatest caution before we extend the provisions of the Act."

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS MAHASAYO:—"It is not a question of an allegation being raised on any foundation. We have been loudly crying for the last so many years, even as early as 1916, representations have been made to the Board of Revenue, against this evil."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I do not think, Sir, my hon. Friend has caught my point. What I was saying is this, that if an application is made *bona fide* in the interests of the preservation of the forests, it is one thing. If as the hon. Member suggests the tendency of the zamindars is to increase their powers by the extension of the Act without any very special reference to the forests, I would be very cautious before I allow the Act to be extended."

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS MAHASAYO:—"That is a general remark. Certainly, Sir, when the zamindar approaches the Government to have the Act extended, he does not say: 'I want more powers'. He would certainly put it as due to a desire on his part for the preservation of the forests in his area."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"That is exactly my point, Sir. My hon. Friend seems to suggest that the zamindars are not entirely single-minded in the matter, that they have not entirely the interests of the forests at heart. My answer is that if for the moment we suspected that I should pay special attention to that point, and if there is reason to think that it is not the interests of the forests that were in the mind of the zamindar we should certainly hesitate to apply the provisions of the Act."

"On the actual matter of the motion, I may point out that my hon. Friend's complaint was in relation to only one or perhaps two zamindaris"

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS MAHASAYO:—"No."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Does my hon. Friend suggest that this evil exists all over the Presidency?"

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS MAHASAYO:—"I am speaking of the Ganjam district."

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* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"That is exactly what I mean, Sir. My hon. Friend's complaint is more or less local. And it is very difficult for us on the representation of one locality to come to the conclusion that the application of the Forest Act in any portion of the Presidency is not justifiable. On that point it is not possible for us to come to a decision on the materials before us. As regards the reference to the previous debate on this matter, I should like to point out to my hon. Friend that I promised an inquiry with reference to a special remark which my hon. Friend then made. This is what took place at the debate last year, Sir. The hon. Member stated that in the estate forests, the forest officers were the forest guards. I replied that my impression was that where we had extended the provisions of the Forest Act, powers were limited to the proprietor and the forest officer, to which the hon. Member replied that the forest officer was the forest guard. I then said that I would be willing to make an inquiry into the matter. We referred to the Chief Conservator and the Collector and as my hon. Friend knows the Collector did make a report. He mentioned in his report that he was camping in the village, and made inquiries. My hon. Friend has told us that on the particular occasion when the Collector made his enquiry, he fixed a day for some other purpose and persons who were interested in the Forest administration apparently missed the opportunity of making their complaints."

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"No, Sir. My complaint is that the Collector visited a place known as Kanchana within the Kallikote and Attagada estates to hear the settlement objections of the parties. He came exactly at 2 and left the place at 5 p.m. The settlement objections took three hours and I ask whether it was the time for the people to make their representations regarding the forest grievances."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Well, Sir, the Collector says there was an opportunity. I am very doubtful whether the inappropriateness of the occasion would have prevented the people from making any representation if they wanted. The Collector mentions that there has been no complaint to the Deputy Tahsildar and the Revenue Divisional officer. If as a matter of fact in the case of any particular zamindari there are definite complaints, I can only say as I have said before that if my hon. Friend would give me details, I would cause investigation to be made. So far as the Government are concerned, we have proceeded on the hon. Member's complaint; we sent the complaint as promised for inquiry and we have received the report of the Collector upon it and he does not support the complaint. We are not in a position to go any further. I would only suggest to my hon. Friend that he would start his campaign again, collect instances of the misconduct of the officers, press them on the notice of the Collector and, if he does not consider them, approach us again. The position of the Government is that they can do no more after the inquiry has been finished and it is for the persons concerned to move again and build up their case afresh."

* Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Sir, the grievance is not only confined to Ganjam, but I believe it extends all over the Presidency though in a lesser degree. The purpose of the Government in extending this Act to zamindaris must be purely with a view to conserve forests probably for reasons of rainfall and other things. If that is so, they should be guided by

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that test solely and by nothing else. But somehow the zamindars find in this Act a weapon for harassing their tenants. Whether there is sufficient forest or not, whether there would be any purpose served or not, the zamindar sends in an application and naturally the Government, in the belief that there is really an area which could be usefully reserved, gives the sanction for the extension of the Act. Instead of preservation, there is harassment of the poor tenants and nothing else. Therefore we appeal to the hon. the Home Member to see things in their new perspective and see whether there would be harassment caused to the tenants by the extension of the Act. If there is need for an elaborate inquiry and the grievances of the people have to be looked into, we request the Government to do so before they accord their sanction. But without looking into the matter, as a matter of course, because of the application, the Act should not be extended. Again, Sir, my belief is that a simple notification in the Gazette is not enough to draw the attention of the ryot to the fact that the Forest Act is being introduced in the zamindari. There must be some other method to inform them of this extension of the Act. This seems to be a more or less private way of managing the thing. The zamindar simply sends in an application to the Government, that goes to the Forest Officer and he recommends and the Government sanctions. The matter has to be published in the district and the Fort St. George Gazettes. Many of the educated people themselves do not look into these Gazettes. And it is therefore too much to expect from the poor ryot that he would make the complaint in proper time and get the sanction annulled. He knows the extension of the operation of the Act only too late, but suffers the most by it. I therefore appeal to the hon. the Home Member that whenever an application is made by the zamindar for the reservation of any forest, a committee of the people of the locality, with the District Forest Officer on it, would be appointed to inquire into the matter fully and, if there is a real *bona fide* case in the opinion of the committee, the sanction should be allowed. With this appeal I would add this fact that in Ganjam the tenants are really harassed by the zamindars in the matter of forest administration very badly. If the ryots put in an application for settlement of their rent, the only

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thing that the zamindar does is to introduce the rigours of this Forest Act into the village and trouble the people. He thereby hopes that they will be subservient to him and will not go against him in such matters. This may not be a general feature, but it is a feature peculiar to the Ganjam district, and I hope that the hon. the Home Member will look into this matter carefully."

* Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"I do not want to take up the time of the House, Sir, but would just say a word. As I understood it, there is the Ganjam Zamindari Ryots' Association which must have made a representation to the Government, and the trouble seems to be twofold. One is that where there are forests and the ryots have some customary rights, those rights are overridden and the ryots are harassed through the application of the Forest Act for other purposes and made to come to terms with the zamindar. The other trouble is that in the case of some tracts over which the ryots have got rights of grazing, those tracts are declared forest reserves and under the guise of this they are denied their customary rights of grazing. In that way the ryots lose their customary rights of grazing cattle. These two are the real difficulties of the ryot. Their grievances are detailed

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in *extenso* in a memorandum and it must have been submitted to the Government. It is in this sense that my hon. Friends from Ganjam have been urging the case on behalf of the ryots and requesting Government to make an inquiry and be cautious in extending the Forest rules to those areas."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I have only two remarks to make, Sir. I think I may assume that this complaint applies to Kallikote and Dharakote zamindaris. I may mention that in the case of Dharakote, the Collector himself, without waiting for complaints, actually went through the zamindari area and made personal enquiries. So far as that particular case is concerned, he did not find any good ground for complaint. But if it will meet hon. Member's views I am prepared to accept the suggestion made by the hon. Members on the other side that in future when we intend to apply the Act we will arrange for a committee of the local people to examine the proposals before the Government pass orders finally."

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"Now that you have recently extended the Government Forest Act to Dharakote forests and the rules under the Act have not all been framed—I believe only a few have been framed—and the boundaries and other things have yet to be ascertained, may I know if the case of Dharakote also will be referred to a committee?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid it is hardly fair to ask me to answer that question. I do not know at present how far that particular matter has gone. I may suggest to the hon. Member to write to the Development Department and ascertain whether the proposal has gone too far for the committee procedure to be applied to it."

* Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"With this assurance and with the hope that I may be able to convince the Development Secretary with whom I hope to discuss the question, I ask permission to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 28.

Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 75,200 for general direction by Rs. 100.'

"My object in making this motion is to discuss the policy of the Government with regard to the administration of forests. I gave notice of this token motion so that there may be an opportunity for others to speak on it. As many of my hon. Friends, especially the Deputy President, want to say something, I formally move this motion and give them an opportunity to speak."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, just when I rise, I hear a number of voices asking 'What is Forest policy?'. That is exactly the question which the ryot is asking to-day. Sir, I am also handicapped for want of time and as a number of my seniors like my hon. Friend Mr. Kesava Pillai and others want to speak on the motion, I shall be very brief. I have already indicated on various occasions that the present administration of the Forest Department is too top-heavy. A number of highly paid officers are maintained there at the cost of the tax-payer which is, I think, absolutely unnecessary. Secondly, there has been no regard paid to the needs of the

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ryot by the Forest department. Not only has there been harassment in petty affairs of the ryots, but also in the matter of grazing and other things there is no sympathy shown to the ryot. I do not want to say anything more, as others are anxious to speak."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"Mr. President, we have been hearing a number of criticisms about the Forest department which I think are, in many instances, well-deserved. However, I want to say a word upon the most satisfactory way in which these forest panchayats have been established in this Presidency. I read the last progress report of the forest panchayats with very great gratification. The 'Madras Mail' writing a leaderette on that subject says that there have been forebodings that these forest panchayats would be exploited and there would be petty tyranny practised by the villagers on the villagers themselves. It gives only one view of the case. So far as I remember it was stated on the official side that these forest panchayats would never succeed, that the people would not be capable of managing them, and that if the forest subordinates who were preserving all this efficiency in a wonderful manner are taken away, everything would disappear. I am glad that I am able to pay a tribute of homage to Mr. Tireman and his officers for having worked these panchayats in a satisfactory manner. I am glad to know that only 16 per cent of the panchayats are indifferent while others are eager to improve the forests. They dug wells; they were planting trees; and they were constructing ponds for cattle much better than the forest officers themselves who were employing large numbers of people and spending large sums of money. This is a most satisfactory feature of the administration of forests. I think by improving these forest panchayats further and abolishing some of those so-called reserves that are still remaining, even better progress can be made. I am glad Mr. Tireman and his subordinates are paying a good deal of attention to the question of the abolition of these village forests which only have got growths of prickly-pear and thorns; they will thus be reducing the staff, economizing expenditure, and removing the hardships which the people are suffering from. They have done a good deal since the Forest Committee sat, and I hope they will do much more to economize expenditure and encourage panchayats. Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar wants to speak, and it is a pity we have no time, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Does the hon. Member support the reduction of the grant by Rs. 100?"

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"No; I spoke about the policy, Sir (laughter)."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I have myself tabled a motion in regard to the forest panchayat system, and so I shall continue the observations made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Kesava Pillai. I associate myself entirely with him in the tribute that he paid to the Chief Conservator for the great sympathy and interest that he has shown in the working of this department (hear, hear). I would only urge some other points for the consideration of Government, so that these panchayats may be made more efficient and more useful to the people. At present, I do not think there is any method adopted in the formation of these panchayats. I may, for example, suggest that all the people interested in the working of these panchayats should be asked to

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assemble in a part of the village and they must be given an opportunity to choose the best people among them. I suspect that under the existing arrangements, an officer who has to cover a long distance and visit a number of forests simply makes a rapid tour and picks out any people who may come forward then, and forms a panchayat. A panchayat so formed is not likely to do the best work, and hence the method I have suggested. Again you are always fixing a particular amount which you are asking the panchayats to pay. All that they are concerned with is that they must take care of the panchayat administration. But how they are to do it, what staff they should employ and what money should be expended on it must be matters to be left to them only. At present you insist upon a certain amount being paid by the panchayatdars, and they are obliged to pay certain rates of pay, etc., without regard to the conveniences or conditions of the people. On this and other aspects, I believe the Chief Conservator would do well to bestow his attention and see if he cannot make panchayats more popular, more useful and more effective. These are the remarks which I wanted to make within the short time at my disposal."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"The time at my disposal is very little. With regard to forest panchayats, I want to say just a word or two. I have no wish to decry the forest panchayat system, but I know owing to a number of complex and vexatious difficulties in a good many villages it has been found impossible to have impartial panchayatdars; and in such cases the complaint has really been—and I have heard such complaints from some villagers—that instead of one man who was satisfied with one or two chicken and a few eggs, we have now a number of panchayatdars to please not only once a fortnight but practically every day (voices of 'No, no'). There have been a number of such panchayats and I want the Government, as far as possible, not to pick up people as my hon. Friend suggested, but to devise a system by means of which it would be possible for the villagers to select, not by the raising of hands as in that case they would select only influential people, some people who though not rich may be impartial (Hear, hear). In such a case, I have no doubt that the forest panchayats will work very satisfactorily, and that is probably the only way in which we can effectively deal with this matter. There are so many cases in which panchayats have not been impartial, and unless they are impartial the villagers will suffer much. I hope the Government will take all possible steps under the circumstances, and will select such panchayatdars as may be expected to deal justice between villager and villager in an impartial manner."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"Sir, at page 33 of the agenda I have got a motion No. 257 with regard to the removal of the reserved forest boundary line running through Porabalur village in the Madura district."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"If hon. Members insist upon having the full time in regard to this demand, I shall have to comply with their request. They are entitled to 30 or 35 minutes more under the 2½ hours arrangement. But I suggested that in view of the limitation of time caused by the adjournment motion, this motion might be finished before lunch time. Even if there is an extension of time, I do not see any prospect of the motion being pressed."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"I am afraid that my motion may not be raised. So I take this opportunity. Moreover, in connexion with the

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question put with regard to this matter the hon. the Home Member said that he would make enquiries and answer them next time."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"That is a request."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"Yes, in connexion with the question put. May I know, Sir, whether any steps have been taken?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am hardly in a position to answer now. I shall make enquiries."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"I understand that the order has been issued."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I do not propose to take much time, not more than one or two minutes. I should like to say that I am very grateful to the House for this discussion. We have had the opinion of very well-qualified people as to the working of the panchayat system. It is an experiment; nobody expected to work it to perfection, but the general impression is that it is working well. I may mention that at the end of this month I am hoping to come forward with a supplemental demand for the purpose of enlarging and increasing the panchayat staff so that we may get through the arrangement more quickly and may be able to introduce the system all over the presidency."

"One other remark I may make which I had no opportunity of making in the earlier part of to-day. As a result of the introduction of the panchayat movement, we are now in a position to abolish two Forest Officers. The Chingleput Forest Officer will be abolished at once. The Bellary Forest Officer will be abolished later. Along with the officers the staff will disappear and what we thus save will help to meet the cost of introducing more panchayat officers."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Does the hon. Member press the motion?"

Mr. A. V. BHANU RAO:—"No, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Then the main demand, viz., that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 46.47 lakhs, was put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

The House then adjourned to lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

IV.—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE TO DISCUSS THE ACTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN VOTING FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE SALT-TAX.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Hon. Members are aware that the time-limit is 15 minutes for each Member and that the debate must come to an end by 5 o'clock."

Sir JAMES SIMPSON:—"Mr. President, of all the motions of urgent public importance that have been debated in this Council, I consider this motion to be the most urgent and the most important. In moving it this afternoon, I have undertaken a very serious and a very difficult task. The matter is of such great importance and I consider my case to be so overwhelmingly good that I very greatly fear that I must be playing the role

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of a bad advocate who by too much speaking spoils a good case. I wish, therefore, Sir, to be as brief as I possibly can.

"It seems to me that this is a motion that should receive the hearty and unanimous support of this House and that we should in no uncertain voice send the kind of message that my hon. Friend the Member for Rajahmundry referred to when the matter was being debated this morning.

"I shall not detain the House by going through the history of this old and hoary problem. I shall only take the House back to about five years ago and refer to what the constituency I have the honour to represent in this House did in the matter. Sir, I refer to a public meeting that was held in the Victoria Public Hall, on Wednesday the 26th May 1920, to protest against the report of the Lord Meston's Financial Relation Committee. I had the honour to preside on that occasion, and a resolution was proposed by Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, who is now the brilliant Law Member of this House. It was seconded by, if I may say so, the revered father of this House, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Tyagaraya Chetti. It was supported by my hon. Friend, the Member for Rajahmundry, by Mrs. Besant and Sir Bernard Hunter, who has now gone hence. The resolution, Sir, read thus :

"This public meeting of the citizens of Madras, held under the auspices of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, the Madras Trades Association, Southern Indian Skins and Hides Merchants Association, Rice, Grain and Sugar Merchants Association, Madras Landholders' Association, Madras Ryotwari Landholders' Association, Madras Mahajana Sabha, Madras Nattukottai Nagarathars' Association, Madras Landlords' Association, Madras Liberal League, National Home Rule League, Southern Indian Liberal Federation, Pravidian Association, Corporation of Madras, and other public bodies of the presidency, including the Chambers of Commerce of Cochin, Cuddalore and Tuticorin, desire to record their most emphatic protest against Lord Meston's Financial Relation Committee and deplores the contemplated prolongation of the attempted negligible policy followed in the past, of casting on the Madras Presidency the burden of contribution, which also has consistently been denounced by all shades of reformed opinion in the Madras Presidency for many years past."

"Now, Sir, much water has flowed under the bridge during the past five years and this very remarkable example of unanimity amongst all sorts and conditions of men, all classes and creeds is perhaps now not so pronounced as it was then. I wish I could say that the opinion is unanimous and not that it *was* unanimous. But then, Sir, it has been the lot of Madras to have had no relief from this provincial contribution for the last five years. Now, Sir, relief is almost within our grasp. It has been promised to us. I may liken it to a man struggling to come over the banks and as he is getting to the banks being shoved back by his own friends. It is our own Madras representatives in the Legislative Assembly that are endangering and imperilling the remission of the contribution promised to us. We are so near and yet we are so far. I do not want to say anything heated, Sir, in that direction. I believe in the saying that the least said is the soonest mended and each of these Madras Members is entitled to vote according to his conscience. I have no resentment at all, and if I have any resentment it is outweighed by a stronger feeling than that feeling which one might express in the phrase : hope deferred maketh the heart sick. I am weighed down by this spirit when I think that our representatives, whom we have sent to the Assembly to represent us, represent us, in my opinion, so ill; that they put political expediency against the interests of our own presidency. I believe, Sir, that they are endangering and vitally affecting the

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interests of every man, woman and child in the presidency by voting as they have done during the budget debate in Delhi. My hon. Friend from Chittoor was very anxious to bring me down to name all the resolutions I meant. Take, for example, the Salt-Tax resolution which came upon us as a bomb-shell yesterday. Let me inform the House that I am doing this difficult task to-day entirely and absolutely of my own free will. I have not been prompted by any Government Member and I am doing it out of the conviction that I am doing the right thing for the presidency and a thing that ought to be done. I only wish, Sir, that it were done better and more eloquently than I can do it. As I have said, I have no resentment against those who voted for the reduction of the salt-tax. But I would only like to express my feelings at all events regarding one of them whom many of us look upon with considerable amount, if I may say so, of affectionate regard. I refer to the young man who at one time represented, if I am not mistaken, the Nilgiris in this Council. When I saw his name in that list, the feeling that I possessed, Sir, may best be explained by the phrase that I was being wounded in the house of my friend. I do feel that was a vote given against his higher and better instincts."

Mr C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"May I point out, Sir, that it was not made a party question, to which Mr. Shanmugkam Chettiyar belongs."

Sir JAMES SIMPSON :—"As I have said, Sir, I bear no resentment. But I only expressed that I have been wounded in the house of my friend and I shall leave the electorate to deal with him when the next election comes up."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"We will."

Sir JAMES SIMPSON :—"In this connexion, I would congratulate the Vice-President of the Assembly in the action that he took. 2-45 p.m. Still I feel that I have not got the unanimous voice of this House and it is a matter, if I may say so, of such serious and vital import that we ought to have, as I have already endeavoured to say, a unanimity of opinion. If there is any way or form in which I could amend this resolution so that the House will agree with the broad principles underlying it, viz., that we wish to have no reduction of the Imperial taxation until our provincial contributions disappear, I should only be too glad to amend the resolution so that we may send such a message to the Governor-General in Council. It is unnecessary for me to go into the broad aspects of the question. I shall leave it to the hon. the Chief Minister to say how much he could do in sanitation and public health if he had the provincial contribution. Similarly, I leave it to the Minister for Excise to tell us what he can do in respect of his Excise policy and what he can do for education if he had the remission. The Minister for Development will tell us how much it will facilitate him to improve the departments under his charge by means of this contribution.

"Therefore, Sir, as I have said, this is a very serious matter and a very essential matter for the presidency of Madras. I feel that I may not be doing the justice that is required for the cause and I recommend strongly the resolution to the House and hope that it will be possible for us to give such a vote on this matter as will show to all parts of the presidency that we

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are determined that whatever can be got for the development of our needs will be got by us."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I have great pleasure in seconding the motion and supporting it though not for the same reason given by my hon. Friend, Sir James Simpson. Of course, it goes without saying that we have been crying hoarse for the last many years against this enforced contribution of 3½ crores from our coffers and as my predecessor has stated we want money very badly for very many useful purposes such as the encouragement of agriculture, education and so on. Now, the resolution refers to the motions which have been accepted by the Assembly and which have endangered the promised reduction of our contribution. So far as I am able to remember, there are three and only three motions accepted by the Assembly which have the effect of endangering this promised relief to us. One of those three is the resolution of the Assembly which practically though not in terms abolishes the cotton excise duty. The second motion that brought about this effect is the motion that reduces the salt duty from Re. 1-4-0 to Re. 1 per maund. The third and a minor motion that has the same effect is the motion relating to the petrol duty.

"I shall first address myself with reference to the cotton excise duty, a duty which amounts to, I believe, 2½ crores. Though the Assembly has voted only for the reduction of about Rs. 77,000, the amount representing the expenditure on maintaining the staff for collecting this duty, the effect of the motion is considerably large. As it is, except probably a few officers, it has taken away all the officers and therefore it has practically abolished the duty. On principle, I am for the abolition of the duty. As a matter of fact, many Governments and many Finance Members of the Government of India have made repeated promises that when suitable opportunities arose this duty would be done away with and I believe that the present occasion when the Government of India had a surplus afforded a good opportunity for abolishing the duty. The duty itself cannot be maintained on principle but if it comes to a question of choice between the abolition of that duty and the reduction or the abolition of our provincial contribution, I would certainly prefer that duty to remain. As a matter of fact, that duty in the first place does not affect us to the same extent as it affects the people of the western presidency."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"That is your satisfaction?"

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I prefer that our own finances should be improved to the improvement of the finances of the western presidency; or, in any case, to the finances of the rich mill-owners of the Bombay Presidency. It is probably unnecessary to dilate upon the reason which induces me to say that and I prefer the abolition or the reduction in the provincial contribution to the abolition of the cotton excise duty. To that extent, I am against the vote of the Assembly on that subject.

"But so far as the reduction of the salt duty from Re. 1-4-0 to Re. 1 is concerned, I am afraid I must incur the displeasure of my hon. Friend Sir James Simpson and also of my hon. Friend Mr. Graham. My hon. Friend, the Finance Member, stated that the reduction of the salt-tax from Re. 1-4-0

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to Re. 1 would not materially affect the poor consumers of salt. The benefit of this reduction, he said, will go to the intermediary, the merchant and the trader who sells salt. I am afraid that this argument can be carried too far. The salt duty, as we know, was some time ago Rs. 2-8-0 per maund. The same argument which is now sought to be applied, viz., that the reduction of Re. 1-4-0 to Re. 1 does not affect the poor consumer, may be applied to the reduction of the salt duty from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 2-4-0, from Rs. 2-4-0 to Re. 2 and so on. But we know that the difference between Rs. 2-8-0 and Re. 1 on salt-tax is very marked and must necessarily be felt and enjoyed by the poor consumers of salt. (Hear, hear.) So that, to say that this decrease does not materially benefit the consumer is, if I may say so in all humility, an argument which cannot hold water. Then again such an argument can be pushed further to all illogical consequences. For instance, the amount which we hope and which we very much hope we shall get is about 126 lakhs. Now this amount of Rs. 126 lakhs if and when we get it, I suppose, will be utilized in various ways. Let us hope that part of it will be given to the Co-operative department; part will go to the Agricultural department; some portion will be spent on education and probably another part for the reduction of the stamp and court fees duties. This amount which we may ultimately get may be distributed in these various ways."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"What about the deficit of 90 lakhs?"

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I differ from my hon. Friend, the Finance Member, and also from my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, when they say that when we get this amount we should apply this amount for the reduction of our debt. I would rather utilize this amount for our present needs. However, that is not a matter with which I am at present concerned. So I say if this amount is coming to us it may be utilized in these various ways. If it is utilized separately for the whole presidency consisting of 25 districts, the benefit which each district will get will be considerably small and it will be practically very little. Does it therefore follow from that that we do not want it? Certainly we do want it. So that, this argument for the reduction in the salt duty from Re. 1-4-0 to Re. 1 is something like the argument that may with equal force apply to the application of 126 lakhs. Therefore, practically the argument leads us to an untenable position.

"Then the third resolution that may be said to possibly affect the reduction for us is the motion that led to the reduction of the duty of petrol. I understand from the papers that that amount is very small.

"Therefore, for different reasons from the reasons which induced my hon. Friend to table the resolution, I entirely agree with him. I cannot join the hon. Member Sir James Simpson in condemning the action of those like Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar and the hon. Member for Vizagapatam, Mr. Venkatapati Raju, who voted in favour of the reduction of the salt duty from Re. 1-4-0 to Re. 1. On the other hand, on behalf of the people whom I have the honour to represent in this House and also on behalf of many other poor people throughout the presidency, I believe we are indebted to

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those Members of the Assembly who have voted for the reduction." (Applause.)

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, Sir, the hon. Member Sir James Simpson, when he moved his resolution, said that he did not want to raise any controversy but would content himself by moving the resolution for the acceptance of the House. And had my Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar contended himself by seconding it, perhaps there would not have been any controversy, even according to the wording of the resolution as it stands. Sir James Simpson has tabled this motion on the vote of the representatives of this presidency in the Assembly. As far as the first portion of his speech is concerned, namely, that the province is in immediate need of the reduction of provincial contributions, I do not think there can be two opinions. But unnecessarily, without any reference to the wording of the resolution, he did bring into the controversy the conduct of the Members of the Assembly representing this province. He did commend the action of Diwan Bahadur Rangachari and he did condemn the act of our Friend Mr. Shanmukham Chettiyar. In this matter I wish to join issue with him. He will have to recognize that these representatives have their constituencies behind them; and he himself did recognize that it was best to leave the question between Shanmukham Chettiyar and his constituency. Sir, if I remember the proceedings of the Assembly last year correctly, this question has been settled by one constituency in the past. I may bring to the notice of the House the election of Mr. Mooppil Nayar. He did speak in the Assembly against the reduction of salt duty, and I believe it cost him his seat in the Council of State. (Diwan Bahadur Krishnan Nayar: And the Assembly also.) Recently he lost the chance of getting into the Council of State. Of course, it may not be possible for Sir James Simpson to realize what the nature of the burden is regarding salt-tax, but he will have to recognize that there is the responsibility of the representatives in the Assembly to their constituencies. They are not young children to be taught this way or that. They know their responsibility to their constituencies, and I do not think there was ever any voice of protest from the constituencies in this presidency when salt-tax was reduced last year from Rs. 2-8-0 to Re. 1-4-0, nor was there any protest from the constituencies when it was reduced the previous year. But it was restored. If I am right, every constituency did protest against the certification of the Viceroy raising it to Rs. 2-8-0. These are facts which are within the cognizance of the representatives, but it may not be within the cognizance of Sir James Simpson, because he does not represent any of these numerous constituencies. Sir, it is my duty to applaud the action of the Member in the Assembly who represents my district. Myself Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju, Mr. Rath and Biswanath Das who represent Ganjam and Vizagapatam in this House do applaud the action of Mr. Venkatapati Raju in the Assembly and this morning when I saw the polling, I wrote to my old Friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, who voted against it that if I could influence my neighbouring constituency he is sure to lose his seat next time (hear, hear and laughter). Of course it is left to my Friend, Mr. Bhanoji, who comes from that constituency to say that he does not approve the action of Mr. Venkatapati Raju."

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Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO:—"I have replied to him saying that I fully agreed with him." (Hear, hear and laughter.)

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"My Friend, Mr. Bhanoji Rao, shares the same views. Therefore I may safely assert that our representatives in the Assembly did vote in the way we expected them to do. My Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, has brought into the controversy the question of excise duties. Here again I do join issue with him. These are questions of national importance and we cannot allow inter-provincial jealousies to play any part in the minds of our representatives when national questions are to be tackled. We do recognize the necessity for reduction of our provincial contributions, but this shall not in any way deter them from discharging their duty to the country as a whole. I have nothing to object to the wording of the motion as it stands. I have got every objection for the argument advanced both by the Mover as well as the Seconder on the question of the reduction of salt duty as well as excise duty."

* Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU:—"Mr. President, Sir, the motion that has been moved by my hon. Friend, Sir James Simpson, does not really show the result of the action in the Legislative Assembly. He says a situation was created. The situation created, if at all created, is due, not to the action of our representatives or of the Legislative Assembly during the budget, but to that iniquitous and unjust award of Lord Meston. He (Sir James) was deploring there is no unanimity on that question. I can assure him that there is no lack of unanimity with regard to the matter. We all join in saying that the award passed by the Lord Meston's Committee is the most iniquitous and, if I may be permitted to say, the situation created by the award is still hanging on us, and is perpetrated by the policy of the India Government in their not carrying on the retrenchment suggested by our representatives in the military budget. It is as a result of all these things—not as the result of the action of our representatives in the Assembly—that the remission of our contributions is jeopardised. Even while the Finance Bill was under consideration, the India Government had gone to placate other provinces and said that they were going to give grants to provinces for which they are not entitled. The question of Madras stands on distinct and different footing. We are entitled to remission in spite of the bad finances of the India Government. And I am afraid we are just playing into the hands of those people who want to deprive us of this just reduction by putting any connexion between this reduction of salt duty and the reduction in our contributions to the Central Government. After all, I am not afraid that the contribution will in any way be jeopardised by this action. The Finance Member said that, by the reduction of salt duty, we would lose 97 lakhs or about one crore. But I do not think he has in mind that by this reduction in salt tax the income will not be reduced in the same proportion. We know that salt is one of the necessities of life, and it is also admitted that the consumption of salt per head is not quite up to mark, and by any reduction in salt duty, we can certainly expect greater consumption and corresponding increase of revenue. In putting that as the consequence of the action of the Legislative Assembly—this reduction of contribution will go—I think the hon. the Mover is doing a disservice to this province, by rather giving a handle to the people there to say that since there is this reduction

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our contributions shall not be reduced. If we want, I would advise this House to send this message to our people there, namely, that before anything this provincial contributions must be reduced, but not that until this iniquitous impost is reduced no reduction of tax is to be allowed. It is their business to adjust their balances and pay off their debts. We will certainly join in saying that this reduction must be carried out at any cost since we are entitled to it. But if you were to say that a tax which is heavily falling on the poor is not to be reduced, I do not think many in this House will agree. With regard to the conduct of our representatives there, they are not representatives of this Government; they are the representatives of the people to whom they are responsible. If Sir James Simpson were to have any idea of the views of the people, he would certainly be disillusioned. People want a reduction in this necessary of life before anything else, and this was also adverted to in a way by my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar. After all, the 126 lakhs remission, if you just analyse it, will not in any way be to the benefit of the people in the way in which we are progressing. (Laughter.)

“So, I do not think the House would be well advised in condemning our representatives at Delhi. It would more or less amount to condemning ourselves. It is not a question, as some say, of sentiment or political expediency on the part of the Members of the Assembly, but it is a question of political expediency on the part of the Government to somehow or other carry on this costly and extravagant administration by getting the 126 lakhs instead of allowing the salt duty to be reduced to its legitimate level.

“One more point and I am done. Some of our friends feel doubtful as to the effect of so small a reduction of four annas in the salt tax. They will have to bear in mind that it is a 20 per cent reduction. Apart from that, by this reduction the tax has only been brought to its pre-war level. People know at what rate salt was selling at that time. By the reduction in the salt-tax made last year people might not have enjoyed the full benefit and it is only by the present reduction that they would be enjoying the full benefit. Therefore if at all we have to say anything about the action of our representatives in the Assembly, it should only be to applaud their action for having done their duty to the people whom they represent instead of subordinating their views to parochial considerations.”

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“Mr. President, Sir, in more senses than one, this is an unfortunate motion. I do not think it is either urgent or important, because the opinion of this presidency, in this matter has been expressed in no uncertain terms more than once, not only on the floor of this House but on many public platforms. So that, if Sir Basil Blackett, the Finance Member of the Government of India, makes up his mind to advise the Government of India not to reduce the provincial contributions because of the reduction of the salt-tax or of the abolition of the cotton excise duty, he knows he would be doing it in the teeth of the opinion held adversely in that matter by the people and the Government of this presidency. Therefore, it seems to me that we are getting unnecessarily alarmed over a threat held

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over our heads by Sir Basil Blackett, as a matter of political expediency in the Legislative Assembly.

“Sir, my hon. Friend Sir James Simpson appealed to the House to be unanimous. I am afraid, even as yesterday our leaders failed to come up to his mark of ministerial perfection, they will even to-day fail to come up to his mark of parliamentary perfection. But I am neither disappointed nor distressed. We have our constituencies and, although we regret most painfully that we are losing day by day the very valuable esteem of Sir James we know that we are all the time gaining the increased esteem, confidence and affection of our constituencies.” (Hear, hear.)

“The hon. Member Sir James Simpson talked of political expediency actuating the votes of those who stood for the reduction of salt duty or the abolition of the cotton excise duty. No, Sir, it is the other way about. Political expediency is on the other side. They want to divert the attention of this country from the need for pressing retrenchment upon the Government of India and the Government of Madras, and they want us to fight over an unjust award which ought never to have been given and which ought to have been upset long ago.

“Now, Sir, my hon. Friend Sir James wanted this House to send a message to our representatives in the Assembly that rather than have reduction of taxation we should have the reduction of provincial contributions. Sir, I should like to have both. But if reduction of taxation is to be linked up with the reduction of provincial contributions, as suggested by my hon. Friend, the Mover, then I part company with him. To me it seems that the most paramount need to-day of our people is the gradual and continual reduction of taxation. Sir, I am fortified in this opinion by the opinion of the ‘London Financial Times’ which says that India is very heavily taxed and that the first duty of the Governments in India is to reduce the taxation of the people.

“Sir, my hon. Friend, Sir James Simpson, read very slowly, very distinctly and very impressively the long list of the names of the various public associations who took part in a public meeting five years ago and also commented upon the names of those who spoke in support of the resolution. I cordially agree with him that the meeting was influential and representative. But what did the meeting say? The meeting said that the Meston award was iniquitous and ought to be set aside. It did not say that the salt tax should not be reduced. It did not say that the excise duty should not be abolished. He argued therefrom that because they protested against the award they did not want the other historic wrongs to be righted. Certainly it is attributing to a very big assemblage of ladies and gentlemen motives farthest from their minds at the time they took part in the meeting. It seems to me that Sir James, although he says he believes in his case, does not really believe in his case. For, if he did, he need not plead for the righting of this wrong, that other wrongs which ought to have been righted before this wrong was perpetrated, should await righting. Then, he complained that, in spite of this big public meeting, for the last five years no relief has come. Do you know why, Sir? The Government of Madras have proved invertebrate in this matter. The Transferred Half by holding the sword

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against the Government of India and threatening great pains and penalties and telling an admiring world that if the Government of India would not release the contributions they would lay down the office, thoroughly disappointed the 'Madras Mail'; for, the 'Madras Mail' got disgusted with them that they did not lay down their office even when they failed in their attempt. You very well know the historic and picturesque agitation, literal as well as figurative, which the 'Mail' carried on against this iniquitous impost, and how it was strengthened in that attempt by the Ministers who, according to it, suggested that they would lay down their office if they did not succeed. They did not succeed and yet they stuck to their office. With the support of the predominant party, they did not get this iniquitous impost reduced. Now, for coming to their help in order to reduce the taxation of the poor people of this country, and in order to relieve them of their responsibility, they blame our representatives in the Assembly in reducing the salt tax.

"Then, Sir, the Reserved Half who professed exuberant sympathies in this matter has not done better. It is only last week or week before last that Sir Maurice Hayward, the Home Member of the Bombay Government, whose example we could follow, suggested that he would not proceed with a taxation measure, unless the Government of India came down and yielded to Bombay. What is the use of talking about it? We have not men like him in the Treasury Bench here. Let us have such men who will emulate the example of other provinces. We have not got such men and that is the reason why we are not getting any reduction in the contribution.

"Then, Sir James Simpson talked of the Madras representatives. My hon. Friends on this side of the House have already expressed their opinion. I have the misfortune of being represented in the Assembly by a very esteemed friend of mine the hon. the Deputy President who, on this occasion, has betrayed the interests of his constituency, I mean Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariyar. He felt the burden of this contribution so heavy on his overworked soul that he went into the lobby in order to tax the poor man's salt. When he comes back, I shall be happy to meet him, and I now give this challenge to him and to those who supported him to dare to address a single public meeting in the Madras city, and get a resolution passed in favour of the salt tax not being reduced. There is not one man in this House and in this city, except perhaps a handful of Europeans, who will keep this salt tax at its present level. I will leave it between Diwan Bahadur Rangachariyar and his constituency and, Sir James, if he would be here next year, to learn the result of the next election.

"My hon. Friend referred to the vital interests of this Presidency which are being seriously affected. I do not know, Sir, if many of my hon. Friends have read the first lecture in that very antiquated book of 'Curtain Lectures' by Mrs. Cawdle. Thus runs a story in it: An unfortunate husband happened to give five shillings to a relation of his. This irritated his wife and she lectured to him all night as to what all she would have done with those five shillings, if only they had been given to her. So also our Ministers tell us 'if only we get back these three and half crores, we would create a new heaven and a new earth'. No. This kind of talk will deceive none. So far

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as this salt tax is concerned, I find Sir James Simpson enjoys the distinction of being unique in his support of it. Because, of the two hon. Members who have spoken on his side, one spoke against it and the other from the other side of the House stated that the salt tax ought not to be kept up at the present level. I may mention, Sir, that the latter was his own seconder too. Under the circumstances whom does Sir James represent? He is a very important person no doubt. That is not enough. Democratic government means that one must at least try to represent the views of the people.

"Now, Sir, this salt tax is a historic wrong and no Government ought really to perpetuate this means of taxing a necessity of the people. Sir James Simpson claims—I have a very high regard for him—that he is moving this out of conviction. May I ask him in all humility to have some charity for the conviction of those friends of his who went into the lobby in the Assembly in favour of the reduction? They also voted out of conviction, and we on this side of the House are supporting them also out of conviction.

"So far as the cotton excise duty is concerned, Sir James had nothing to say. I will leave it between him and his constituency. Why did he not refer to it? I know that it is not easy for him to do so, because of the situation in his harmonious family, as some of us are led to believe.

"Sir, the 'Times of India' a distinguished Anglo-Indian journal, which cannot be accused of any political sympathy or playing at political expediency, writes about the excise duty thus:

'The insistent, unanimous and uncompromising demand of Bombay for the abolition of the excise duties on cotton piece-goods or at any rate for a substantial movement towards that end as a guarantee of good faith, is being discussed as if this were based on the immediate necessities of the industry, or as a question between an act of equity and the reduction of the provincial contributions to the revenues of the Government of India. It is none of these things. Our demand for the immediate abolition of these duties is not an issue of expediency, or of comparison with provincial needs; it is broad based on right and right alone. These excise duties are a political and moral outrage.'

"May I ask Sir James how long he wants the Government of India to perpetuate this political and moral outrage on the people of this country? Sir, the journal continues:

'They sprang from the narrowest and most sordid conception of the material interests of Lancashire. They were forced through the legislature and have been kept on the statute book by the unscrupulous use of the Lancashire vote in the House of Commons. So long as they remain they are a badge of economic servitude, as abhorrent to every right-minded Englishman as to the most furious Indian patriot.'

"I am sure Sir James would approve that phrase changed as 'every right-minded Britisher'. An ingenious argument was evolved as the result of my hon. Friend's associating cotton excise with salt tax. They say they are supporting the motion simply because they do not want that the excise duty should take precedence over provincial contributions. Here they are talking without their book. I want them to refresh their memories. Sir Basil Blackett, the Finance Member, speaking after the omission of the grant by the Assembly for providing for the staff for collecting cotton excise, did not say that the Government would reconsider their proposals. On the other hand Sir Basil, after the House had thrown out the provision for the cotton excise staff, said: 'It is for them again to recommend to the House and

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to the country proposals which they originally put forward, after careful consideration in the budget statement.

"Therefore, Sir Basil Blackett did not threaten to affect the provincial contributions because the cotton excise duty was recommended to be abolished. On the other hand, for the first time, Sir Basil Blackett said he would have to reconsider his position on this matter, only when the salt tax was reduced. Therefore, if the Assembly was right in reducing the salt tax and Sir Basil Blackett did not threaten to affect provincial contributions because of the excise duty, I should like to know where Diwan Bahadur Krishnan Nayar stands."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I correct the statement? Sir Basil Blackett said in the course of the debate on the abolition of the cotton excise duty that that vote might threaten provincial contributions."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"It was afterwards that Sir Basil Blackett distributed a large sum out of 75 lakhs of rupees."

* Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"The hon. Member Mr. Rangaswami Ayyangar told the Assembly that even Sir Basil Blackett had told them that any cuts they might make in the demands would leave his ideas of surplus unaffected, and it was not contradicted by Sir Basil Blackett."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, I have read the newspapers. It is after that Sir Basil Blackett went back, cooled his head, collected his thoughts, came back and said that the Government would not go back on their proposals; and it seems to me we cannot do so ourselves, especially as there is a difference of opinion among ourselves. Our position is this. There is no mistake about it. We stand not only for reduction but for the abolition of the provincial contribution. It is unjust and iniquitous that a poor province like Madras should pay 3½ crores of rupees every year to the Government of India. But at the same time we feel that the salt tax ought to be reduced, that the cotton excise duty ought to be abolished and that the Government of India can and ought to do both. Sir James Simpson did not mention anything about the cotton excise duty, because it was in the interests of Lancashire and Japan. I invite the House to take our assurance that we are at one on the question of provincial contributions and I beg to say that we do not want to give any colour to the impression that we are against the reduction of the salt tax or the abolition of the excise duty."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I wish to say a few words on this subject. There is a sort of prejudice raised by the hon. the Finance Member against the cotton mills of Bombay. It must be borne in mind that the Bombay mills employ a large number of labourers and this employment of labour will be greatly prejudiced by the continuance of this cotton duty. As to the salt tax, we must bear in mind that all the poor people in India count their income not in annas or pies but in half-pies. For them any increase or decrease in salt duty will be of great importance. With these words, I strongly oppose this motion."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"I do not know whether I deserve the expression 'no party.' I have already indicated to what section of the House I belong. I belong to the place where I am now

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standing. I am one of those who are called 'Independents'. I feel, Sir, that there is some conflict of issues and some confusion of thoughts. Almost every one, it appeared to me, is prepared to admit that we must get back the money which we pay as contribution. That is an iniquitous impost and there are no two opinions on that matter; and a large volume of opinion has been expressed to the effect that this province strongly supports the view that the salt tax should be reduced and that the excise duty should be taken away. It appears to me that the old saying that 'you are right, I am right and all is right as right can be' is accepted by every one here. But the solution of the problem before the House is not at all such a difficult one that it requires two standing armies to come and fight a pitched battle. For, to my mind, it seems to me that there is a possible way out and that we are not understanding each other.

"If I may so put it, it is a case of choice between two evils. There are three things here. One is the reduction of the contribution. The second is the choice between the two evils. I think that, between two evils one carrying with it the greater effect and the other carrying with it the lesser effect, the House will accept to choose the lesser of the two evils. Let us examine the position. It is true that no one in this country would have tax on salt. We have been trained to the theory of English rules of taxation that taxing food and other necessities is a wrong thing. Now, Sir, let us take the question about reduction of duty on salt and about the reduction of the contribution. On a rough estimate which has been made I believe that the extent of tax on salt which would be reduced by carrying out the resolution of the Assembly would be something like a crore and a half next year and a few lakhs this year. Our contribution of 126 lakhs of rupees will be reduced in consequence. Now what is to happen if salt tax is taken away to the extent to which it is proposed in the Assembly and if this contribution is not reduced? The people of this province will be benefited to the extent of four annas per maund and that benefit will have to be distributed not among consumers alone but amongst a number of middlemen, traders and so many others. The reduction of the contribution by 126 lakhs would, in my humble opinion, go directly to the benefit of the taxpayer of this province. If this sum of 126 lakhs is not given to this province, your deficit of 96 lakhs will remain there. I think the hon. Mr. Graham is bound to levy new taxation if he is to follow the principles of sound finance. In other words, are the people of this province to be content with the reduction of the salt tax and in their turn be prepared to bear new taxes in order to fill up the gap in the finances of this province? It is, therefore, Sir, a choice between the two evils. The Government has to be carried on for the purpose of the protection of the country and where that is the position and when the choice is between additional taxes and salt tax, the benefit that this province would derive would be something like 40 or 50 lakhs. There is much salt in this province. According to the computation that I made—I am not a financial expert—I take it that this province would not be benefited by more than 50 lakhs. That is the only problem before this House.

"Sir, we are told that parochial patriotism should give way to national patriotism. I wonder what became of this national patriotism in the

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Assembly when this question of contributions arose there. Bombay and Bengal combined and defeated the demand made by this Government and by the people of this province in getting a reduction. If they could afford to be patriotic parochially and not nationally when their needs came in, is it right that our representatives should go this way now?

"We are told that the contribution was not reduced because Ministers did not resign, as they, at one time, had promised. I was a Minister. For myself, I never made a promise like that; and in my humble opinion, Sir, the suggestion that the Ministers did not non-co-operate with the Government of India and if they had done so, they would have got back the amount, would have proved a dismal failure as the non-co-operators had proved in other respects. It was not because that the Ministers did not non-co-operate that they did not get back the amount; but because of the whole finance system of the Government of India, the whole Meston award by which the various Governments were all armed from the beginning to the end.

"Here is one of the points which ought to have been presented before the Muddiman Committee and they would have seen the importance of provincial autonomy and provincial fiscal autonomy. If they had followed the example of federal states where they have cut and dry rules, these difficulties would not have arisen. But we are now in the indefinite state of the process of making a nation and beginning to undertake responsible government and when these difficulties have to be faced what are we to do as prudent men? Are we to sacrifice our province and report to what is called national patriotism? Patriotism is a very good thing but the cant of a patriotism is worse than any patriotism. Patriotism consists in providing for yourself and for your homes. It is not easy to ask for peoples' money being thrown away when we want it ourselves. Patriotism consists in seeing that you save your people. It is very easy to ask you to pay for others.

"It never occurred to me that I would be drawn into this controversy. May I ask one single question? Was it patriotism of the country that animated the Assembly when they opposed the cotton excise duty. Is there not something behind it? The mill-owners of Bombay are paying the Swarajists."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I would like my hon. Friend giving facts and figures, instead of making a cowardly insinuation."

3-45 p.m. * The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I cannot allow the hon. Member to use the word 'cowardly' in the House."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Is the word unparliamentary, Sir?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have no time to make a reference but I have no doubt about it."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Is it courage, Sir, to attack a Member of this House, because his own community is not well represented?"

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Hear, hear."

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Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Is it courage again, Sir, to attack the Ministers of things which they did years ago on grounds which never existed and existed, if at all, only in the imagination of the particular person. (Hear, hear.) If it is pointed out that the excise duty may not do much harm and that the consumer may pay more for his cloths, then people at once cease to be courageous. Again, Sir, if it is pointed out that the benefit of the reduction of the salt duty would not all go to the class of people for whom they are fighting, we cease to be courageous. I won't use the word which is beneath the dignity of the House. I do not mind any criticism if my hon. Friend can do it in keeping with the dignity of the House. If it is not possible for some hon. Members to rise above it, we shall have to leave them severely alone.

"Now, Sir, I admit that the other two taxes deserve to be lowered. But when they have to be lowered at the expense of refusing us the benefit of the reduction of the contributions, I say I am not prepared to choose them in preference to this. I am in favour of all these three taxes being reduced; but I am in favour of this more than the other two." (Applause.)

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON:—"Mr. President, there seems to be a unanimity of opinion with regard to the remission of provincial contributions. The hon. the Mover of this resolution dealt at length with the subject. His view was that if we get more money, we would be able to utilize them for the nation-building departments such as Agriculture, Industry and so forth. We have always been fighting for more money and if we get more money it will be particularly useful for the mercantile community of this province in order to increase the prosperity of the ryot and thereby increase his purchasing power. From that point of view, any extra money that we are able to get from all the available sources will be very welcome. But the point is this. I am afraid I have not been able to read the speeches of those hon. Members in the Assembly who have dealt with the merits and the demerits of these three motions. And therefore I am not in a position to criticise their actions. But this much I can say, that the hon. the Mover of this resolution here did not deal with the comparative merits of all the three cases. If he had only done that properly, he would have, apart from emphasising the merits of getting the remission of the contributions, also considered the desirability of reducing the excise duty on cotton goods in order that the poor people of this country may be able to get clothing, which is the next necessity after food, at a cheaper price. A reduction of four or five annas may not mean anything to us, but to the poor man, the poor agriculturist this is a great reduction in the price of the cloth. The hon. Member Mr. Krishnan Nayar pointed out that this province is not so much affected by the excise duty. But we all know that we depend for our clothing not only upon the Indian mills but also upon Lancashire. Hence it must be conceded that any reduction in the price of cotton cloth will do good to the people. It has been pointed out that the excise duty is the most unjustifiable duty, especially to the mill-owners. The mill industry in India is, I do not say an infant industry, but it has not developed to a great extent. It is a well-known fact that out of 150 million spindles in the whole world, India has only seven million.

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"The question arises whether after the reduction of the salt and excise duties the Government of India will have adequate resources to remit the provincial contributions. As far as we can see, I find that in 1925-26 according to the words of the hon. the Finance Minister there is to be a surplus of 387 lakhs, including the contribution of 63 lakhs from Bengal. Out of this 387 lakhs, of course 74 lakhs will have to be kept apart for meeting future deficits. It is this balance that is to be distributed among the provinces if the salt and excise duties are removed. The question is that if Bengal can get a concession which is not allowed under the Devolution Rules, why not we also get a remission for the previous years 1923-24 and 1924-25? It may be argued that we have not the legal right to claim for a remission. If the Government of India can allow a remission in the case of Bengal, I do not see any reason why we should not bring pressure to bear upon the Government of India to give us the remission for the previous years also. As I said before, though there is no legal claim, there is a moral claim. There is of course 254 lakhs from which we can get a proportionate amount. It is not a question of funds not being available. It is only a question of the way in which the surplus funds have been utilized in different directions. We are all at one in claiming that provincial contributions must be reduced and at the same time salt duty and the excise duty must also be reduced. It has been said that any reduction in the salt duty will not go to the pockets of the consumer. It is a disputed point; it depends upon the supply and demand. When the supply is more than the demand, the price is surely to go down to the point at which the consumer would like to bring it down."

* Mr. S. SATYANURTI:—"Sir, Will you allow me to give a personal explanation? I am very sorry in the heat of the moment I used the word 'cowardly' which is not parliamentary. I apologise to you, Sir, and to the hon. Member." (Hear, hear.)

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"That is good."

* Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"Sir, the hon. Member, Sir K. V. Reddi, said that the issues were rather clouded by the debate in the House. I am afraid, Sir, that they became more clouded than before by the impatient speech which he has delivered. I take it that all sides of the House are agreed that as far as the provincial contributions are concerned the iniquitous impost must go. Again, Sir, all of us will be glad to hear that the Government of India also join with us in reducing the salt duty. But with regard to the excise duty, the question of patriotism came in and Sir K. V. Reddi like the Pilot in the story who asked 'What is Truth' and would not wait for an answer, asked 'What is patriotism' and would not await for an answer. Even there all of us are agreed that the excise duty must go. But disagreement comes in when the question of which should have preference is taken up. If we can have all these three together we shall have them. The question is why cannot we have all of them together? Sir Basil Blackett in introducing his demand said that any cuts made in the demand would not affect the remission of the provincial contribution of 126 lakhs to this province. Now what has happened later on after he made that statement which prevented him from sticking to it? Possibly that is the

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salt duty and it had pleased him to say that if a reduction in the duty is made, that he would not be able to reduce the contributions which he hoped to do in all piety. This is intended to exploit the provincial and racial jealousies. Therefore, Sir, I agree with the hon. Mover when he said that this is a definite matter of public importance though not of urgent importance, viz., the situation created in the Presidency not by the action of the Legislative Assembly but by the statement of Sir Basil Blackett himself. All that I could gather from the speeches of the hon. Members of the Legislative Assembly supported the view that we should have our remission of contributions to the extent of 126 lakhs in preference to the reduction of the salt duty. It is something like the proverb, if I may say so, Sir—

It is true, quite true
That black is not blue
That glass is not glue
You are not me, and
I am not you!

It is an old platitude to say that if the 126 lakhs of rupees are returned there will be no reason for fresh taxation. I never heard the hon. the Finance Member—I was closely following his speech—to say that he was going to impose fresh taxation to meet the deficit of 33 lakhs of rupees."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I did not say that the hon. the Finance Member suggested fresh taxation. My point was that if the deficit was not wiped off by the reduction of the impost—the contributions, the only proper course for the Finance Member to do is to levy new taxes; for it is a sound principle of finance that recurring expenditure should not be met by borrowed money."

* Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"Sir, I am also to some extent an old student of political economy. If during the last two decades I have not forgotten it, I have to submit with all due respect that that is not the only way in which we could meet deficits. There are many other ways, one of which is retrenchment to which some reference was made in our general remarks on the budget. First of all we should like to know why there should be a deficit of 88 lakhs? Is it not because that we have incurred an additional expenditure of 9 lakhs of rupees last year on account of giving effect to the recommendations of the Lee Commission Report and perhaps more this year? Is it not because that we have inflated our services very abnormally? There are very many causes for this deficit and when the time comes for its settlement it will be time enough to discuss that matter. All that I am content to say at the present moment is that supposing we get a reduction of 126 lakhs in the provincial contribution, we may have to lose out of this sum some 50 or so lakhs on account of the reduction in salt duty. If we distribute this 50 or 60 lakhs over so many Reserved and Transferred subjects, possibly the Transferred subjects, may go in for a share of 20 lakhs and again these 20 lakhs of rupees will have to be distributed among three hon. Ministers, which means each will get something like 7 lakhs of rupees. This amount of 7 lakhs of rupees will have to be distributed among 26 districts and if you take an individual into consideration each individual gets for his sanitation or for his education or for his medical relief less than one pie. In this connexion you will pardon me if I refer to an old story, and it is this: a Fakir who went to a Nawab for alms told him that all Muham-

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madans were brothers; he (the Fakir) was a Muhammadan; and therefore the Nawab as a brother of the Fakir should give him a large sum of money as donation. The Nawab went on calculating and came out with one pie and gave it to the Fakir, who was surprised. The Nawab explained in this way; 'You say all Muhammadans are brothers in this world. There are so many Muhammadans and I own so much of property and your share of it comes to a pie.' So, if we go on calculating, even lakhs will reduce themselves to a pie.

"Now, I refer to the disturbing speeches of one or two hon. Members who said that Sir Basil Blackett himself told the Assembly that in a few days he would leave his idea of having any surpluses. The whole trouble arose because it did not please Sir Basil Blackett to say that the reduction of salt duty was made, and because it was made, this threat was held out. Therefore if any disturbance was created it was not by the representatives of this Presidency or of any other Presidency in the Assembly but only by the hon. the Finance Member.

"Now, Sir, I shall not go over the remarks passed by the other Members of this House on the same subject. I only hope that any amount of prejudice or passion entertained by individual hon. Members against other individual hon. Members will not further cloud the issues, and we shall only be working out the points on their own merits. I further hope that all sides of the House will be unanimous at least in that attempt, and come to a unanimous conclusion."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Mr. President, I did not intend to take part in the debate on the Motion before the House but, Sir, seeing there has been some confusion of ideas cropping up in the debate, I find it is my duty to make a few observations. Only the other day the hon. the Finance Member in introducing his budget said that we are glad that the Government of India in their Finance Bill have made provision for the reduction of the Provincial contribution from this Province, but we must bear in mind that there is many a slip between the cup and the lip. How ominous are the words of the latter part of the sentence! Now the slip is likely to occur."

(VOICES:—"Not yet.")

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL (*continuing*):—"Alright, it is about to take place. It is to be regretted and more so particularly, the slip is about to occur at the instance of a Madras Member. The question for consideration is not an absolute question, viz., whether the salt tax should be reduced or should not be reduced. If it were an absolute question there can be no doubt as to the answer. Nobody would object to the reduction in salt tax. But the question is a relative question as to whether we should have a reduction in the salt tax or a reduction in the Provincial contribution. Sir, as has been eloquently pointed out by the hon. Member from Rajahmundry the benefit to this Province from the reduction in the salt tax would amount to 50 lakhs. I think it would be less, but if the proposed reduction of Provincial contribution is to be effected, this Province will be benefited to the extent of more than a crore of rupees."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"I wonder how that jugglery can be performed."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, this Province would be benefited to the extent of a crore and 26 lakhs of rupees if the proposed reduction

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is given effect to. No jugglery need be employed. Sir, what is the financial position of this Province? This year there is a deficit of 88 lakhs. How is this deficit to be made up? It can only be by additional taxation. All possible retrenchment has already been effected. In these circumstances the question for consideration is, shall we have the reduction of 4 annas in the salt tax and allow the Province to gain 40 or 50 lakhs, or shall we have the reduction of the Provincial contribution and gain 126 lakhs? If this question is to be answered I have no doubt every right-minded man will give his preference to the reduction in Provincial contribution.

"Sir, we are indeed grateful to the hon. Mr. Rangashari and the hon. Mr. Ramachandra Rao for having exercised their discretion properly. One hon. Member threatened that the electorate will note the conduct of those who voted against the reduction of salt tax at the next elections. I too hope that the electorate will note the conduct of those who threw obstacles in the way of the reduction of Provincial contribution. I only quote the old Asquithian phrase 'wait and see'."

(VOICES:—"We have seen it".)

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL (*continuing*):—"The hon. Member for the University of Madras said that the Ministers threatened that they would resign but would not carry out their threat. I do not know wherefrom he had the piece of information regarding the Ministers' threat."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"On a point of personal explanation. I had the information from the 'Madras Mail'."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"There is no threat of the kind. The threats are the monopoly of another class of politicians. It is true they felt that it was no good of having the charge of administrative portfolios without funds to carry on the administration. It is true that because of the inequitable impost the Transferred half of the Government have been greatly handicapped in their administration. As to their resigning their places for want of funds to effect improvements in nation-building departments, no doubt there are people ready to take their places. They have been feeling all the while disappointed at Ministers keeping on. We cannot please them. I have no doubt the electorate will deal with those who have placed difficulties in the way of the reduction of Provincial contributions."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Whatever form the resolution may take, there is possibly no doubt that this expression of opinion commits us to the deplorable attitude taken up by certain Madras representatives in the Legislative Assembly and it also leads us to commit ourselves to the position that the reduction of provincial contribution we shall have at any cost even at the risk of salt tax being reserved at its old level. Now, if that resolution had been brought in a less objectionable form, I would have been the first to welcome it, and vote for it. If the resolution raised the only question of provincial contribution and if it stated that it was imperative in the interests of our Presidency to have the maximum, though a partial, reduction, in our Provincial contribution I would certainly have voted for it. But I would certainly oppose it in its present form which casts insinuations on the attitude

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taken up by our representatives in the Legislative Assembly. I have known Sir James Simpson for a very long time. He is an old colleague of mine and he cannot possibly mistake my intention that this resolution cannot possibly commend itself for our acceptance. I may say that it was only yesterday that the hon. the Finance Member was pleased to express very strong denunciations on our administration. He spoke about political doctrines and expressed the hope that the strong head of Madras representatives would not pay heed to the appeals of those who have taken up a position which was very detrimental to the best interests of the country. Now to-day the adjournment motion follows and there was a strong editorial about the betrayal of some Members and Sir James Simpson assured us in the beginning that he had no inspiration from any quarter. I wish it were true although it is not very relevant to the merits of this question."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Does the hon. Member say that the statement that Sir James Simpson had not been inspired is not true?"

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"I am not prepared to contradict Sir James Simpson's statement that he has not been inspired, but what I say is that the close sequence of events lead one rather to believe that the inspiration was sought from some source. The explanation of the hon. Member gave rise to think that inspiration was sought from some quarters."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Explanation?"

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Sir, the issue before us is not whether we may not have partial remission in the Provincial contribution at the maintenance of salt tax at its original level, but the issue is pure and simple: whether we shall have reduction in Provincial contribution."

"Now, Sir, it has been put forward that by the partial remission of the salt tax we are benefited to a very inappreciable degree. For instance, we have been told that we may not be relieved by the partial remission of salt tax to the extent of more than 9 lakhs, whereas we have got the prospect of getting 126 lakhs by a reduction in Provincial contribution. It is also said that this reduction in salt duty will only benefit the middle man and not the consumer. It is also said that this is a necessity of life."

"Apart from this question, is it necessary to have the remission at the expense of the salt tax? I do not, for a moment, believe that the only issue before us is a reduction of the contribution only if we retain the salt tax. In my humble opinion, it is quite possible to reduce the salt tax and also to have this remission. The Finance Member of the Government of India raised this false issue; he has obscured the issue. For reasons best known to himself, he wants to retain the salt tax and he places this dilemma before us which he is not justified in doing."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I am very sorry to interrupt the hon. Member. But it was my intention to have called upon the hon. Member, Sir James Simpson, who wanted to make an amendment to his motion. If necessary, I will allow the hon. Member to continue later on."

Sir JAMES SIMPSON:—"Mr. President, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition very wittily remarked that if I had simply moved my resolution and if the hon. the Seconder had simply seconded it, he would have accepted it. I

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can assure him that I would have spared myself the trouble of delivering a speech if only I could have won the support of the House to my motion thereby. The hon. the Member for the University instructed me that I could not refer to the Cotton Excise duty as though a Member of this hon. House in urging a reduction of three and half per cent of the excise duty was going to give the thousands and millions of this country cheaper cloth. If hon. Members thought so, they are wrong. Similarly touching the salt tax, is there any hon. Member here who honestly believes that this small reduction is going to cheapen salt? Will the small buyer get more salt for his money? If any such hope is entertained, I should say it is a vain hope. It will mean that the Government of India will mint a smaller coin than the pie so that people may get the benefit of it. There is much more trouble in doing so than in retaining the salt tax. However, as I said at the beginning I will be only too glad to have this House assist me in any form of wording to attain the end that we all desire, that is, a unanimous happy family feeling on this old vexed question. The fact is that we cannot have omission of excise duty, reduction of salt tax and at the same time a remission of the contribution. Therefore to try and get them all is what is humanly impossible. But if any form of wording will attain this end, I should only be too happy to amend my resolution. And judging by the tenor of the debate it has been borne on me that we are really not very far from that. And in casting round for the form of words, it seems to me that something like this, if the House and you, Sir, will allow me, commend itself for the acceptance of the House. May I suggest that we send to the Government of India and the Governor-General the following unanimous resolution:

"That the business of the Council be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the situation created in the matter of the remission of the contribution of this Presidency and the serious effect likely to result therefrom."

"If that meets with the unanimous acceptance of the House, may I hope that it will be passed unanimously?"

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to a point of order. We have got an adjournment motion moved. The House has begun the discussion on that motion at 2-30 and now, if really we are to accept this, it means that we have another motion for discussion. Rule 12 of the Legislative Council Rules says:

"The right to move the adjournment of the Council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance shall be subject to the following restrictions, namely, (i) not more than one such motion shall be made at the same sitting."

"The question now is not about the form of the motion which has been considered after question time and which you were pleased to admit. We have now entered into the discussion; speeches have been made and I do not think any useful purpose will be served by amending the motion at this stage. If at all it could be amended, it ought to have been amended previously. An attempt was made this morning to do such a thing but there was no unanimity of opinion even then. Now my only point of order is that the motion for adjournment cannot be amended after the discussion has reached a particular stage."

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* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I grant that under our Rules if there is a motion for adjournment of the House for discussing a specific matter of urgent public importance there can be no other motion tacked on to it. Subject to that provision made in our Rules the ordinary regulations and conditions appurtenant to motions and resolutions are presumably to be held to apply, namely, that so long as it does not involve a discussion on a disparate motion, if it only involves consideration of the subject of urgent importance from another aspect there ought to be no difficulty from the technical point of view in moving such an amendment. For, what after all does this come to? The hon. Member, Sir James Simpson, is asking for permission that the debate should be adjourned in order to discuss the situation created in this Presidency. That is the first element. By what was the situation created or by reason of what? By reason of the jeopardy likely to be caused with reference to the Provincial contribution. Certain words really by way of surplusage are added in regard to what has happened elsewhere which is really a matter of argument and might well have been omitted. Supposing Sir James Simpson had said: I ask for permission to move an adjournment of the House in order to consider the situation created at the present moment on account of the doubts as to the wiping of the Provincial contributions, and had stopped there. It might have been objected to. But that will be a motion and supposing when that motion was under discussion, the hon. Member had also moved an amendment to add the words: and also on account of what had happened in the Assembly, that would have been by way of comment or of addition. That would not have affected the substance of the thing, namely, the adjournment of the House consequent upon or induced by reason of the jeopardy to the remission of Provincial contributions. I submit, therefore, Sir, I am correct in summarizing the position that the ordinary rules as to amendment apply to motions for adjournment because this is a motion like every other motion subject to the overmastering consideration that it ought not to relate to or involve the consideration of another and disparate topic."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I have very little doubt in the matter. If the hon. the Leader of the Opposition had read on, he would have read that not more than one matter could be discussed on the same motion. I stick to that. It is because this debate has revealed that a motion like this involves a discussion of more than one matter that can be usefully discussed now that the request is made by the hon. Member, Sir James Simpson, to amend his original motion and restrict the subject matter of the debate to one single matter. I think it is a very reasonable request and I would therefore permit the hon. Member to move his amendment."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I second the amendment."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Can the Mover himself move an amendment, Sir?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"There is no objection."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"May I say just one word, Sir? I would like to have this matter elucidated still further, whether an amended motion would require also to be permitted by His Excellency to be debated upon."

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Because I take it that His Excellency has the power of allowing or disallowing debate on adjournment motions. And after the motion has been made, I understood you, Mr. President, to say that as originally made it contained more than one matter and therefore it was out of order, but that somehow it was admitted."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I did not say it was out of order."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"I beg your pardon, Sir. I thought you said that only one matter could be under discussion and that the original motion contained more than one matter. We leave it at that. Whatever it was, you remember, Sir, the objection taken by this House on a certain occasion when His Excellency's permission was obtained on a certain matter and not to the exact wording, the manner in which that motion was worded. And there was considerable discussion and I believe that it was the general feeling of the House that as regards adjournment motions we ought to be perfectly specific in the way in which it is worded and that His Excellency's permission would apply only to the matter as thus drafted and presented and not to any kind of change subsequently made. I wonder therefore if the amendment would require His Excellency's sanction or if you hold generally that adjournment motions could be amended."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I hold that the amendment in this case is in order. I have given my reason for it and I have allowed the amendment to be moved and seconded. It only remains for the Mover, if he pleases, to get the permission of the House and have the amendment incorporated in his motion and to go on with the motion as amended."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I say, Sir, one or two words before the House express its opinion as to whether permission should be given for the amendment or not?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Nobody has asked for permission. I suggest to the hon. Mover that he might ask for leave of the House."

Sir JAMES SIMPSON :—"Sir, I ask the leave of the House to amend my original motion and to have the amended motion as the substantive motion before it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Unless the House has any objection to it, it will go on with the motion as amended."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I simply wanted to know if you would allow some discussion before the House agrees to give its permission for the substitution."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"If you will permit me, Sir, I would like to say a word or two as to whether this amendment could be accepted by the House. I may read its wording, Sir: 'That the business of the Council be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the situation created in the matter of remission of the contributions of this Presidency and the serious effect likely to result therefrom.' Has any situation been already created or is the situation likely to be created in the matter of the remission?"

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* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I would like to say that if any hon. Member has any doubt in the matter, he has only to read the recent news in the newspapers. I am afraid a sense of incurable optimism seems to afflict many of the hon. Members who seem to think that whether the Government of India have or have not money, we shall get the contributions remitted. The same sort of idea has been given expression to at various times during the last four years. If the Government of India wish, they can give us the remission. It does not matter what we vote for. It does not depend upon us at all. The Government of India must find a way of doing it; if they lose the surplus which at the start they anticipated, they can find some other way of remitting our contribution, and there is nothing to be afraid of. Now for four years we have had no remission of our contribution. For four years hon. Members of this Council have been giving advice which has been entirely disregarded by the Government of India, and there is no serious reason to suppose that the Government of India will in future be guided by any advice from here. If they have any divisible surplus, they are bound under the rules to give us a remission. If they have none, they are not going to find one because this Council asks them to do so, and I see no reason for supposing that they ever will. The situation is serious. There is a risk of losing the remission and it is a very great risk. I do beg hon. Members not to underestimate that risk, not to trust to luck as they have hitherto done, but to give some help by giving an expression of opinion showing that they do really consider that there is risk and that it is important that the risk should be removed."

4-30 p.m.

India wish, they can give us the remission. It does not matter what we vote for. It does not depend upon us at all. The Government of India must find a way of doing it; if they lose the surplus which at the start they anticipated, they can find some other way of remitting our contribution, and there is nothing to be afraid of. Now for four years we have had no remission of our contribution. For four years hon. Members of this Council have been giving advice which has been entirely disregarded by the Government of India, and there is no serious reason to suppose that the Government of India will in future be guided by any advice from here. If they have any divisible surplus, they are bound under the rules to give us a remission. If they have none, they are not going to find one because this Council asks them to do so, and I see no reason for supposing that they ever will. The situation is serious. There is a risk of losing the remission and it is a very great risk. I do beg hon. Members not to underestimate that risk, not to trust to luck as they have hitherto done, but to give some help by giving an expression of opinion showing that they do really consider that there is risk and that it is important that the risk should be removed."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" I was not going to say much when my hon. Friend the Finance Member interrupted me. It is a very small matter and I am not going to say very much of importance. I was going to say that I consulted some of my hon. Friends, and though in a way this amendment is innocuous, they feel that if we are going to accept it at all, it can only be on the distinct understanding that thereby this House is in no way committed to any expression of opinion regarding the alternatives said to have been suggested during the course of the debate, namely, that for the sake of this prospective remission in the Provincial contribution we are to agree to the retention of the salt duty at the old rate or the retention of the Cotton Excise duty. Subject to this understanding we have absolutely no difference of opinion and we are as anxious as my hon. Friend, Sir James Simpson, to see our Provincial contribution reduced and ultimately abolished."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" How does the hon. Member think that the House will be committed to a form of the motion which does not exist on the paper after the amendment. I wish to know what it is that he fears "

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Then, I would only refer with your permission, Mr. President, to the origin of this amendment. My hon. Friend, Sir James Simpson, very rightly regards that unanimity of opinion is very desirable. The course of the debate has shown that with reference to what we termed as the alternatives before the Government of India there was no unanimity of opinion, that his own seconder was in favour of the

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reduction of the salt duty and that there was a considerable amount of opinion in favour of the abolition of the cotton excise duty. It is on account of this difference of opinion that I take it that my hon. Friend, Sir James Simpson, has brought forward this amendment. And therefore I am not travelling one inch beyond what is warranted by the course of the debate, in saying that by agreeing to this motion this House should not be considered as having committed itself in favour of the retention of the salt duty at its old level or against the reduction of the salt duty effected or sought to be effected by the Legislative Assembly, or against the abolition of the excise duty that the Legislative Assembly has been pressing the Government of India to carry out. The only reason why I want this to be distinctly understood is this. We do not want to be parties to any resolution, however innocuous or innocent it may look on paper, which would be used by the Government of India as an invitation from this Legislature for that Government or the Governor-General to exercise their powers of certification. (Hear, hear.) That is the only object I have in view in saying that subject to these conditions we agree. It is perfectly true that my hon. Friend, Sir James Simpson, himself may say ' Why, then, the proposition becomes almost meaningless,' though I do not mean to say that he will say so. It is no more meaningless than the resolution at the Town Hall meeting that my hon. Friend read out to us at the beginning of the debate. We are as anxious to get this contribution from our province reduced as any other hon. Member sitting in any section of the House. But if it is going to be a matter in which for the sake of getting that reduction we have to consent to the retention of the salt duty or the excise duty, there are differences of opinion, very legitimate and very pronounced. If unanimity is to be had on the subject of mere remission of the contribution, there is not the slightest difficulty. Only we do not want to be regarded as parties for the Government of India to quote as its warrant for falling back on its reserve powers under the Reforms Act."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, may I say one word with regard to the argument of my hon. Friend ? "

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" I am not arguing at all. I am merely making the position of this House clear."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Nor am I arguing. The only thing that I want to say is this. If the House will agree to this amendment proposed by Sir James Simpson, the House, I believe, will be committing itself to nothing more nor less than what is contained in the amendment itself. And the amendment itself only says that we want this reduction in the contribution and that we insist upon it, so that I do not see how there can be any harm in accepting this amendment, because it does not commit the House to any suggestion. My Friend seems to think that the House may be committed to something by accepting it. If the House accepts the amendment, it means that it simply accepts the amendment and nothing more. So what I say is that the House may without any doubt agree to this amendment. And the object of Sir James Simpson in amending it in this form is to avoid all possibilities of any difference of opinion."

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Let us unanimously make this demand, and, as I submitted, it will commit us to nothing more."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think it is desirable that the House should decide what it wants to do in the matter. If the House is not prepared to accept the proposition as amended, or to go on with the debate on the footing of the amended proposition, I shall have to put the amendment to the vote first, and afterwards the debate will be continued. I wish to know which alternative the House would prefer. If it wishes me to put the amendment first, I shall do so. Is it the desire of the House that the amendment should be put separately?"

"The House agrees that the debate shall proceed on the motion as amended. And so the motion before the House is—

'That the business of the Council be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the situation created in the matter of the remission of the contributions of this Presidency and the serious effect likely to result therefrom.'

"That is the motion under debate now."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Mr. President, I beg to reciprocate the feelings of my hon. Friend, Sir James Simpson, in this matter and I have much pleasure in associating myself with the resolution as amended especially as he did not get up and contradict the statement that I have already made regarding the exact significance that we propose to attach to it. I want to assure my hon. Friend that it is not cantankerousness nor political expediency that has led some of us to object to the retention of the salt-tax at its old level. The chief Mover in this matter of the reduction of the salt-tax is one of my Colleagues from Chittoor, Mr. Doraswami Ayyangar, who is a Member of the Legislative Assembly. He has worked out the figures. I am sorry that I have not got them with me here, but he led me to believe that even at the rate of Re. 1 per maund the Government would be charging about 200 per cent more than the cost price. I want to place before this Council a few facts and figures which would show how the consumption of this commodity increases rapidly whenever the duty is reduced."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"It is not exactly a point of order, Sir, that I am raising now, but I want to say this. If the House as a whole has agreed that it commits itself only to what is contained in this amendment and nothing more or nothing less, is it desirable that my hon. Friend should go on now with the discussion relating to the desirability of reducing the salt-tax? Would we not then be going back to the original disputed matters? Is it not better both in the interests of the proposition and, if I may be permitted to say so, in the interests of harmony among all sections of the House, so far as this matter is concerned, that we should not give reasons therefor? So far as this point is concerned, my friend must have found that I am entirely in agreement with him. But what I say now is, is it safe, is it desirable to reopen them? On the other

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hand, is it not better to proceed to vote upon it, I believe, unanimously without discussing it further?"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I do not wish to strike a single discordant note. But the hon. the Chief Minister has placed us in a somewhat difficult position by putting us on a false scent by his remark, namely, that the total amount of loss to the Presidency by the reduction of the salt-tax proposed would be about Rs. 20 lakhs, and I understand from the hon. the Law Member also that it would be about Rs. 20 lakhs, whereas the amount of remission of the contribution would be Rs. 126 lakhs, and that we would be making a bad bargain if we do not agree to the retention . . ."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"It is just to avoid all these troubles that I wanted the matter to be put to vote. The Chief Minister may be right or the Law Member may be right, but let us pass this unanimously."

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—"I move that the question be now put."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I have not resumed my seat, Sir. In deference to Mr. Krishnan Nayar's appeal that we should not enter upon any controversial point, I do not wish to pursue the matter further."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question before the House is:

'That the business of the Council be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the situation created in the matter of the remission of the contributions of this Presidency and the serious effect likely to result therefrom.'"

The adjournment motion was then put to the vote of the House and was carried unanimously.

The House then rose for the day to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 525 asked by Mr. S. Satyamurti at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 19th March 1925, page 283 supra.]

Extract from official visitors' book, dated the 14th December 1924, No. J. 3785, dated the 15th December 1924, from the Superintendent, Alipuram Jail, Bellary.

Date of visit—14th December 1924.

Observation and recommendation of official visitor.—I visited the jail this morning and have been struck by the admirable organization and the neatness and thoroughness that pervade the place. The prisoners look very happy and contented and are being taught useful trades on an admirable plan. All credit is due to the Superintendent for the splendid work turned out.

(Signed) C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR,
Member of Council.

Extract from official visitors' book, dated the 14th December 1924, No. J. 3786, dated the 15th December 1924, from the Superintendent, Alipuram Jail, Bellary.

Date of visit—14th December 1924.

Observation and recommendation of official visitor.—Inspected the jail with the hon. Law Member.

(Signed) W. O. NEWSAM,
Collector.

Extract from official visitors' book, dated the 14th December 1924, No. J. 3784, dated the 15th December 1924, from the Superintendent, Alipuram Jail, Bellary.

Date of visit—11th December 1924.

Observation and recommendation of official visitor.—Visited the jail this morning and went round the jail and found everything neat and in order. The hospital contains 117 patients and it is only a very small number considering the population of the jail. I have no other remarks to offer.

(Signed) G. SEETHARAMA CHETTI,
Non-official visitor.

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Extract from official visitors' book, dated the 27th January 1925, No. 234, dated the 29th January 1925 from the Superintendent, Alipuram Jail, Bellary.

Date of visit—27th January 1925.

Observation and recommendation of official visitor.—Visited the jail and went round with Mr. Greenwood and saw the kitchen, hospital, factory, garden, preparations for food. Everything seems to be in excellent order and the arrangements are wonderful. I see no sign of discontent.

(Signed) S. BURN,
District and Sessions Judge, Bellary.

Extract from official visitors' book, dated the 25th January 1925, No. J. 210, dated the 26th January 1925, from the Superintendent, Alipuram Jail, Bellary.

Date of visit—22nd January 1925.

Observation and recommendation of official visitor.—I have learnt a good deal by visiting this big jail with its extensive and admirable organisation to keep nearly 5,000 prisoners engaged in some useful occupation. Few men can be happy and contented in a prison. A prison is a prison. But it is apparent that the prisoners are well taken care of and taught crafts that will be helpful to them to earn their livelihood honestly when they are set at liberty. The sick in the hospital are about 90 for nearly 5,000. A most creditable record. Mr. Greenwood, the Superintendent is kind, resourceful and deeply interested in his work. There was one flogging with a birch for the last year and one for the previous year. This is a remarkable proof of the humane consideration that indicates the Superintendent in maintaining order and discipline and he is amply justified and rewarded by the willing obedience and the prisoners observe in acting up to the orders given to them by prison authorities and by the trust and confidence they have in the good will of their Superintendent. There are several noticeable features in this jail which deserve commendation. For want of proper safeguards and in the absence of bar fencing, prisoners are chained in night time. A dire necessity no doubt but a barbarous relic. The Superintendent is naturally anxious to get this done away with. Money is required to provide iron bars and other safeguards and the Government is expected to provide necessary funds. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp and his colleague the hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar have already visited the Jail and should have come to a resolution to get necessary sums sanctioned without further delay.

Again there is a blind and deaf cripple and a good number of bed-ridden prisoners. They are very old and physically disabled (by partial paralysis), people amounting in all I learnt to about 300. All these might be released at once to the advantage of Government. They would like to die in their humble homes and cannot now think of creating trouble to society. I hope to visit the Jail at an early date and learn more of the way in which it is so well managed with profit and without trouble.

(Signed) P. KESAVA PILLAI,
President of the Madras D.P.A. Society.

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Remarks of the Superintendent.—This cannot be done until we buy the buildings. Rough estimates are ready.

We have 10 bed-ridden men, 8 of whom have been put up for release and turned down. The visitor refers to all our old men in the figure 300.

Extract from the Official Visitors' book of Alipuram Jail, Bellary Cantonment, dated the 25th January 1925.

Visited the jail this morning went round along with the jailor to some of the wards of the Jail including the hospital. There are only 89 patients of whom 25 are suffering from dysentery and about 15 from fever, etc. I am sorry to note the practice of chaining the convicts during the nights is still continuing and hope that this inhumane practice may be stopped by finding some other method to restrict the convicts from going out. The disadvantage to them is if any one wants to answer calls of nature or to go to the privy he will find it difficult and he will have to disturb the whole batch from sleep. The jail is very clean and tidy.

(Signed) G. SEETHARAMA CHETTI,
Presidency Jail Visitor.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 527 asked by Mr. P. N. Marthandam Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 19th March 1925, page 285 supra.]

Duties of the Official Referee referred to clause (a).

I. (i) To take accounts in suits instituted in the High Court for a partition of family properties;

(ii) to determine questions regarding—

(a) their nature and extent,
(b) the assets and liabilities, and
(c) the provision to be made for the maintenance and marriage expenses of the female members of the family and the discharge of family liabilities; and

(iii) to submit schemes for their division.

II. To take accounts in suits for distribution of partnership and incidentally to determine all questions in difference between the partners concerned.

III. To take accounts as between beneficiaries and trustees, between legatees and executors, between the heirs-at-law and administrators.

IV. To take accounts between principals and agents relating to dealings and transactions between them.

V. To take accounts in suits between mortgagors and mortgagees and between lessors and lessees.

VI. To settle and determine the claims of creditors in administration suits.

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VII. To advise as to the sufficiency of title and value of immovable properties on the mortgage of which applications are made for the investment of funds relating to the estate of minors.

VIII. To effect and carry out into execution division of properties by metes and bounds.

IX. To examine and report as to the value of properties for the fixing of reserve price in execution and generally to investigate and report on all other matters involving the taking of accounts or division of properties.

X. To pass accounts of receivers.

XI. To conduct sales of movable and immovable properties as between the parties in pending suits or by public auction in execution of decree.

XII. To act as arbitrator.

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 540 asked by Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 19th March 1925, page 300 supra.]

1168 Q.—(a) Who is the contractor for the supplies to the District Hospital at Tanjore;

(b) whether it is a fact that the tender of one Somu Rao, a long-standing contractor, though the lowest, was rejected after it was once accepted; if so, what reasons there were for such rejection; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the present contractor was specially got down from Trichinopoly and his rates are higher than the previous rates or the rates of Somu Rao?

A.—(a) There are four contractors—

(1) M.R.Ry. C. V. Rajagopal Ayyar for general articles of diet.

(2) M.R.Ry. Ramaswami Pillai for milk.

(3) " K. Singaram Pillai for bread.

(4) Ammalu Amma for hoppers.

(b) The tender of Somu Rao was first recommended by the Superintendent of the Hospital for acceptance. The Superintendent was asked to give reasons for his recommendation, but before he could reply, an attachment order was received attaching Somu Rao's earnest money deposit. The tender had therefore to be rejected.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

1169 Q.—(a) How many Assistant Surgeons have been transferred from (i) the Medical School at Tanjore, (ii) the Hospitals in the district, since 1st January 1924 and on what grounds;

(b) what is the amount of travelling expenses caused by such transfers;

(c) how many Honorary Sub-Assistant Surgeons who were doing service in the District Hospital at Tanjore resigned after 1st January 1924 and the reasons for their resignation; and

(d) how many nurses resigned or went away from the District Hospital after 1st January and the reasons for the same?

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- A.—(a) Three Assistant Surgeons were transferred from the Medical School and five from the hospitals in the district. Four of these were transferred as they had been in the district for five years; two others were transferred at their own request. As regards the remaining two, one was transferred as his services were needed at Cuddalore and the other as a punishment.
- (b) The travelling allowances drawn by four of the eight officers transferred amounted to Rs. 290-1-0. Information regarding the others has not been received.
- (c) Two honorary sub-assistant surgeons resigned as they could not get suitable and convenient quarters. The quarters within the hospital premises temporarily occupied by them had to be vacated to accommodate the pupil nurses undergoing training.
- (d) Three nurses resigned for the following reasons :—
- (1) One as she wanted a transfer to Vizagapatam where there was no vacancy.
 - (2) Another on the ground that she was far away from her parents who are at Bangalore.
 - (3) And the last for reasons not known.
- Two nurses who were not fully qualified and were not willing to serve under junior nurses were transferred to the Headquarter Hospital, Calicut.

1170 Q.—(a) Whether it is a fact that the district hospital at Tanjore was closed for admission of in-patients for three weeks about the beginning of August 1924;

(b) if so, why it was closed and who is responsible for the same;

(c) whether it is a fact that the place of assistant surgeons in some hospitals in the Tanjore district usually presided over by assistant surgeons have not been filled up for some time; and

(d) if so, which are the hospitals and what are the periods of vacancy?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative. In-patients were admitted every day of that month.

(b) Please see the answer to clause (a).

(c) & (d) In the following three hospitals, the places of assistant surgeons were held by selection grade sub-assistant surgeons :—

- (1) Tiravalur—from 14th July 1924 to 6th September 1924
- (2) Mannargudi—from 4th August 1924, to 30th August 1924.
- (3) Tiruturaipundi—from 18th February 1924.

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APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to question No. 543 asked by Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 19th March 1925, page 302 supra.]

List of schemes prepared by the Director of Town-Planning.

Serial number and name of scheme.		Estimated cost.	How proposed to be financed.
1. The Maravaneri Extension scheme, Southern section, Salem municipality.	B	Rs. 30,500	Betterment contribution.
2. The Leigh Bazaar scheme, Shevapet, Salem municipality.	C	..	
The Alachampalayam Extension, Salem municipality.	..	..	
3. The Vaniar Block Extension, scheme No. I, Chittoor municipality.	B	6,878	Sale of house-sites.
4. The Vaniar Block Extension, scheme No. II, Chittoor municipality.	B	4,200	Do.
5. The Tirupati Town-planning Scheme No. I, Tirupati municipality.	B	1,01,654	Do.
6. The Mambalam Eastern Section Town-planning Scheme.	B	13,00,000	Sale of sites and betterment contribution.
6-a. The Mambalam S. No. 42/1 and 2	..	..	
6-b. Madras Corporation Mambalam Scheme..	B	23,22,200	The general policy of the Government is that town-planning schemes should be worked out by local bodies on a self-supporting or remunerative basis with the aid of loans if necessary to be financed from sale-proceeds of sites, rentals and betterment contributions, as the case may be.
6-c. The Mambalam S. No. 47/1	..	..	
7. The Mylapore Eastern Section Town-planning Scheme, Madras City.	C	3,24,000	
7-a. The Mylapore Western Section, Madras City.	Lay-out.	Plan prepared.	
8. Development of Sand accretion, Madras	..	..	
8-a. Madras Port Development	..	..	
9. The improvement scheme for Esplanade, Madras City.	C	..	
10. General Hospital Road remodelling scheme, Madras City.	..	..	
11. The scheme for diversion of Buckingham canal from Cooum to Tondiarpet, Madras.	..	..	
12. St. Mary's Road over-bridge scheme, Madras.	..	..	
13. Whannel's Road	..	..	
14. The Tondiarpet-Moolakotala hutting ground scheme.	C	..	
15. The housing scheme in S. Nos. 4491, 4567, South Mylapore, Madras City.	C	..	
16. The housing scheme for fishermen in S. No. 2314, Mylapore, Madras City.	C	..	
16-a. The Choolai scheme, Madras City	C	60,00,000	
16-b. The Co-operative Societies' land, Ponneri.	..	..	
16-c. The Co-operative Societies' land, Mambalam.	..	..	
16-d. The lay-out for Mackey's Garden, Nungumbakam.	..	..	
17. The housing scheme in R.S. No. 466, Tondiarpet.	C	..	

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List of schemes prepared by the Director of Town-Planning—cont.

Serial number and name of scheme.		Estimated cost.	How proposed to be financed.
		RS.	
18. The housing scheme in R.S. No. 1020, Lloyd's Road, Mylapore, Madras City.	C	..	
19. The Lloyd's Road Co-operative housing scheme, Mylapore, Madras City.	B	..	
20. The Ambattur town-planning scheme, Madras.	C	1,50,000	
21. The Tambaram town-planning scheme, Tambaram, Saidapet Taluk Board.	C	2,00,000	
22. The Sokkikulam extension scheme, Madura municipality.	B	1,36,192	
23. The eastern extension, part I, Madura municipality.	B	1,35,000	
24. The Industrial Staff housing scheme, Madura municipality.	C	..	
25. The Madichiyam extension scheme, Madura municipality.	B	10,00,000	
26. The Anupadady extension, Madura municipality.	..	..	
27. The Chinnakannai extension, Madura municipality.	C	..	
28. The Ismailpuram block improvement, Madura municipality.	..	..	
29. The new Kosavapalaiyam extension, Madura municipality.	..	..	
30. The Kaziar tope extension, Madura municipality.	..	..	
31. The West Ponnagaram extension, Madura municipality.	..	..	
32. Do.	A	..	
33. The West Ponnagaram improvement, Madura municipality.	..	..	
34. The Kollambatrai block improvement, Madura municipality.	..	..	
35. The Kollambatrai block extension, Madura municipality.	..	..	
36. The West Sellore extension, Madura municipality.	..	..	
37. The East Sellore extension, Madura municipality.	..	..	
38. The Pacharisikara tope extension, Madura municipality.	..	..	
39. The new market site, Anakapalle municipality.	B	..	
40. The Pattur maidan extension scheme, Trichinopoly municipality.	C	65,000	
41. The Butterworth Road development scheme, Trichinopoly municipality.	B	60,000	Sale of sites and Government grant already given.
42. The Jasmine Garden extension scheme, Trichinopoly municipality.	B	17,000	Do.
43. Varaganery extension, Trichinopoly municipality.	C	42,000	
44. The Peechankulam improvement scheme, Trichinopoly municipality.	C	60,000	
45. The Sooramparachery improvement scheme, Trichinopoly municipality.	C	..	
46. The Estates Land town-planning scheme, Guntur municipality.	C	3,56,555	
47. The Nidam Doddi town-planning scheme, Anakapalle.	C	2,80,000	
48. The Owner's scheme, Sarvakamadamba temple, Anakapalle municipality.	C	..	Owner's scheme.

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List of schemes prepared by the Director of Town-Planning—cont.

Serial number and name of scheme.		Estimated cost.	How proposed to be financed.
		RS.	
49. The Vemu Varu Garden town-planning scheme, Palacole municipality.	C	16,760	
50. The Palivela Vari Garden, Palacole municipality.	C	11,900	
51. The Brodiepeta Fields scheme, Palacole municipality.	C	15,878	
52. The Athabahalutshmi Narasimhaswami Vari scheme, Palacole municipality.	C	15,329	
53. The Pattukkottai town extension scheme, Pattukkottai taluk board, Tanjore district.	C	21,500	
54. The Seturathapuram extension scheme, Manapparai, Kulittalai taluk, Trichinopoly district.	C	4,720	
55. The Peace Park town-planning scheme, Kollegal taluk board, Coimbatore district.	C	12,365	
56. The Kathesh town extension, Nellore municipality.	C	..	Owner's scheme.
57. The Owner's scheme in R.S. No. 430, Nellore municipality.	..	..	Do.
58. Provision of house-sites in Parvatipur to for labouring classes (5 schemes), Vizagapatam district.	C	..	
62. Vizagapatam district.			
63. The Kotha Agraharam extension scheme, Vizianagram municipality.	A	..	
64. Development of Coronation Park, Berhampur municipality.	B	6,000	Sale of sites.
65. The Rayagopuram extension scheme, Srirangam municipality.	B	..	Do.
66. The Pasupathipalaiyam extension, Karur municipality.	C	..	
67. The Valayakara Block congestion removal, Erode municipality.	B	44,000	
68. The Layout of T.S. No. 40/2, Erode municipality.	B	8,000	
69. The Layout of T.S. No. 22/2, Erode municipality.	B	4,000	
70. The Kandal Housing scheme, Ootacamund municipality.	B	1,40,000	Loan.
71. The Rameswaram town extension for weavers, Prodatpur municipality.	B	..	
72. (a) The South Tamaraparamba scheme, Cochin municipality.	C	1,21,560	
(b) The Pathayathode extension, Cochin municipality.	C	28,000	
(c) The Mantara scheme, Cochin municipality.	C	10,300	
73. The Kosgi extension scheme for caste people, Adoni municipality.	C	..	
74. The Kosgi extension scheme for Madigas, Adoni municipality.	C	..	
75. The housing scheme, Vernonpet, Bhavani, Coimbatore district.	B	..	
76. The housing scheme for flood affected people, Satyamangalam, Coimbatore district.	B	..	
77. The housing scheme, Varadanpalaiyam village, Satyamangalam, Coimbatore district.	B	..	

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List of schemes prepared by the Director of Town-Planning - cont.

Serial number and name of scheme.	Estimated cost.	How proposed to be financed.
78. The Municipal Staff Housing scheme, Vizagapatam municipality.	C ..	
79. The Dibba Garden scheme, Vizagapatam municipality.	.. ..	
80. The housing scheme for flood affected people, Vizagapatam municipality.	C ..	
81. The housing scheme for Adi-Dravidas of Govindapuram, Vaniyambadi municipality.	.. ..	
82. The Labourer's Colony scheme, Tirupur municipality.	C ..	
83. The Grain Godowns scheme, Vizagapatam municipality.	.. ..	
84. The Nannilam town-housing schemes in to sites A, B, E, G, H, I, J, L (8 schemes), Tanjore district.	C ..	
91. The Cocanada East Swamp area housing scheme for labourers.	C ..	
92. The housing scheme in Block 23, Ward 7, New Town, Cuddalore municipality.	B ..	
94. The housing scheme in Blocks 20 and 36, Ward 2, Old Town, Cuddalore municipality.	C ..	
95. The Ongole-Annavarapad extension, Ongole municipality.	B ..	
96. The Ongole-Annavarapad extension hill sites.	.. ..	
97. The Koilpatti Housing scheme for clerks and menials.	C ..	
98. The Tenali taluk board Housing scheme, depressed classes, Tsunder.	C ..	
99. The Tenali taluk board Housing scheme, depressed classes, Gudivada.	C ..	
100. The Tenali taluk board Housing scheme, depressed classes, Peddaravar.	C ..	
101. The Tenali taluk board Housing scheme, depressed classes, Katawaram.	C ..	
102. The Housing scheme in Hosamalangi village, Kollegal taluk, Coimbatore district.	C ..	
103. Relieving congestion in Blocks 24 and 25, Conjeevaram municipality.	.. ..	
104. The scheme in respect of area surrounding Pabir New street, Kumbakonam municipality.	.. ..	
105. Car street, extension, Block 42, Ward I, Mangalore municipality.	.. ..	
106. Venkataramana Temple area, Block 9, Ward 3, Mangalore municipality.	.. ..	
107. Opening out Guliga Hithlu, Mangalore ..	.. ..	
108. The Maomin Garden scheme, Mangalore municipality.	.. ..	
109. The Narishwalya road scheme, Mangalore..	.. ..	
110. Tuticorin scheme in respect of reserve forest area.	C ..	
110-a. The Tuticorin harbour area scheme ..	.. ..	
111. The Nunepalli extension scheme, Nandyal municipality.	B ..	
112. Town Extension scheme, Tiruppattur municipality.		

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List of schemes prepared by the Director of Town-Planning—cont.

Serial number and name of scheme.	Estimated cost.	How proposed to be financed.
113. Natrampalli village extension, Tiruppattur taluk.	.. ..	
114. Thorayar quarters, Block 1 and Block 2 layout, Coimbatore district.	B ..	
115. Layout for T.S. No. 10, Coimbatore district.	.. ..	
116. Housing site for poor classes, Coonoor municipality.	C 20,000	
117. Market improvement scheme, Coonoor municipality.	B 40,000	
118. Bezwaia General Development scheme ..	.. ..	
119. Town extension, South-east area, Chingleput municipality.	C ..	

A = Executed. B = Commenced. C = To be commenced within three years.

APPENDIX V.

[Vide answer to question No. 545 asked by Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 19th March 1925, page 304 supra.]

Serial number.	Name of reserves for which panchayats have already been constituted.	Serial number.	Name of reserves for which panchayats have yet to be constituted.
<i>Hospet taluk.</i>			
1	Billekal reserve.	1	Tornagal reserve.
2	Billekal West reserve.	2	Tornagal extension.
3	Joga 'O'.	3	Kodalu.
4	Joga, North-west.	4	Joga 'A'.
5	Papinayakanahalli.	5	Bellary reserve.
		6	Bukkasagaram.
		7	Chikkanthapuram.
		8	Daroji reserve.
		9	Metriki.
		10	Mincheri reserve.
<i>Harpanahalli taluk.</i>			
1	Alagilavada reserve.	1	Uchangidurgam.
2	Alagilavada extension	2	Jittinakatta reserve.
3	Neelagunda.	3	Jittinakatta North.
		4	Jittinakatta South.
		5	Jajikalgutta reserve.
		6	Sogi reserve (part).
		7	Sogi South extension.
		8	Sogi, North-west extension (part).
		9	Hyarada reserve (part).

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Serial number.	Name of reserves for which panchayats have already been constituted.	Serial number.	Name of reserves for which panchayats have yet to be constituted.
<i>Hadayalli taluk.</i>			
1	Koilaragatta reserve.	1	Sogi reserve (part).
2	Koilaragatta extension.	2	Hyarada reserve (part).
3	Chintharapalli, North.	3	Sogi North-west extension (part).
4	Chintharapalli, South.	4	Sogi, North extension.
5	Thumbinakeri reserve.	5	Thogarikatta.
6	Nandibanda reserve.		

Kudligi taluk.

1	Jerimala reserve.	1	Gollalingamanahalli.
2	Bennikal.	2	Thummaraguddi.
3	Halasagaram.	3	Thonasigeri.
4	Sheliappanahalli.	4	Chiribi.
5	Jummanobanahalli.	5	Chiribi extension.
6	Hosahalli.	6	Sunkadakal reserve.
		6(a)	Sunkadakal, East.
		7	Sunkadakal, North-west.
		8	Sunkadakal East extension.
		9	Sunkadakal South extension.
		10	Nimbalagiri.
		11	Nimbalagiri, North.
		12	Nimbalagiri, West.
		13	Banvikal.
		14	Banvikal, North-east.
		15	Ramadungam.
		16	Kakuppi.
		17	Kakuppi, North-east.
		18	Kakuppi, South-east.
		19	Keriaganahalli.
		20	Gudekota.
		21	Gudekota extension.
		22	Appayyanahalli.
		23	Gondabommanahalli.
		24	Hulikunta.
		25	Shedaigal 'A'.
		26	Shedaigal 'B'.
		27	Shedaigal 'C'.
		28	Choranur.

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APPENDIX VI.

[Vide answer to question No. 546 asked by Mr. M. Ratnaswami at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 19th March 1925, page 305 supra.]

Statement showing the expenditure incurred during 1924-25 up to 1st February 1925 under each head.

District.	Education charges.			Free grants for wells, pathways, burial-grounds and sanitary improvements.			Loans for acquisition of house-sites, etc.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1. Gōdāvari ...	15,265	7	0	2,269	0	0	4,574	0	0
2. Kistna ...	2,356	11	0	3,348	5	9	2,465	8	9
3. Guntūr ...	2,750	4	0	10,810	12	2	34,695	8	0
4. Bellary ...	2,647	2	6	2,698	11	4	Nil.		
5. Chingleput ...	15,491	0	0	10,603	7	7	177	8	0
6. South Arcot ...	10,414	0	0	5,810	0	0	16,000	0	0
7. Tanjore ...	45,401	14	10	3,506	4	4	13,001	7	11
8. Trichinopoly ...	8,762	3	7	6,832	3	7	36,500	0	0
9. South Kanara ...	6,096	14	0	2,193	11	4	1,266	4	0
10. Madras ...	2,296	11	6	(b) 14,000	0	0	Nil.		
11. Head office ...	(d) 32,650	0	0	4,893	0	0	(c) 538	1	6
							360	0	0
Total ...	1,44,132	4	5	66,965	8	1	1,09,578	6	2

(a) Loans for flood relief in Tanjore district.

(b) Includes the following :—

(i) Rupees 6,800 free grants for sanitary improvements of cheris in Madras.

(ii) Rupees 7,200 free grants for labourers in Palliatope.

(c) Loans for labourers in Palliatope for construction of houses.

(d) Includes Rs. 19,000 on account of scholarships and Rs. 6,200 on account of the Adidraivida Hostel, Madras.

APPENDIX VII.

[Vide answer to question No. 547 asked by Mr. G. Rameswara Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 19th March 1925, page 305 supra.]

Statement showing the rates for private advertisement in the Fort St. George and District Gazettes.

Details.	Old rates per line single column printing on foolscap folio.	New rates sanctioned from 1st March 1925 per line.	
		Single column printing.	Double column printing.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
First insertion ...	10 annas	12 annas	6 annas
Second insertion ...	8 "	10 "	5 "
Third insertion ...	6 "	8 "	4 "
Fourth and succeeding insertions.	4 "	6 "	3 "

NOTE.—Tabular matter charged at double the rates given in columns (2), (3) and (4).

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APPENDIX VIII.

[Vide answer to question No. 550 asked by Mr. C. Gopala Menon at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 19th March 1925, page 306 supra.]

Statement showing the action taken by municipalities under sections 8, 9 and 10 of the Madras Town-planning Act, 1920.

1. Action taken by local bodies under sections 9 and 10 of the Act.

Serial number and name of Municipality.	Name of scheme.	Date of resolution under section 9 (1).	Date of publication under section 10 (1).	Date of resolution under section 10 (3).	Date of publication under section 10 (3).
(a) Municipalities with a population of 40,000 and over.					
1. Vellore ..	The Vaipady Nallam-pattadai extension scheme.	5th Aug 1924.	21st and 22nd Aug. 1924.	7th Feb. 1925.	11th Feb. 1925.
2. Madura ..	The Anupanady extension ..	3rd July 1922.	7th July 1922.	31st Oct. 1922.	4th Nov. 1922.
3. Do. ..	The Chinnakamoi extension.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
4. Do. ..	The Patcharisikara Tope extension.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
5. Do. ..	The Ismailpuram Block improvements.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
6. Do. ..	The New Kosavapalayam extension.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
7. Do. ..	The Kaziar Tope extension.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
8. Do. ..	The West Ponnagaram extension.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
9. Do. ..	The East Ponnagaram extension.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
10. Do. ..	The East Ponnagaram improvement.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
11. Do. ..	The Uppukara Block improvement.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
12. Do. ..	The Thaikal Block improvement.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
13. Do. ..	The Kollambatri Block extension.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
14. Do. ..	The Kollambatri Block improvement.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
15. Do. ..	The West Sellur Block extension.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
16. Do. ..	The East Sellur Block extension.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
17. Do. ..	The Sher Ali Makham Tope extension.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
18. Do. ..	The Railway Colony Othapatti extension.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
19. Do. ..	The Madura Vaigai Southern Bank extension.	10th May 1923.	12th May 1923.	10th Sep. 1923.	28th Sep. 1923.
20. Do. ..	The East Madura Southern section.	11th July 1923.	28th July 1923.	10th Nov. 1923.	14th Dec. 1923.
21. Vizagapatam.	The Maharani-peta Scheme No. 1.	6th Dec. 1922.	3rd, 14th Jan. 1923.	12th May 1923.	26th May 1923.
22. Do.	The Alipur Ward scheme ..	6th Dec. 1923.	1st June 1923.	14th June 1924.	28th Sep. 1924.
		12th May 1923.	10th June 1923.		1st Oct. 1924.

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Serial number and name of Municipality.	Name of scheme.	Date of resolution under section 9 (1).	Date of publication under section 10 (1).	Date of resolution under section 10 (3).	Date of publication under section 10 (3).
(a) Municipalities with a population of 40,000 and over—cont.					
23. Coimbatore..	Continuation of North South 70' Road in the Mettupalayam Thadagam Extension to meet Sukravartpet street.	4th Jan. 1922.	20th Mar. 1922.	15th June 1922.	25th June 1922.
Do. ..	Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Wederper streets to be continued westwards and connected with Mettupalayam extension and southernmost 30' road in Mettupalayam extension to be connected with Jallikuli street.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
24. Do. ..	Opening a road to connect Paparaikennpalaiyam with Avanashi Road.	6th July 1922.	14th July 1922.	26th Oct. 1922.	6th Nov. 1922.
25. Do. ..	Road connecting Brahman extension with Avanashi road.	28th Apr. 1922.	23rd May 1922.	20th Mar. 1923.	8th Apr. 1923.
26. Madras City—	Mambalam	1st Mar. 1922.	24th Mar. 1922.	7th June 1922.	8th June 1922.
Madras City and Suburban Town-planning Trust.	Southern section, Town-planning scheme, Mylapore.	5th Apr. 1922.	21st Apr. 1922.	14th July 1922.	15th July 1922.
27. Do.	Eastern Section, Town-planning scheme.	7th June 1922.	8th June 1922.	18th Aug. 1922.	19th Aug. 1922.
28. Do.	Mylapore Western Section, Town-planning scheme.	10th May 1922.	12th May 1922.	14th July 1922.	15th July 1922.
29. Do.	The Nungambakam Town-planning scheme.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
		14th July 1922.	15th July 1922.	26th Sep. 1922.	27th Sep. 1922.
		28th May 1923.	7th June 1923.	31st Aug. 1923.	15th Sep. 1923.
30. Do.	The Ambattur Town-planning scheme.	22nd Jan. 1923.	5th Mar. 1923.	7th May 1923.	15th May 1923.
(b) Other Municipalities (with population less than 40,000).					
31. Saidapet ..	Adyar Extension Town-planning scheme.	27th Sep. 1924.	6th Oct. 1924.	27th Dec. 1924.	3rd and 27th Feb. 1925.
32. Chittoor ..	Vanniar Block Extension scheme.	20th Mar. 1922.	..	19th Aug. 1922.	13th Oct. 1922.
33. Tenali ..	The Chandramouleswarapuram scheme.	20th Dec. 1922.	17th Feb. 1921.	..	..
34. Do. ..	The Pinnapadu extension ..	Do.	Do.	..	..
35. Do. ..	The Royapeta extension ..	Do.	Do.	..	..
36. Do. ..	The scheme for triangular area between Railway lines and Pinnapadu road.	Do.	Do.	..	..
37. Do. ..	The scheme for area west of proposed road in Royapeta extension.	Do.	Do.	..	..
38. Do. ..	The Banda quarters scheme.	Do.	Do.	..	..
39. Tirupati ..	The Karakamberi Extension scheme.	22nd Feb. 1922.	..	..	..

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Serial number and name of Municipality.	Name of scheme.	Date of resolution under section 9 (1).	Date of publication under section 10 (1).	Date of resolution under section 10 (3).	Date of publication under section 10 (3).
(b) Other Municipalities (with population less than 40,000)—cont.					
40. Palacole ..	The Astabahu Lakshmi Narasimhaswami Vari Garden and Maget Garden scheme.	5th March 1922.	6th April 1922.	30th Aug. 1922.	..
41. Do. ..	The Palivela Vari Garden scheme.	Do.	Do.	Do.	..
42. Do. ..	The Vemu Vari Garden scheme.	Do.	Do.	Do.	..
43. Do. ..	The Brodiepeta Fields Acquisition scheme.	Do.	Do.	Do.	..
44. Cochin ..	The South Tamparaparamba scheme, Mentara scheme.	10th July 1924.	16th July 1924.	8th Oct. 1924.	11th Oct. 1924.
45. Nellore ..	Katheeb Town Extension scheme.	15th Sep. 1923.	..	..	..
46. Coonoor ..	Housing scheme ..	25th Apl. 1923.	1st Sep. 1923.	21st Dec. 1923.	22nd Jan. 1924.
47. Karur ..	Town Extension scheme near taluk office.	12th June 1924.	21st Oct. 1924.	..	..
48. Do. ..	The Amravati Bridge Extension scheme.	..	30th June 1924.	18th Feb. 1925.	..
49. Do. ..	The Pasupatipalayam Extension scheme.	2nd and 6th Aug. 1923.	12th Sep. 1923.	..	..

2. Action taken under section 12 of the Act (Schemes directed by the Government to be prepared, printed and submitted for their sanction).

(a) Municipalities with the population of 40,000 and over.

Serial number and name of Municipality.	Name of the scheme.
50. Guntur ...	The Estate Land Town-planning scheme, Guntur.
51. Madura ...	The Sakkikulam Extension scheme.
52. Do. ...	The Madichiyam Extension scheme.
53. Do. ...	The Eastern Extension—Part I.
54. Salem ...	The Maravaneri Extension scheme, Southern section.
55. Trichinopoly ...	The Butterworth Road Extension scheme.
56. Do. ...	The Jasmine Garden Extension scheme.
57. Do. ...	The Varaganeri Extension scheme.
58. Do. ...	The Peechankulam Extension scheme.
59. Do. ...	The Puttur Maidan scheme.
60. Vizagapatam ...	The Market Ward Town-planning scheme.
61. Madras Corporation ...	The Mambalam Eastern section scheme.
62. Madras City ...	Madras City and Suburban scheme for S. No. 47/1, Puliyur Town-planning Trust.

(b) Other Municipalities (with population less than 40,000).

63. Chittoor ...	The Vanniar Block Extension scheme.
64. Tirupati ...	The Tirupati Town-planning scheme No. 1.
65. Anapalle ...	The Nidanam Doddi Town-planning scheme.
66. Ootacamund ..	Scheme for area between Segore and Ampthill Roads.

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APPENDIX IX.

[Vide answer to question No. 554 asked by Mr. J. A. Saldanha at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 19th March 1925, page 307 supra.]

List of places at which and the persons by whom (1) canned fish, (2) jam, (3) soaps and (4) inks are sold.

Places.	By whom sold.	Name of the articles sold by them.
Madras ...	(1) Messrs. Abdulla Batch & Co., Broadway	Canned fish.
	(2) Mr. R. N. Sivaprakasam, Moore Market.	Do.
	(3) Messrs. N. Raju & Sons, Moore Market.	Do.
	(4) Mr. V. P. Sitarama Mudaliyar, Moore Market.	Do.
	(5) Mr. C. R. Vadivelu Mudaliyar, Moore Market.	Canned fish and soaps.
	(6) Mr. N. Desai Gounder, China Bazaar ...	Canned fish.
	(7) Messrs. C. Somu Mudali & Co., China Bazaar.	Canned fish, soaps and inks.
	(8) Mr. A. Bosotto, Mount Road ...	Canned fish.
	(9) Mr. Adam Hajee Mohammad Sait, 7, Bunder Street, Georgetown.	Soaps.
	(10) Mr. S. T. Paldano, Purasawalkam High Road, Vepery.	Do.
	(11) Mr. P. Mothaliandan Chetti, Bunder Street, Georgetown.	Inks.
	(12) Mr. S. Alwar Chetti, Devarajulu Mudali Street, Georgetown.	Do.
	(13) Messrs. N. Ramanujam Chetti & Son, Anderson Street.	Do.
	(14) Messrs. M. Akbar & Bros., Bunder Street, Georgetown.	Do.
	(15) Messrs. V. K. Abdur Rahiman & Co., Bunder Street, Georgetown.	Do.
	(16) Messrs. International Agency Co., Armenian Street.	Do.
	(17) Messrs. M. R. Chandra & Co., China Bazaar Road.	Do.
	(18) The City Typewriting Institute, 3, Swami Pillai Street, Triplicane.	Do.
	(19) Mr. P. Singaravelu Mudaliyar, 557, Pycroft's Road, Triplicane.	Do.
Bangalore ...	(1) Mr. C. G. Dumaine, Avenue, Bangalore City.	Canned fish.
	(2) Messrs. M. Maneckji & Sons, Commercial Street, Bangalore.	Jam.
Ootacamund.	(1) Messrs. Siddick Meanjee Sait & Sons ...	Canned fish.
	(2) Mr. Dhun Hazary ...	Jam.

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*List of places at which and the persons by whom (1) canned fish,
(2) jam, (3), soaps and (4) inks are sold—cont.*

Places.	By whom sold.	Name of the articles sold by them.
Coonoor	(1) Manager, Agricultural Farm ...	Canned fish.
	(2) Messrs. Primrose & Co.	Canned fish and jam.
	(3) Messrs. Spencer & Co.	Jam.
	(4) The Central Stores ...	Do.
	(5) Messrs. E. V. Paddu Bros.	Do.
	(6) Messrs. O. Noor Mohammad & Co.	Do.
	(7) Mr. Karuvan, Merchant ...	Do.
Kodaikānal ...	The Kodaikānal Co-operative Stores ...	Canned fish.
Yercaud ...	Mr. H. E. Osborne, Yercaud ...	Jam.
Cochin ...	Mr. S. Khoder, Cochin ...	Do.
Munnar	(1) The Munnar Indian Co-operative Stores, Limited.	Canned fish.
	(2) The Munnar Supply Association, Limited.	Do.
Vizagapatam.	Government Fisheries Station ...	Do.
Nellore ...	Do ...	Do.
Kurnool ...	Do. ...	Do.
Hindupur ...	Mr. L. G. Sastri, General Merchant ...	Soaps.
Ennur ...	Government Fisheries Station ..	Canned fish.
Vellore ..	Do. ...	Do.
Tanjore ...	Messrs. T. C. Ramudu Jetty & Sons, General Merchants, Aiyankadai Street, Tanjore.	Soaps.
Kumbakonam.	Mr. K. Raghavendra Rao, 180, Big Bazaar Street.	Do.
Trichinopoly.	South Indian Railway Co-operative Stores ...	Jam.
Palamcottah.	Messrs. Edward & Co., The Palamcottah Club.	Canned fish.
Calicut	(1) Mr. R. C. Dalal, Calicut ...	Soaps.
	(2) Messrs. F. N. Heerajee & Co., Calicut ...	Jam.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 20th March 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI AVARGAL, C.I.E. I.S.O.) in the chair.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Before taking up the questions and answers, I wish to refer to a desire expressed in some parts of the House that we should, if possible, recoup in some way the loss of time occasioned by the two adjournment motions. We have lost five hours already and some hon. Members seem to desire that we should make some endeavour to make up for it. One course I would suggest is the obvious one of shortening the time devoted to questions. We have only twenty or twenty-five questions put on every day and if hon. Members would make up their minds to ask as few supplemental questions as possible and to reserve their other questions to be put in writing, we should be able to get on with questions in a much shorter time. I remember that once or twice we had the questions finished in about half an hour and I think if hon. Members would make up their minds to continue to do so, we might thus gain half an hour. On my part I shall endeavour to co-operate with hon. Members as much as possible to make up the loss. Occasionally we may limit the lunch hour to three-quarters of an hour instead of an hour. In this way we may be able to recoup the time that has been unavoidably lost.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Depressed Classes.

Population of Nayadis in British Malabar.

* 556 Q.—MR. R. SRINIVASAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the total population of Nayadis a section of unapproachables—in British Malabar—

(i) the number of male adults;

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- (ii) the number of female adults;
- (iii) the number of family groups;
- (b) whether the Government propose
 - (i) to find a settlement similar to that of Kallars in or out of British Malabar; or
 - (ii) to help them to emigrate to Assam, Ceylon and Burma; and
- (c) what scheme the Government propose to adopt to uplift this unfortunate class of people?

A.—(a) According to the Census Report for 1921 there are 417 Nayadis, of whom 200 are males and 217 are females. No further information is available.

(b) & (c) The Government have no such proposal under consideration. The practicability of the proposal will be examined.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ With reference to the answer to this question, is it not a fact that the Government have founded a settlement for Kallars, because it was thought that they are members of a criminal class? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ Yes.”

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ Are the Government aware that the Nayadis do not form a criminal class and that they are a peace-loving people? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am afraid I must have notice.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ With reference to clause (a) of this question, may I know what kind of profession these peculiar products of Malabar, the Nayadis, are following? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I want notice.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether Government are contemplating to provide any kind of work to this peculiar product of Malabar, viz., the Nayadis? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ The answer already says, Sir, that the practicability of certain proposals will be examined.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ Sir, is it a fact that these Nayadis are not even allowed to sit alongside the road in order to receive alms from the passers-by? ”

Election of members to village panchayat courts.

* 557 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the election of members to the village panchayat court was held in the Tiruppattur taluk office on 15th December 1924;

(b) whether during the time of election the then tahsildar made the members of the depressed classes sit outside the office but allowed only caste people inside the taluk office;

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(c) whether it is a fact that one P. K. Periaswami, an Adi-Dravida member who stood for election, did not get through the election owing to failure to count the votes properly on the part of the then tahsildar; and

(d) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a) to (c), whether they will call for the information?

A.—(a) to (c) The Government have no information.

(d) Yes.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ Sir, with reference to clause (a), may I know whether there is any proposal before the Government to amend the Village Panchayat Courts Act so as to provide for nomination to the members of the depressed classes to village panchayat courts? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I am not aware of any such proposal. I shall investigate into the matter.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ May I know what remedy is open for a case like the one complained of by my friend Mr. Veerian? ”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ As a matter of fact, a member of the depressed classes was elected in South Coimbatore for the panchayat court. But notice was not sent to him about the date and hour of the meeting for him to attend the same. May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Member will be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ May I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to clause (d) asking whether the Government will call for information? ”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ Sir, I want to know whether the hon. Member will be pleased to enquire into the matter which I have just now brought up? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I would suggest that the hon. Member should put a separate question on the subject.”

Emigration.

Emigration to British Guiana, etc.

* 558 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are negotiating with the Governments of British Guiana, Fiji Islands, East Africa and such other places for the emigration of Indian labourers; and

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, when they are likely to be completed?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Forests.

The Russellkonda Saw Mills.

* 559 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the net loss to the Government by the working of Russellkonda Saw Mills up to date;

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- (b) whether it is continued to work the same and if so, why; and
 (c) whether the Legislative Council will be consulted early in the matter?

4.—(a) According to the latest audit report, the working of the mill up to 31st December 1924 has resulted in a profit of Rupees 2,718-4-7.

(b) The question is now under consideration.

(c) It is open to the hon. Member himself to raise the question.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“With regard to clause (a), Sir, it is stated that the net profit is Rs. 2,718-4-7. Is it the profit after deducting all the loss that has been incurred previously or is it the net profit for the six months up to the 31st of December 1924?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“It is the net profit, Sir, for the whole period after recouping the previous losses.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“May I know whether the account ending with the 31st December 1924 includes the sale of railway sleepers?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“I am not aware of it. I am not certain that there has been any sale of railway sleepers at all.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“I was told, Sir, that there was a large quantity of railway sleepers sent to the Calcutta market which had to be sold at a loss.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“I have no special information, Sir, regarding railway sleepers.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“Sir, is it that this profit of Rs. 2,718-4-7 is the result of the valuation fixed upon the stock on hand?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“As the hon. Member knows stock on hand is taken into consideration in making the profit and loss account.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“May I know the value of the stock on hand and also how this figure of profit has been arrived at?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“I do not understand, Sir, whether the hon. Member thinks that the balance sheet of such eminent auditors as Messrs. Fraser and Ross is an illusory one.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“Alleged.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“Even then the term ‘alleged’ is not quite an appropriate term to be applied to the balance sheet of recognised chartered accountants.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“What is the value of the stock on hand in order to enable us to arrive at the profit?”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“May I know whether it is the cost price or the market price?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“The value of the stock on hand is Rs. 74,656.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“What was the sale amount during that quarter?”

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The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“The sale during the quarter was Rs. 21,500.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“Is it not a fact that the hon. Member referred us a few months back to the fact that the Forest Department was arranging for the supply of a large quantity of railway sleepers?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“It is certainly a fact. But that has nothing to do with Russellkonda. We are selling the railway sleepers from the other end of the Presidency, namely, Malabar.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“As for the particulars of the stock appearing in the balance sheet, may I know whether the hon. Member can say from the papers whether the particulars given there denote the cost price or the market price? Very often the cost price is greater than the market price, that is, the price at which they were selling during that quarter. So may I know whether it is the cost price or the market price?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“A casual glance of the balance sheet suggests that it is the market price but I cannot say definitely. I can say that the timber is valued at Rs. 1-10-0 per cubic foot at the mills, Rs. 2 at Madras and Rs. 2-12-0 at Calcutta.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“According to the balance sheet, which is supplied to us, ending 31st December 1924 regarding the stock on hand, we find that the price is Rs. 1-10-0 at the mills, Rs. 2 at Madras and Rs. 2-12-0 at Calcutta. That was the basis on which the stock on hand was valued. Regarding the balance sheet ending the 31st December 1924, I wish to know whether the same details were furnished to Government regarding the stock on hand as far as the figures for the period ending 31st December are concerned.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“The figures now are the same.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“I have some experience of Messrs. Fraser and Ross's auditing, as I have seen in other firms. They generally insist upon either the cost price or the market price, whichever is lower. So, I want to know if that rule is followed here also. I want to know whether the lowest price is given. If that is so, then we can understand. I want to know whether it is so.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“Assuming as I think I may do that Messrs. Fraser and Ross have followed the same procedure, as they have done in the case of other audits it seems most likely that the stock is entered at the cost price.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“May I point out to my hon. Friend, Sir, that definite information may be got in the matter?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“The information can be got in due course.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to say whether, in the profit and loss account, the actual working expenditure alone is included and whether any portion of the supervision charges, such as the pay of the Logging Engineer and some of the other numerous experts, is also included?”

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The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The Logging Engineer and other experts have nothing to do with this matter."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Sir, I believe my question is not answered. My question was whether the same values were fixed regarding the stock on hand at the end of December 1924."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I have already answered that the price is the same as given by the hon. Member, namely, Rs. 1-10-0, Rs. 2 and Rs. 2-12-0."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With reference to clause (b), as to the question of 11-16 a.m. continuing the work, the answer is that the question is under consideration. May I know what is the question under consideration? Is it the stopping that is under consideration?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"It is impossible to stop it at the present moment. That question can only arise later on when the agreement with Messrs. Parry & Co. expires."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"What is the question under consideration then, Sir?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid that if there is any obscurity in the answer given there is equally an obscurity in the meaning of the question itself. May I know what is meant by 'whether it is continued to work'?"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Whether it is contemplated or intended to continue it, that is what I mean."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"As I have said it is impossible to close down at once even if it were found desirable. This question will come up when the agreement with Messrs. Parry & Co. expires, I believe, during the course of this year. At the present moment we are guided by the balance sheet before us which represents a profit. Another balance sheet is still due for the next quarter and when we have received that we shall be able to judge the position and prospects better."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I regret I have not for reference with me the paper just now which was circulated to us. It contained a remark that the Calcutta market was unfavourable for the scantlings and therefore the auditors recommended that we might have to close it down."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"May I explain that the papers the hon. Member is referring to are previous to this last report? Then we were under the impression that we were working at a loss. When we get the next report, we shall be able to know whether we are working at a profit or otherwise and the question will then be easier of decision. If the prospects are sufficiently bright, we may be inclined to go on with it and if the accounts show that we are working at a loss we may think of closing it down."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"May I know the present condition of the Calcutta timber market?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"In what respect, Sir? I have a certain knowledge, but I am afraid it is not very detailed."

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Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"In respect of the price of scantlings from Russellkonda; I want to know whether we have a market for them in Calcutta."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Sir, my impression is that the market is improving; that is what is reflected in the balance sheet. The hon. Member can hardly intend that we should follow the course of the Calcutta market so rigidly as to contemplate closing down the mill the moment the market gets dull. I am afraid we cannot work any business concern in that way."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"I want to know if we are able to sell timber at a profit."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"It is quite impossible to follow my hon. Friend's arguments. I presume he is suggesting that we are selling timber at a loss. Then does he mean to suggest that what is shown in the balance sheet is a mistake?"

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"The balance sheet refers to a period before 1923. I want to know what the condition of the market now is."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"If he expects me to give him details then I am afraid I must ask for notice."

The Paithur hills, Salem district.

* 560 Q.—Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that by the recent transformation of the Paithur hills (Atur taluk, Salem district) into reserve forest the Malayali villages Kullukattu and Murugam have become enclosed on three sides in the former and on all four sides in the latter by these reserved forests; and

(b) whether the Government have received memorials from those Malayali villages of the above hills submitting their grievances and praying that at least the northern portion of area may be excluded from the reserve?

A.—(a) Yes.
(b) Yes.

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—"May I know whether the difficulty of the villagers on account of the village being enclosed on three sides and in one case on four sides by the reservation was brought to the notice of the Government at the time of the proposal?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Yes; it was also very carefully enquired into."

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—"May I know if enquiry was made and the Government were satisfied about the inconvenience caused to the villagers?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The answer to that, Sir, is that a personal inspection was made by the Conservator of Forests and the Government were satisfied with his inspection. On consideration of the records connected with the proposal for reservation it was found there was no real reason why the reservation should not go on."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know how far the reserve boundaries are from the neighbouring village ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I know what exactly the hon. Member means by ' village ' ?"

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" The village sites where the houses are situate "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" So far as the houses are concerned there is only one hut."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Apart from the one hut, are there any cultivated lands quite close to the present reservation line, so that the villagers may not be in difficulty in taking cattle for ploughing, etc. ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" There is no question here about any difficulty for cattle. So far as I can ascertain, the memorialists are not permanent residents of the locality. It is not altogether a *bona fide* private or domestic demand."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Are we then to understand that there are no cultivated lands close to the reserves ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid I must ask for notice. But if my hon. Friend has got any information and will pass it on I am quite prepared to consider the case."

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—" Arising out of the answer to clause (b), Sir, may I know whether the Government gave any relief to the complaints raised by the ryots ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The only relief asked for, I think, was, that it should not be afforested."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know when was it ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I believe during 1922."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Was it after the receipt of this memorial ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Yes. The whole of the enquiry lasted for several months. The memorial was presented by a *vakil* in Madras who argued their case very strongly."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Are we to understand with reference to the one hut, Sir, that there is only one hut for the two villages ?"

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—" Is it not a fact that most of the enquiries was generally made by the Forest officers, that villagers were not given sufficient opportunity to explain their grievances and that this also formed part of the grievances in the memorial ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid if my hon. Friend wishes me to say whether a particular sentence appears in the memorial, I must ask for notice. The enquiry was made by the Forest Conservator."

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—" The Forest officers were actually interested from a forest point of view. May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether he will be pleased to consider the whole question from a

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revenue officer's point of view and make proper enquiries at least upon the memorial and find out whether these villages were enclosed to their great inconveniences ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I cannot promise a further enquiry."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" What I want to know is whether there is any cultivated land quite close to the reserve lines. If there is, the hon. Member may kindly undertake to reconsider the whole question from the point of view of the great inconvenience that is sure to be caused to the villagers."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I find on looking at the papers that I made a slip just now when I said there was only one hut. There is one village of 30 huts. I am afraid, Sir, I am not prepared to make any further enquiries and I do not think that after the whole matter has been so carefully considered any useful purpose would be served by reconsidering it."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Just now it was admitted that there is a village of 30 huts. These people are very inarticulate."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" There is no question of their being inarticulate. They spoke through their representatives who strongly argued their case."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know what action has been taken on the memorial ? The memorial has been disposed of with the orders to continue the reservation." Is this the only relief to be given to these ryots ?"

Malabar affairs.

Compensation for loss due to Mappilla rebellion.

* 561 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received through the Collector of Malabar a petition submitted by Mr. P. V. Nambudri, Managing Director of W.C.T. and M.S.Co., Limited, of Kottakal, requesting that the fines amounting to nearly Rs. 5,000 collected from the Mappilla rebels who looted his warehouse and property be paid over to him as compensation for his loss ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. Nambudri had submitted to the district authorities immediately after the occurrence a detailed statement of his loss and the names of the persons involved in it ;

(c) whether the persons alleged to have looted the company's property were all convicted of the offence ;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the petitioner Mr. Nambudri has taken upon himself the liabilities of the company with a view to help the creditors who are all poor people and has consequently involved himself heavily ; and

(e) whether the Government have been pleased to consider the petition favourably and what orders they have passed on it ?

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A.—(a) No.

(b) to (d) The Government have no information on these points.

(e) The question does not arise.

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“ If no application has been received through the Collector, may I know if they have received any application or representation direct or through any other channel ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ Nothing has been received.”

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“ Are the Government aware that such a dacoity has taken place ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am not prepared to say that.”

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“ Now that the question of granting compensation is recognized, will the Government be pleased to consider the cases of the Hindus also ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ Will my hon. Friend specify in detail what he means by ‘Hindus’ ? ”

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“ In the case of Pullankode rubber estate some compensation is proposed to be given. I want to know whether the Government are pleased to consider the question of compensation on their merits alone without any regard to caste, creed or any such consideration ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ Yes, Sir.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ May I know what the records show about this gentleman, whether he applied at all and whether his case was at any time considered ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am not aware that the records contain any reference to this gentleman.”

Compensation for the burning of the Pandalur Club buildings by the Mappillas.

* 562 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received representations from Rani Bouramiah, Proprietrix of Nellialam estate, praying that compensation might be given to her for the burning of the Pandalur Club buildings by the Mappillas during the recent outbreak ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the club was occupied by the police without the permission of the owner of the building and whether the police were stationed there at the time of attack ;

(c) whether the police converted the yard into a burial ground and made the club unfit for occupation ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government rejected the petition and denied their obligation to compensate for her loss ; and

(e) whether the Government have consulted their legal advisers regarding their liability to compensate under such circumstances ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government have no information as to the terms of the occupation. The police were in the building when it was attacked.

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(c) The Government have no information.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes ; they are advised that the Government is not liable as the damage was the result of acts of a public enemy.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ I want to know whether the rules of international law safeguard a Government from paying proper and adequate compensation. Is it not a fact that the police occupied the building ? ”

“ Arising out of the answer to clause (b), may I know whether the owner of the building was applied to for permission to occupy the place ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am not aware of that fact. I think, however, the House will agree with me that at a time when an attack was anticipated it would be unreasonable to expect any one to wait for any such formality.”

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“ Sir, the Government say that they 11-30 a.m. have received a representation. In that it is stated that the compound was turned into a burial ground, and the corpses of the constables who were killed in the fight were buried in it and the house was made unfit for occupation. In these circumstances, have not the Government thought it necessary to make an inquiry into the allegations contained in it ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ The Government have not. The damage was done by a public enemy and Government refuse to recognize any liability for the damage. The constables died in action and they were naturally and properly buried there.”

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“ Is it open to any passer-by though he be a Government servant to trespass into a private building, in spite of the owner's protest, convert it into a burial ground and then say ‘No compensation’ ? ”

“ May I know how Pullangode estate deserved compensation any more than these people ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member has evidently seen the answer that the Government refuse to recognize their liability for the damage. I can only understand the present question as inviting again that particular answer.”

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“ I say Sir, that in respect of the Pullangode estate also the damage was done by a public enemy. Why did Government give compensation to them ? ”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ The compound has been utilized as a burial ground ; if it has been so utilized compensation is due from Government, and if it is denied to the aggrieved party, there must be some law, international law or whatever it is, on which it is that they based their action. May the House know on what basis the Government refused to pay compensation ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ The Government considered that they are not liable to pay compensation. They cannot think that the value of the building was depreciated by the burying of the deceased, who died fighting for law and order.”

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Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Surely a burial ground cannot be a fit place for a club ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I believe the club existed for twenty years, but I do not know whether it was still used as a club. I can assure my hon. Friend that if it is there would not be the least objection to the constables who died in action being buried in the vicinity. "

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know the meaning of ' public enemy ' ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not think I am called upon to act as a dictionary for the hon. Member. "

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" The term ' public enemy ' is one the full significance of which is not known to some of us. There is no question of referring us to a dictionary. We can ourselves look into it. But it is the Government that have used this term, and so I wanted to know the sense in which it was used by them. "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The Government are citing legal advice. It is not the only expression in legal advice which is not intelligible. " (Laughter.)

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" With reference to the answer to clause (e) ' that the Government is not liable as the damage was the result of acts of a public enemy ', was not the loss to the Pullankode rubber estate, which I understand is owned by an English firm, caused by the same public enemy, and if so, is there any difference between the right of that company, to which it is proposed to give Rs. 41,000 and odd, and the right of this proprietrix of Nellialam estate whose club was destroyed by the same enemy ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have already drawn the attention of another hon. Member to his right to put a separate question, if he cares, on that matter, but not on the present occasion as a supplementary question. I can only understand the hon. Member's question as an argument, and arguments cannot be allowed in supplementary questions. "

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Certainly, I do not want to dispute your ruling, and I have always considerable respect for it. But may I respectfully submit that the answer being that this being the loss caused by a public enemy, the Government are advised that they are not liable to pay, we wish to know whether there is any difference between the case of the Pullankode rubber company—to which it is proposed to give Rs. 41,000 and odd as compensation—and the case of this proprietrix whose club building was destroyed by the same public enemy ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I am afraid I must answer the hon. Member that he is not entitled to an answer on his supplementary question, but is entitled to an answer on a separate question. I cannot admit this because it is an argument. "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask if the Government have in any single case given compensation to people to whom damage was caused by acts of the public enemy in Malabar, or whether there is any general policy on which they refuse to give compensation to those who suffer from the acts of a public enemy ? "

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The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am not quite sure if I exactly follow my hon. Friend's question. The general policy has been to adhere to the view that the Government are not bound to give compensation properly so called. What they have done as an act of grace is to distribute money to those who are supposed to be in need of it for the purpose of restoring the damage done; it is purely an act of grace. "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" In pursuing the policy of act of grace, may I ask whether any principle is followed such as a man who has become very poor on account of damage caused to his property should be set on his legs and so on ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" That is the principle. "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Is the rubber company a poor company ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Yes. " (Laughter.)

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I know whether compensation has been awarded on account of destruction of property by these Mappillas, to Mr. Hitchcock, a Deputy or Assistant Conservator of Forests and several other Government officers ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Yes, Sir, under the special rules relating to public officers who lose their property in discharging Government duty. "

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Is there any difference between the rights of public officials who lose their property and the rights of private individuals similarly circumstanced ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" As has been pointed out, the proceedings under which Mr. Hitchcock and various other officers had received a grant from Government was based on special rules which form the compact between the Government and their servants. "

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Is there any special rule subsisting between the Pullankode rubber company and the Government ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" No, Sir. "

Bench Courts.

Composition of the bench court, Tiruppattur, North Arcot district.

* 563 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the bench court at Tiruppattur, North Arcot district, is composed of twelve members including the President or more ;

(b) whether it is a fact that two Muhammadans and two Brahmans were already appointed honorary bench magistrates to the Tiruppattur bench court ;

(c) whether one seat is vacant at present for which the Sub-Collector at Tiruppattur recommended a Muhammadan gentleman ;

(d) the names of members together with the names of communities to which they belong who were already appointed as honorary bench magistrates to the Tiruppattur bench court ; and

(e) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a) to (d), whether they will call for the information ?

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- A.—(a) The bench court at Tiruppattur consists of eleven honorary magistrates.
 (b) There are three Muhammadans on the above bench at present.
 (c) Recently there was a vacancy and a Muhammadan gentleman was appointed to the post.
 (d) The Government have not got up-to-date information in the matter.
 (e) They will call for information with reference to clauses (b) and (d).

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"Sir, with reference to clause (b), may I know what was the necessity to appoint three Muhammadan gentlemen as honorary bench magistrates, ignoring the claims of the minority communities?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It is not a question of necessity; it is a question of expediency depending upon the reports of the local authorities."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know the position and standing of these three Muhammadan gentlemen?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I have not inquired into the position and standing of these Muhammadan gentlemen. If my hon. Friend asserts that the position and standing of these gentlemen are such that they ought not to be appointed, and if he would make a statement to that effect, I shall certainly inquire."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"Therefore, may I take it that Government appoint persons without first knowing their position and standing?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Local officials send up names for membership to bench courts. As the Government cannot embark on an inquisitorial inquiry regarding the status and position of each one of the persons so sent up, considering the numbers (nothing else being considered) that come up for disposal every week, they take it, as a matter of course, that persons recommended by such authorities have got the requisite standing and status. If an hon. Member comes forward and says that a particular man does not possess the necessary standing and status, and makes a representation to that effect, I for one will be quite ready to make inquiries. Government can always call upon the man to resign and take away his powers."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know what has become of the resolution submitted to the hon. the Law Member by the President of the Tiruppattur Adi-Dravida Conference recently before the nomination was made?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The suggestion and the resolution were sent to the local officials for careful consideration. After receiving that, they entered their names. I therefore take it that they considered them, and in spite of them, made the recommendations."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know, Sir, whether there is any chance of a member of the depressed classes being appointed as honorary bench magistrate, since a Muhammadan gentleman has already been appointed?"

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I perfectly hope it will be possible for a member of the depressed classes being appointed if the local authorities consider him suitable. In all these matters, if a specific statement is made of any irregularity taking place anywhere, I shall promise on behalf of the Government to consider that, and if any unsuitable man is appointed, he will be withdrawn."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"Did they make inquiries, knowing that there are specific allegations to that effect?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"My hon. Friend cannot ask, 'Have you satisfied yourself that every man who has got a right is fit or unfit to be appointed?' I cannot start an inquiry on that principle. Further it will do no good to anybody."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know the principle on which these appointments are made?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I must ask the hon. Member to exercise a greater amount of deliberation and choice in his supplementary questions. I ought to have interfered long ago (Hear, hear, from the Opposition)."

Civil Justice.

Suits in South Malabar regarding redemption of kanam properties, etc.

* 564 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether, with reference to his answer to question No. 653 put by Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar, the Government have in their possession full particulars to show the number of suits instituted in the civil courts of South Malabar during the years 1916-20 for the redemption of kanam properties involving (1) arrears of michavaram for more than three years, (2) disputes of title, and (3) those instituted three years after renewal time; and

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether the Government will be pleased to lay them on the table; and, if not, whether they will be pleased to call for them?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The information required by the hon. Member cannot be compiled without a detailed examination of the records of all the suits concerned, supplemented, in a certain number of the cases, by local inquiries. This would necessitate the appointment of a special staff. The Government do not consider it necessary to undertake the compilation at present.

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether the numbers of these cases alone, without more detailed information, show that the eviction suits are vexatious, that they indicate oppression on the part of the jenmis and that any legislation is necessary?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"My hon. Friend will forgive me if I say it is just that class of consideration which makes it difficult to embark upon an inquiry. It will be an elaborate inquiry and each case of eviction will have to be inquired into. It is not a question of mere statistics. We have got some statistics and these are placed on the

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table. What my hon. Friend wants is statistics of all suits involving considerable research. We have to inquire whether these disputes were vexatious disputes or legitimate disputes and we have to inquire into the title, and all that. That is a very elaborate inquiry and I do not feel called upon to go into all that. If in the deliberations there is foundation laid for such an inquiry, we shall be ready to embark upon it."

Police.

Complaint against a Sub-Inspector of Police, Kumbakonam.

* 565 Q.—Mr. V. PANRULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether an editor of a Tamil periodical published at Kumbakonam complained during last year to the District Superintendent of Police, Tanjore, and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police alleging that the local Sub-Inspector of Police instigated some persons to assault him;

(b) if the answer be in the affirmative, whether the complaint preferred by the editor in question was inquired into by the Superintendent, and, if so, whether both the complainant and the accused were examined;

(c) whether any petition was sent to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police by the editor against the order passed by the District Superintendent of Police; and

(d) if the answer to (c) be in the affirmative, how the petition was disposed of and on what grounds the final order was passed by the Deputy Inspector-General?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, when such a complaint is made against a public officer, is it not the usual thing, Sir, to ask for an inquiry into the matter to render justice or set the law in motion against the informant who gave false information? May I know the procedure adopted in the present case?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"In this particular case, what really happened was this: there was a complaint made last year. We do not know who the editor of the periodical is and what periodical it is. Without this information how will it be possible to make an inquiry into that? If some details are given as to who the editor is and which Tamil periodical it is, I can promise to make an inquiry, but without any foundation I cannot make an inquiry."

St. Thomas Mount Tragedy.

* 566 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any clue has been obtained leading to the arrest of perpetrators of the St. Thomas Mount murder;

(b) whether any steps are being taken in that direction; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in the tracing of the culprits?

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A.—(a) The publication of any clues obtained would increase the difficulties of the investigation.

(b) Yes.

(c) The difficulty of the case.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether he will depute some special officer as he did in a similar case in Tinnevely? It is a very important matter: a murder has occurred in the very vicinity of Madras, and in a matter like that there should not be any delay."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The detection of the murder is primarily the work of the railway police but I may, for the satisfaction of my hon. Friend, say that the District Superintendent of Police, who is an extremely capable officer, has also been asked to take this on hand."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Railway or local police, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Local Police."

Alleged punishment of Police officers for overlooking overloaded carts.

* 567 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the City Police officers reprimanded and punished within the last twelve months any constable who on his duty overlooked the overloaded carts pulled by two or three men or women; and

(b) whether Government propose to ask the Commissioner of Police to tell off a certain number of European officers for this duty?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) No. The hon. Member is referred to answer to question No. 614 given in March 1924.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, in regard to this question I wish to have 11-45 a.m. some more information from the hon. the Law Member. I would request him to take steps to see that some attention is paid to this cruelty and outrage on all decency and human nature."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I know on what point the hon. Member wishes to elicit information?"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, if only the hon. the Law Member would one day go down the Elephant Gate road, he would find for himself overloaded carts dragged by men or sometimes even by women. It is a most pathetic sight to any man who is convinced of the dignity of man. It is a scandal."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The difficulty in this case is that if a prosecution is started the person who would suffer would be the unfortunate coolie. What is to be the exact remedy? Is it the owner of the cart or the coolie that should be prosecuted? I would be glad to take action if specific cases can be brought forward."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"Could not the cart contractor be prosecuted?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"But the trouble is that it would react on the unfortunate cart coolies; if a work which is done by two of them is made to be divided amongst three or four of

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them they would get only proportionately less wages. Therefore only with the active co-operation of the public any step in the direction suggested can be taken."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"Supposing an example is made of a cart contractor?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I shall certainly bear the suggestion in mind."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Is it not a fact that the coolies themselves agree to carry heavier loads with the object of earning more wages?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Is it not a fact many of the carts are owned by the coolies themselves?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"In some prosecutions by the police, the coolies themselves gave evidence that their cart was not overloaded and that they were not straining. The problem is thus a very difficult one."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know whether it is not part of the duty of the Government to protect the people against themselves and is it impossible for the experts to come to some conclusion as to what is the maximum weight which an average man can drag over the difficult roads in the city?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Has any metre been invented?" (Laughter.)

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I do not think it is an impossible suggestion. The only question is whether the coolies would welcome it. But if public opinion is fairly strong on that point a beginning may be made. If a resolution is carried in this House I shall start some such inquiry."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"I expect the hon. the Law Member to do something in the matter without waiting for a resolution being passed by this House."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"There was an inquiry started as a result of the budget discussion. The police were of opinion that since in some cases the coolies themselves wanted extra load for the sake of more hire they did not want the Government to start prosecutions. Therefore if there is any method by which it could be made impossible to carry more than a certain amount of load in a cart it could be adopted, and the people protected against themselves."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know whether the Government are aware that in some cases a man on one side and a woman on the other side are pulling carts?" (Laughter.)

Assault of a Police Sub-Inspector on one Muniswami near Ambathur railway station.

* 568 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it was not a fact that Police Sub-Inspector Syed Yausin Sahib assaulted one Muniswami, a depressed class man, while he was

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awaiting the arrival of his master at the Ambathur railway station platform by train No. 81 at 8-45 p.m. on the 23rd October 1924, and the matter was reported to the Superintendent of Police, St. Thomas' Mount;

(b) if the report reached the Superintendent, what action he has taken; and

(c) whether it was a fact that one A. C. Dorasamy Ayyangar, an eye-witness to the assault, made statements to the Circle Inspector and to the Superintendent of Police, which were contradictory?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. R. SRINIVASAN:—"Will the Government be pleased to call for the information?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Yes, Sir."

Alleged havoc caused by caste people, Veeranam village, Sa'lem.

* 569 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last week caste people of Veeranam village, three miles off from Salem, murdered an Adi-Dravida, butchered 14 bulls, set fire to the Adi-Dravida houses and brutally assaulted several Adi-Dravidas;

(b) whether it is a fact that the caste people of the village are still threatening the Adi-Dravidas and that all the Adi-Dravidas have already left the village with their families owing to fear of further disturbance;

(c) whether the Police are not taking any vigorous steps in the matter; and

(d) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a) to (c), whether they will call for the information?

A.—(a) & (c) It is alleged that one man was killed, two huts were burnt, and some cattle were carried off. The matter is under investigation by the police.

(b) The Government understand that this is not the case.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"With reference to clause (c) may I know at what stage the investigation stands?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"We have received a report from the District Magistrate dated 28th February 1925 and on that we have not passed orders yet. We are considering that matter."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I have recently given notice of a question to elicit details about the same matter and as it has no chance of being answered early, may I, on this occasion, say that there is a strong feeling in the locality that the lives of some members of the depressed classes in the locality are in danger and also a feeling of dissatisfaction at the way in which the police have charge-sheeted certain influential people and left out the names of certain other influential people? May I request the hon. the Law Member to direct the local officers to pay particular attention to these, Sir?"

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"We have been in communication with the District Superintendent of Police in the matter. He assures us that the report which appeared in the *Madras Mail* is a gross exaggeration of what actually occurred and he says that the *Madras Mail* is trying to manufacture 'copy' out of alleged communal dissensions. *The Mail* correspondent is quite incorrigible. (Laughter.) For instance, the same correspondent made an exaggerated account of an attempted burglary in which a boy was accidentally shot by a burglar with a muzzle-loading gun. The report says that it is a very alarmist account. Undoubtedly there are communal disturbances and he is making careful inquiries."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"I heartily endorse the opinion as regards the correspondent of the *Mail*. May I point out that a serious agitation is being carried on there for the reason that one Sengoda Gounder, an influential man of the locality, was first charge-sheeted by the police and then left out? There have been seven or eight serious occurrences in that very village. In spite of the *Mail* correspondent's usual unreliability, this time he has not at all exaggerated the happenings there."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Apart from journalistic proprieties I realize the hon. Member from Salem has got a strong feeling in the matter. I shall convey it to the local authorities so that the Government may be in possession of all the details of it."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Are the Government taking any action against the *Madras Mail*?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"If a charge is to be made for an exaggerated account appearing in a newspaper almost all the Madras newspapers would have to be proceeded against. It would be a very difficult matter."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Is it not necessary to draw the attention of the *Madras Mail* to this exaggerated report? An exaggerated account would have a very dangerous effect."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know whether there is any police bandobast in the locality to guard the deserted houses in view of the fact that the Adi-Dravidas have all left the village?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"If the suggestion is that the men have left the village and that their houses are left unprotected, the Government would inquire into the matter."

Indian Civil Service.

Discrimination in travelling allowance.

* 570 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the reasons why the travelling allowance to Government servants was given on the basis of their pay including overseas allowance;
- (b) the reasons why travelling allowance is not based on pay alone; and
- (c) the reasons for this racial discrimination?

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A.—As under the Civil Service Regulations the term 'pay' included 'overseas allowance' it was considered that the same principle should be followed under the Madras Travelling Allowance Rules.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With reference to this question, may I ask the hon. the Finance Member whether he took legal advice if the Government was bound to pay travelling allowance on the basis of pay including overseas allowance? Secondly, if I may ask at the same time, whether the Government considered the increased financial liabilities of the Presidency?"

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"There was no legal question involved and the Government did not take legal advice. In regard to the second question about finance, it was certainly taken into consideration in framing the rules as a whole. I cannot say that it was in this particular matter."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask what the difference would come to, if the travelling allowance is paid on the basis of pay alone and not on the basis of pay plus overseas allowance?"

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I am afraid I cannot answer that question; because we do not know how many people would be affected and to what extent. The rule was framed some time ago and I think it will be impossible to find out what the hon. Member wants."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I know if the hon. Member has any information as to whether the other provinces or the Government of India give travelling allowance to their officers on the basis of their pay including overseas allowance?"

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I cannot say for certain; I believe it is so."

The report of the Madras Government on the Lee Commission Report.

* 571 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: With reference to the Lee Commission report, will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the expenditure which will be incurred by this Government as the result of the action taken on the report in 1924-25 and in 1925-26;
- (b) whether orders have been passed about recruitments to be made in England for all the transferred departments and, if so, to what effect and from what date;
- (c) whether any orders have been passed reducing the number of appointments to be held by Indian Civil Service officers in the cadre of—
 - (i) District Judges;
 - (ii) District Collectors; and
 - (iii) other officers; and
- (d) whether there is any idea of supplying the report of this Government to the Members of this Council and, if so, when?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 11 given at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 3rd February 1925.

(b) The Government have no information beyond what has been published in the newspapers.

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(c) No.

(d) Copies of such of the reports as have been published by the Government of India are placed on the table.

Marine.*The new Cochin Harbour.*

* 572 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) what progress the new Cochin harbour works have made;
- (b) the amount expended on the scheme up to date;
- (c) whether the Cochin and Travancore States have contributed anything to it; if so, how much;
- (d) when the new harbour is hoped to be open for traffic; and
- (e) whether the Government propose to constitute a Board of Trust for the management of the port; and, if so, when will the necessary legislation be undertaken?

A.—(a), (b), (c) & (d) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 108 at the meeting of the Council held on 19th August 1924.

The report of the Committee of Experts has since been received, and the estimates for the next stage of the scheme have been submitted to the Government of India for sanction. The expenditure on the maintenance works at the Cochin Harbour during 1924–25 is now estimated at about Rs. 1.67 lakhs.

(e) The Government propose to introduce the Cochin Port Trust Bill during the current session.

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—“Arising out of the answer to clause (e), may I ask whether the Travancore and the Cochin Darbars were consulted before the Bill was drafted?”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“Yes, Sir.”

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—“May I also know whether any representation from the Indian merchants trading in Cochin was received since the Bill was published in the gazette?”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“I am not aware of any such representation.”

General.*The hon. Ministers at the meeting of the European Association.*

* 573 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether in their capacity as Ministers, he and his colleagues attended and addressed a recent meeting of the European Association in Madras;

(b) whether they defined the policy of the Government there; and

(c) if so, whether they will make a statement on the subject in the Council?

* Circulated separately.

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- A.—(a) No, not in the capacity of Ministers.
- (b) Policy of Government was not defined.
- (c) Question does not arise.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“With reference to the answer to clause (a), may I know in what capacity? Is it not as Ministers?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“Not as Ministers, but as individuals.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“With reference to (b), may I ask whether they talked merely about the weather or whether they also discussed the policy of the Government?”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“Sir, may I ask whether in view of the answer to clause (a), this particular question is admissible?”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“Have we got more than one President in this House?”

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“We have only one President. But unfortunately there are more ways than one of looking at things. The hon. Member will agree with me that what he asked is not a supplementary question. He asked whether the Ministers talked about the weather, etc. Seeing that we are labouring under serious want of time it is, I think, better to impose some limit on these supplementary questions.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“I have also my eye on the clock. We want to know what they were doing in a private association like that.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“They say that the policy of the Government was not discussed. The hon. Member wants to know what else they talked about. Is that a supplementary question proper to question-time? They can be interpellated in regard to matters in which they are primarily concerned as public officers, as Ministers. I do not think that any other concern they may have, can form the subject of a supplementary question.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“I really wanted to know if they talked about public affairs. I certainly have no concern with what they were talking about in their private capacity, and so I worded that question only in a joocular way. I think life here would be very dull, if the House is not occasionally in a joocular vein. I only want to know whether they talked about the public affairs for which they are responsible.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“A supplementary question can be put only when the subject matter referred to is the primary concern of or within the portfolio of a Minister or a Member of the Government. The Government have denied that this is so and therefore it ceases to be a subject for a supplementary question even though it may relate to public affairs.”

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.*Amending District Municipalities Act in relation to slaughter of cattle.*

* 574 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the number and the names of the local bodies which have passed resolutions in favour of amending the District Municipalities Act by way of giving power to the district municipalities to prohibit the slaughter of cattle within their areas; and

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(b) whether the Government propose to take action in this direction and if not, why not?

4.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clause (i) of question No. 765 of the last session. The following Municipal Councils have also passed resolutions in favour of amending the District Municipalities Act:—

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Tadpatri, | 4. Tirupati, |
| 2. Cuddalore, | 5. Sivakasi, and |
| 3. Hospet, | 6. Anantapur. |

The total number of Municipal Councils is 33.

(b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to clauses (b) and (c) of question No. 62 of this session.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"With reference to clause (b) of this question, I want to know why the Government in spite of the fact that opinion is overwhelmingly in favour of it still declines to take any action."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The Government decline to take any action because they consider that if such a step is taken it will affect the health of a certain class of people."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know with reference to clause (a), whether the Muhammadans who carry on that profession generally slaughter only milch cows?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The Government have no information, Sir."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"Will they be pleased to call for the information?"

Medical.

Infectious Diseases Hospital, Tondiarpet.

* 575 Q.—S. R. Y. ANKINEDU PRASAD Bahadur: With reference to the following articles in the *Sivaraajya*—

Articles.	Date.
The Fate of Tondiarpet ...	4th December 1924
Infectious Diseases Hospital—	19th December 1924
Protest against location in Tondiarpet.	
An appeal to Tondiarpet rate-payers.	20th December 1924
Infectious Diseases Hospital in Tondiarpet.	Do.

Isolation Hospital at Tondiarpet. 22nd January 1925

will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received a copy of the proceedings of a public meeting held at Tondiarpet under the presidentship of Mr. R. Srinivasan, Member of the Legislative Council, on 14th December 1924, protesting against the location of the said infectious diseases hospital in the midst of its

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residents and if so, what action has been taken by the Government to give effect to the prayer expressed in one of the resolutions requesting the Government to intercede in this matter;

(b) whether a memorial was submitted to the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, dated 14th May 1923, signed by the residents of Tondiarpet, requesting that the proposed construction of an infectious diseases hospital on the site lying opposite to Somoo Chetti's house in Tondiarpet be abandoned and if so, what action the Corporation of Madras has taken thereon;

(c) whether the Corporation Health Officer has replied in his letter, dated 5th June 1923, that 'there is no likelihood of there being any danger to public health or to the residents thereof';

(d) whether the same officer has again expressed in his reply, dated 6th January 1925, to the resolutions of a public meeting held at Tondiarpet on 14th December 1924 submitted to the President, Corporation of Madras, that 'the protests are belated and that the scheme having now gone so far must be carried out';

(e) whether the recent statement is consistent with the statement of the Health Officer made in his previous letter, dated 5th June 1923; and

(f) whether the Corporation of Madras had proceeded with the work of construction in spite of the protest conveyed to it by a memorial already referred to, when the residents came to know of it definitely by seeing the stocking of the material over the selected site?

4.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative; the resolutions were transferred to the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras.

(b) to (f) The Government have no information.

Readmission of students dismissed from the Vizagapatam Medical School for disobeying dress regulations.

* 576 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year 1921 six students of the third-year L.M.P. course in the Vizagapatam Medical School were dismissed for disobeying the dress regulations;

(b) whether it is a fact that in June 1922 a notice was hung in the Medical School, Vizagapatam, to the effect that such of the dismissed students as would submit an apology before 1st July 1922 would be permitted to re-join the school and appear for the examination;

(c) how many of the dismissed students tendered their apology within the specified time and joined the class;

(d) whether the time-limit prescribed in the notice was waived subsequently and if so, in how many instances, what was the date on which a dismissed student was last admitted in the school;

(e) whether the time-limit was waived in the case of one Mr. K. Lakshminarasimham, ex-third year medical student who was also dismissed for the same cause, and if not, why not; and

(f) whether any memorial was received by the Government from the said student explaining his sad case and requesting reconsideration and if so, what action was taken thereon?

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- A.—(a) Twelve students of the third-year class in the Vizagapatam Medical School were dismissed.
- (b) It was notified, in April 1922, on the school notice board that students who apologized would be taken back to the school on 1st July 1922.
- (c) Four of the twelve students referred to in clause (a) apologized and were re-admitted even before the notice was put up. Three of them apologized after the notice was put up and were admitted on 1st July 1922. Four were admitted later on, i.e., at the end of October and November 1922.
- (d) No time-limit was specified in the notice. The last re-admission of third-year pupils was on 30th November 1922. The last re-admission if all dismissed students are taken into account, was on 7th July 1923.
- (e) Mr. K. Lakshminarasimham applied for re-admission so late as October 1924. The Surgeon-General refused to comply with his requests on this ground especially in view of the fact that he was the Secretary of the suspended students' association, was convicted of an offence, and did not care to avail himself earlier of the repeated opportunities afforded to him to apologize.
- (f) A memorial has been received, and it is under the consideration of the Government.

Re-admission of certain students of the Vizagapatam Medical School.

* 577 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state when the following dismissed and convicted students of the Medical School, Vizagapatam, were re-admitted into the school:—

- | | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| (1) G. Mallikarjunadu, | \| | (4) C. L. Narasimha Rao, and |
| (2) Sambasiva Rao, | | (5) C. L. Narasimham? |
| (3) W. Subba Rao, | | |

A.—The dates of re-admission of the students are given below:—

Name of student.	Date of re-admission.
1. G. Mallikarjunadu ...	30th November 1922
2. Sambasiva Rao ...	5th January 1923
3. W. Subba Rao ...	3rd January 1923
4. C. L. Narasimha Rao ...	8th January 1923
5. C. Lakshminarasimham ...	7th July 1923.

Public Health.

Steps to prevent phthisis.

* 578 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) whether phthisis is not contagious; and
- (b) what steps the Government propose to take to arrest the spread of this dangerous disease?

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- A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.
- (b) Phthisis is caused by overcrowding in ill-lighted and ill-ventilated houses and buildings. The efforts of the Public Health Department towards the improvement of general sanitary conditions and an increased use of propaganda must be relied upon.

Education.

Government Training Institutions for Women in the Circars.

* 579 Q.—Mr. P. ANJANEYULU: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state how many Government training institutions there are for women in the Northern Circars?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to supplemental statistics (48) appended to volume II of the Report on Public Instruction for the year 1923-24.

Government Victoria College, Palghat.

* 580 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the committee appointed to consider the question of raising the Government Victoria College at Palghat to the first grade; and

(b) if so, what orders they have passed on it and whether they have any objection to lay it on the table?

A.—(a) & (b) The recommendations of the committee were not submitted to the Government in the form of a report. The Government have received copies of the minutes of the two meetings held by the committee, and they do not propose to lay them on the table. The recommendations of the committee are under consideration.

Teachers and prohibition of private tuition.

* 581 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that certain District Educational Officers call upon the managers of the schools to prohibit teachers in their employ from undertaking private tuition;

(b) the reasons for this action; and

(c) the authority under which the District Educational Officers act in the matter?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

(c) District Educational Officers are authorized to offer advice to the managers and headmasters of schools in regard to the nature and quantity of tuition work to be done by members of the staff

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Managers of schools and teachers recommended for training.

* 582 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether there is any obligation on the part of managers of schools to take back for service those teachers whom they recommend for training schools and colleges?

A.—When submitting the applications of teachers employed under them who apply for admission to the Government training schools, managers of schools give an undertaking that the teachers in question will be employed by them immediately after training.

Missionary Teacher-Managers Association, Tanjore.

* 583 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government received any application from the Tanjore District Non-Mission Aided Elementary Teacher-Managers Association, requesting them to allow representation in the District Educational Council in accordance with Madras Education Act VIII of 1920;

(b) the number of elementary schools in Tanjore district managed by

(i) missions,

(ii) taluk boards and municipalities and

(iii) other bodies;

(c) why Aided Teacher-Managers Associations were not represented in the District Educational Councils;

(d) whether such representation was allowed in the Madras Educational Councils; and

(e) whether schools under private management were found to be beneficial to the depressed classes?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The hon. Member is referred to the subsidiary tables appended to volume II of the Report on Public Instruction.

(c) The question of giving representation on the District Educational Councils to associations of Teacher-managers in the mufassal will be considered if and when they are properly organized.

(d) Yes.

(e) The Government have no information to the contrary.

Agriculture.*Karunganni and Cambodia cottons.*

* 584 Q.—Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the results of the spinning tests of Karunganni and Cambodia cottons conducted at Lancashire;

(b) whether he will lay on the table a copy of the report of the spinning experts; and

(c) whether any such tests were made anywhere with regard to other new and improved types of cotton?

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A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information beyond what was given in answer to question No. 1454 in December last.

(c) No.

Industries.*Fruit Preserving Institute, Coonoor.*

* 585 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the net loss to the Government by the working of the Fruit Preserving Institute at Coonoor up to date;

(b) whether in view of the statement of the Director of Industries in his letter to Government, dated 11th October 1924, "I see little or no prospect of bridging the gulf between selling price and cost of production" the Government propose to close the institute; and

(c) if not, why not?

A.—(a) Rupees 42,635-12-5 up to 30th September 1924. Accounts for the last quarter have not yet been received.

(b) No.

(c) The Standing Advisory Committee for Industries and Fisheries before which the question of its continuance was placed for advice unanimously recommended that it should be retained for another year even if it had to be run at a loss and that in the meantime attempts should be made to dispose of it either by sale or lease. The closure of the factory might have an adverse effect on the fruit-growing industry. The building and plant cannot at present be sold except at a serious loss, or utilized for any other purpose. It is therefore proposed to continue the factory for a period not exceeding one year or until it can be disposed of as a going concern.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.**Jails.***Report of the Jail Industries Committee.*

586 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased—

(a) to place before the House the report of the Jail Industries Committee, with the Government Orders on it;

(b) to specify their main recommendations as to improvements; and

(c) to state how the ex-prisoners trained and skilled in Jail industries are proposed to be employed in future?

A.—The report of the Committee is under the consideration of Government. When orders are passed, the question of publication will be examined.

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Criminal Justice.*Stationary Sub-Magistrate, St. Thomas' Mount.*

587 Q.—MR. R. SRINIVASAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether a Stationary Sub-Magistrate in charge of a sub-jail can absent himself from his headquarters without leave from his immediate superior;

(b) if the answer is in the negative, whether an officer of such responsibilities stationed at St. Thomas' Mount had leave of absence from his headquarters between the afternoon of the 13th and the forenoon of the 14th February 1925;

(c) whether he was met near Ambatur Railway Station on the 14th February 1925 and a complaint regarding a dacoity was made to him by certain Indians;

(d) what action he has taken; and

(e) whether the District Magistrate noticed his absence without leave between the time mentioned in clause (b)?

A.—(a) Yes, if he does not proceed beyond his jurisdiction.

(c) & (d) The Government have no information.

(b) & (e) Do not arise.

Land Revenue.*Reservation of Nagarapadi lake land, Chidambaram taluk.*

588 Q.—MR. R. SRINIVASAN: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government proposed to reserve Nagarapadi lake land in Chidambaram taluk for the depressed classes;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether any land has been assigned to the depressed classes so far;

(c) the number of applications the Government received from

(i) the depressed classes and

(ii) the caste Hindus; and

(d) the extent of land granted to

(i) the depressed classes and

(ii) caste Hindus?

A.—(a) No such proposal is before the Government.

(b) & (d) The Government have no information.

(c) No such applications have been received by the Government.

Tharsu poramboke land, Chidambaram taluk.

589 Q.—MR. R. SRINIVASAN: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Tharsu poramboke land in Srimushnam village, Chidambaram taluk;

(b) the number of acres of such land assigned to caste mirasidars and land owners;

(c) the number of applications for the above Tharsu poramboke land from the depressed classes; and

(d) the number of acres assigned to them?

A.—The Government have no information.

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Local Boards and Municipal Councils.*Constitution of the Nilgiris District Board.*

590 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Nilgiris District Board has a majority of Europeans;

(b) on what basis an equal number of seats are allotted to the planters and general public;

(c) whether representations have been received stating that the constitution of the board does not make for the welfare of the rural population; and

(d) whether the Government have any idea of changing the constitution?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the latest Annual Civil List.

(b) The seats were fixed in accordance with the considered opinion of the District Board. The allocation was published for public criticism. No objection or suggestion was received.

(c) & (d) The answer is in the negative.

Retrenchment in the establishment of Ramnad District Board.

591 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that a sub-committee was formed to frame proposals for the reduction of establishment in the Ramnad District Board to effect retrenchment in expenditure in the year 1923-24;

(b) whether any proposals were made by the sub-committee for effecting retrenchment in expenditure;

(c) whether the proposals of the retrenchment sub-committee were placed before the Ramnad District Board for approval and whether the District Board have approved of the proposals of the retrenchment sub-committee;

(d) whether the proposals of the retrenchment sub-committee have been given effect to in the Ramnad District Board;

(e) whether the retrenchment sub-committee have framed proposals to remove an upper subordinate in the Ramnad District Board Engineering establishment from service; and

(f) whether an upper subordinate of nearly 14 years' standing has been removed from service in contravention of the proposal of the retrenchment committee, when there are several men who are juniors to him in service?

A.—(a) In 1923 the Retrenchment Committee which consisted of the members of the Legislative Council considered it desirable that in each district of the Presidency a Committee of Enquiry should be appointed to ascertain the present financial position of all local bodies. The Local and Municipal and Public Health Advisory Committees also were in favour of the proposal. The Government accepted the suggestion and ordered that a committee consisting of the President of the

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District Board, the Presidents of Taluk Boards and the Treasury Deputy Collector should be appointed for the purpose. The District Retrenchment Committee for the Ramnad district accordingly met in January 1924 and examined the finances of the District and Taluk Boards in that district.

- (b) to (d) The answer is in the affirmative.
 (e) The Committee recommended the abolition of the post of the overseer, Sivakasi Range. They did not recommend that any individual officer should be removed from service.
 (f) An upper subordinate of nearly fourteen years' service has been discharged in consequence of the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee. The Government have no definite information that several of his juniors in service have been retained.

Local bodies and retrenchment.

592 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether rules were framed by the Government for the guidance of the Chairmen of Municipal Councils and Presidents of Local Boards as to how the retrenchment proposals should be given effect to (vide page 132, *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 13th March 1923);

(b) whether two upper subordinates have been confirmed in service after notice of discharge was issued to two lower subordinates and one upper subordinate who had already been confirmed in service in Ramnad district; and

(c) whether the President, Ramnad District Board, has observed the rules framed by the Government in discharging local fund employees from service?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to rule 103 (b) of the Madras Local Boards Manual and to the Rules issued under G.O. No. 977, L. & M., dated 25th April 1923, published on page 200 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 1st May 1923.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) So far as the Government are aware, he has done so.

Alleged irregular procedure regarding retrenchment, Ramnad District Board.

593 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that one G. Chellam Ayyar, an upper subordinate, who has put in nearly 14 years' service under the Madura and Ramnad District Boards and who has fallen victim to the Retrenchment Scheme in the Ramnad District Board, has brought to the notice of the Government the illegal and irregular procedure adopted by the President, District Board, Ramnad, in giving effect to the proposals of the Retrenchment Sub-Committee; and

(b) whether orders have been passed in the Local and Municipal Department stating that the Government cannot interfere on his behalf?

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A.—(a) G. Chellam Ayyar appealed to Government against the order of the President, Ramnad District Board, discharging him from service as a consequence of retrenchment in expenditure in the Ramnad District Board.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

Medical.

Dr. Muthu's proposal for opening a sanatorium in the suburbs of Madras.

594 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Muthu, Tuberculosis expert, has suggested to Government the opening of a sanatorium in the suburbs of Madras and if so, at what place;

(b) whether any communication has been received from him regarding acquisition of site, grant for building and generally for financial support; and

(c) if so, what orders were passed by the Government thereon?

A.—(a) Dr. Muthu suggested the opening of a sanatorium at Avadi in an interview which he had with His Excellency the Governor and the Minister early in 1923.

(b) In a recent communication Dr. Muthu has proposed to open a sanatorium at Thambaram near Pallavaram at his own expense. He has applied for a grant of 240 acres of land for the sanatorium.

(c) Dr. Muthu's application has been sent to the Surgeon-General for remarks.

Medical aid and relief in the Nilgiris district.

595 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that over 1,500 individuals among the hill tribes died of relapsing fever in the Nilgiris district;

(b) whether Government received any representations from the District Board for funds for medical aid and relief; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no health scheme in the district?

A.—(a) & (b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) There is a health scheme in the district which is administered by the District Medical Officer. The following officers and staff are employed on health work in the district:—

- (1) The District Medical Officer (Permanent).
- (2) The Health Officer in charge of the Relapsing Fever Campaign (Temporary).
- (3) One Health Inspector (Permanent).
- (4) One Plague Inspector (Temporary).
- (5) Four vaccinators (Permanent).

Public Health.

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Legislation for compulsory re-vaccination.

596 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government contemplate any legislative action for enforcing compulsory re-vaccination periodically or when small epidemic is threatened;

(b) if so, what is the scope and extent of the legislative action; and

(c) whether municipalities and local boards have been consulted by Government and what their main recommendations or objections are?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) & (c) The questions do not arise.

Education.*Headmaster; Training School, Tanjore.*

597 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the exact nature of the work, actual teaching work besides the usual supervision, which the headmaster of the Training School, Tanjore, does, in the school;

(b) whether it is a fact that the previous record of work of the present headmaster is not quite good;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Director of Public Instruction had to conduct inquiries about the troubles which arose in the schools where this headmaster was working;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government Training School is a unique school in point of strength, etc., both in the model school and training sections; and

(e) whether it is proposed to put a senior capable officer in charge of such a school to maintain the reputation and prestige of the institution?

A.—(a) The headmaster of the Government Training School, Tanjore, is engaged in teaching work for fourteen periods a week in addition to supervision and office work.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) The Tanjore Training School is one of the largest training schools. It has three training classes with two sections in each and a model school with standards I to VIII.

(e) The question does not arise.

Excise.*Abkari revenue in the Andhra country.*

598 Q.—MR. P. SAGARAM: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state the amount of Abkari revenue during the last three official years of

(a) the presidency; and

(b) the Andhra country?

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A.—The hon. Member is referred to Imperial Return No. I appended to Excise Administration Reports for 1921-22, 1922-23 and 1923-24, placed on Editors' Table with G.O. No. 1772, Revenue, dated 4th October 1922, G.O. No. 1712, Revenue, dated 21st November 1923, and G.O. No. 1836, Revenue, dated 27th November 1924, respectively.

Tree-tapping licence forms.

599 Q.—MR. P. SAGARAM: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether any rate is charged upon the printed tree-tapping licence forms from the applicants of the toddy-drawing community?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to paragraph 4 (1) of the Notification No. 13, dated 21st July 1924, published in part II of the *Fort St. George Gazette* of 22nd July 1924 wherein it is stated that the forms are supplied free of charge.

Registration.*The post of Inspector of Registration offices.*

600 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether any proposal has been made to revive the post of Inspector of Registration offices, which was abolished as a substantial measure of retrenchment at the recommendation of the present Inspector-General of Registration?

A.—The post of the Inspector of Registration offices has been revived with effect from the 1st March 1925.

12 noon. * The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"As it is 12 o'clock now, we will proceed to the next order of the day."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May we ask supplementary questions to-morrow on the questions which were not reached to-day?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not think that would be right. It would be right if hon. Members put in writing any supplementary questions on these starred questions as well as on the unstarred questions which are always subject to supplementary questions in writing. Upon these particular questions I do not think that the understanding the House has arrived at, would permit of the course suggested by the hon. Member."

II**COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.**

The Secretary laid on the table a copies of proceedings of the 18th meeting of the Finance Committee for 1924-25 held on the 6th March 1925.

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III

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT FOR 1924-25.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, I beg to move
'that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 16,700 under 3E-B—Public Health—Grants for Public Health purposes—Contribution for Public Health purposes—Grants to local bodies for Public Health purposes—to provide for grants to the Ootacamund Municipal Council (Rs. 9,200) and the Nilgiris District Board (Rs. 7,500) to meet the expenditure incurred by them in connexion with the campaign against relapsing fever.'"

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Mr. President, this is a supplementary grant. I feel that the time allotted by His Excellency for the budget is being encroached upon by various items of business. I believe the last day allotted for supplementary and additional grants is the 30th or 31st. Perhaps the original intention was that this supplementary grant would not occupy much time. My hon. Friend, Mr. Koti Reddi, has given notice of a motion for reduction. So, if the time of the budget grants is to be utilized for this item, I fear the Opposition will not have time to go through all the demands."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. the Leader of the Opposition is perfectly right if this demand is going to take any time. Since notice of an amendment has been received it is for the Government to say whether they will press for this demand now or put it off to a more convenient date."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I have no objection to put it off to the 30th."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I may point out that it will be no use asking for a supplementary grant on the 30th since there will be no time before the 31st in which to spend it. I understand that my hon. Friend, the Raja of Panagal, is willing to withdraw the motion and make a demand on the 30th for a further grant to be met from the revenues of 1925-26."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" It is said by the hon. the Finance Member that if the grant is taken up on the last day, it will not be of any practical utility. It is not the duty of the Opposition to see how the demands are put forward. I say that His Excellency has set apart a number of days for the discussion of budget grants. The Treasury Bench is not right in encroaching upon that time-limit."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" The Treasury Bench having already withdrawn the motion, I do not understand what my hon. Friend is objecting to."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" My complaint is that the hon. the Finance Member said that no practical utility would be served by taking up this particular item on the 30th."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" The hon. Member has not correctly understood me. What I said was that there was no objection in making a supplementary demand on the 30th. What will be moved is a further demand for the next year."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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IV

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1925-1926.

DEMAND V.—REGISTRATION.

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" I beg to move
'that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 25.29 lakhs.'"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" This discussion is commenced at 12 noon, and will come to an end after 2½ hours from now. It will be continued after lunch till 3-30 p.m."

Motion No. 29.

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I beg to move the following :—

'That the allotment of Rs. 32,000 for pay of officers be reduced by Rs. 1,001.'

"I have specifically given notice that this motion is intended to raise the question of registration fees. I need hardly say that in a period of financial stringency, these registration fees were increased without giving any option as it were for the Council to express its opinion in the matter. Whatever might be said about the rightness or otherwise of this procedure, we have one important factor that so far as this matter is concerned, it was not effected by any law; and if the Government had the right to increase the charges without any amendment of the Act, we have now the advantage of reducing the charges without going through the formality of an Act, and without any sanction from the Government of India.

"So far as this question is concerned, there is no doubt whatever that the poor people are affected very much so far as documents of lower value are concerned. My first appeal to the Government is to see that the enhanced fees are all reduced; if that requires a little better state of circumstances or if that requires a long consideration, as many considerations of Government seem to require, all I say is that the fees charged for documents up to Rs. 1,000 may be reduced to what they were before. Owing to stringent financial conditions, people have to borrow small sums of money of Rs. 400 and 500 for short periods and they feel it rather very difficult when they have to pay large fees although the period of repayment is very short. Therefore, Sir, I appeal to the Government to consider this matter a little carefully. I know it has become usual for the Government to say that the matter is under consideration and I have no doubt that the hon. the Minister also will not depart from the usual procedure and that he is going to say that they are considering the matter. I want the hon. the Minister to say publicly to-day that the matter will seriously be taken into consideration and that everything will be done to reduce the fees so far as documents of small value are concerned. It is very hard that poor people who borrow small sums of money for short periods should pay enhanced taxes. I appeal to the hon. the Minister to say once for all that as regards documents of small value, effective steps will be taken as soon as the budget is over, to reduce the fees to what they were before. With this appeal I move my motion."

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU :—" I wish to associate myself with this motion and the remarks made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar. Sir, you will see from the Budget Estimate that the revenue for the next year

[Mr. P. Peddiraju]

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under Registration is 38½ lakhs of rupees and that the expenditure is less than 25½ lakhs. So there is a profit of 50 per cent over the expenditure and the hon. Sir Patro in his reply last year, said that he did not want this department to earn any profit, and that when the finances of the Presidency were in a better state he would certainly reduce these rates. Now, as we expect some reduction in the provincial contributions and as there is a strong feeling in the country that the registration charges are too high, I ask the hon. the Minister for Education to see that they are reduced. I may say that prices in the country have risen so high and stamps of less value than Rs. 100 are now very rarely put in for registration. At least the charges on documents of small value up to Rs. 1,000 may be reduced."

* **Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya** :—"Mr. President, Sir, I very heartily associate myself with what the hon. Mover and the hon. Member from Kistna said. The enhancement of registration fees has caused great hardship to the people. The income from registration fees was at Rs. 33 lakhs just before the Reforms were inaugurated; and from 33 lakhs it has come to about 33.72 lakhs. Thus there has been an enhancement of about 5½ lakhs in the income from registration fees. I am sorry that this has been done on a mere executive authority without resorting to legislation or even coming to the Legislative Council for sanction with a resolution. About that, I have given a definite motion and I shall discuss it when the motion is reached. But the reduction of the registration fees is an election promise of the hon. Sir Patro. I put to him straightly this question whether he has or has not promised his electorates to reduce the registration fees. This is the foremost of his election promises and I am sure that he will do his very best to bring the fees to the normal state as soon as possible. My hon. Friend from Kistna has informed us that the expenditure on Registration comes to about 25.23 lakhs. The normal income from the department was about 33 lakhs in the year 1920-21. Even

12-15 p.m. the normal income that Government got in 1920-21 just before the inauguration of the reforms is quite sufficient to cover the expenses. There is therefore no necessity and no justification whatsoever to keep the registration fees at this high rate and that purely on the authority of the executive."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya :—"Sir, I am sure we are here to interpret the wishes of our constituencies. The enhancement of the registration fees was ordered during the last Legislative Council by the hon. Sir Patro of his own accord and without getting the sanction of the Council. The hon. Member comes from a constituency from which I also come. The constituency knew that Sir Patro was responsible for this enhancement and in spite of that it has elected him again with a large majority of votes."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Hear, hear."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya :—"That shows that the electorate wants the fees to be further enhanced. That is the view I take of it unless the hon. Member has, as my hon. Friend, Mr. Biswanath Das said, given any promise to his constituency that he would make a reduction in the fees. But in the absence of any promise to the contrary by the hon. Minister, it shows that the electorate is satisfied with his administration and that they want the registration fees to be increased more and more."

* **The hon. Rao Baladur Sir A. P. PATRO** :—"Sir, the increase in the registration charges was made at a time when we were having huge deficits

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[Sir A. P. Patro]

in the budget. In order to cover the deficits every department was asked to curtail their expenditure and also to examine if they could not conveniently raise the fees. The question was examined by that experienced officer, Mr. Schmidt, the Inspector-General, and he thought that the registration fees could be conveniently enhanced. The fees were raised according to his recommendations. Again, Sir, the rise in the fees did not affect documents of a lower value, up to Rs. 300. These are the largest in number. Hon. Members will see that the fees are levied for service rendered. This is authorized under sections 78, 79 and 80 of the Registration Act. All the fees payable under this Act must be paid to the Registration officers at the time of the presentation of the document. These sections also give power to the Government to raise the fees. As I said before, on account of the financial stringency this measure was adopted. This does not affect the poorer classes of people whose documents are mostly below Rs. 300. This is only a temporary measure intended to cover the deficits in the budget and if the financial condition of the country improves this will be one of the things that will be considered. Because this department was first started to give help to the people of the country this charge was levied. Therefore it should be given relief as early as possible. I entirely agree with the hon. Member for Coimbatore that in cases of documents up to the value of Rs. 1,000 the question must be examined. I am prepared to examine the case and see whether it has a detrimental effect upon the poor. It has been suggested by the hon. Member for Kistna that the raising of the fees has affected detrimentally the number of documents registered. I shall examine this allegation also made by the hon. Member and see whether the raising of the fees has proved detrimental to the registration of documents. If that is so, it is neither financially sound, nor administratively feasible to have a provision by which registration will be affected and consequently the fees collected also will be decreased. These matters may be examined especially with reference to what the hon. Member from Coimbatore said regarding documents up to Rs. 1,000. If the financial condition of the country improves, the whole case may be examined once for all."

* **Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR** :—"Sir, I am glad that some hopes are given though not so much as I wanted. The phrases, 'examine carefully', 'consider carefully', have become quite meaningless. Sometimes it takes years, decades, and even centuries probably to do all these things. What I want from the hon. the Minister is an *unconditional* promise to take up this question whether the financial condition improves or not. I request him and through him the Government to give a promise that this should be one of the first charges upon the remission of our contributions. If the whole thing could not be reduced, I again appeal to him—because he has given a sympathetic reply—to reduce the fees at least in respect of documents up to Rs. 1,000. This department, as the hon. Minister knows, was not intended to be a source of income to the Government. Further, Sir, it is being managed probably from top to bottom entirely by Indians with great credit to all including the hon. the Minister at the top in charge of the department. Considering all these things we must see that our people are not unnecessarily harassed by charging high fees. It will affect the reputation of Indians as a whole, not merely the department. I appeal to the hon. the Minister to *unconditionally* promise to look into the matter at least within the next one or two months and give some relief with regard to the documents of value below Rs. 1,000. I hope that

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our words will have some weight with the hon. the Minister. It does not matter whether the hon. the Minister gave an election pledge to lower the registration charges or not as the hon. Member said. I was also waiting for some reply regarding that point."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"No, no. There was no such pledge."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Even though he might not have given a pledge, at least he might have stirred some hope in the minds of his electorate and consequently of the electorates of the whole Presidency that if he came to power he would do something to lower the registration fees. Taking all these things into consideration, I appeal to him and through him to the Government as well, to see that fees on documents below Rs. 1,000 be lowered and that this may be treated as the first charge on our contributions which are remitted to us."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The motion is by leave withdrawn."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—"No, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Then, is the hon. Member prepared to continue the discussion? The hon. Member has spoken already on the motion."

A VOICE :—"Votes to be taken, Sir."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I have no objection to votes being taken, Sir. Is it enough even if one hon. Member wishes it?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"It is quite enough if even one hon. Member wishes to do so."

* Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—"Sir, the increase in the registration fees affects the agricultural classes very much. It is they that bear the brunt of it when they have to sell lands, purchase lands or mortgage them. Hence it is quite necessary to reduce them to the lowest possible limit. The hon. the Minister stated that the measure was a temporary one. I earnestly hope that if the provincial contributions are reduced, the hon. the Minister will take the opportunity of bringing it to the original level. But, for the present, I hope he will carry out his promise of examining the case of documents up to the value of Rs. 1,000 and give the temporary relief that is most needed."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I do not know if I can now withdraw. I request you Sir, that you may now take the opinion of the House on that point."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think it is open to the hon. Member to withdraw it."

The motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

Motion No. 30.

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU :—"Sir, I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 74,200 for Superintendence be reduced by Rs. 4,000.'

"Sir, the post of Inspector of Registration offices has been left vacant for a number of years and so far as I can understand, from the way in which

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and become paupers. For some time to come we must have nomination only. I think the Government are not well advised in agreeing to have a separate electorate for our community at present. They have given full discretion to the nominated members of our community and if they fail to exercise their votes properly it is not the fault of the Government, but it is the fault of the members. In this connexion, I should like to point out that I was also a polling officer in several places. I know what all tactics are pursued. People of our caste forget their names. So, for some time to come nomination should be in the hands of Government only. With these few words, I oppose the motion of my hon. Friend Mr. Satyamurti, the intelligent critic."

* The hon. Mr. O. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Let me in the first place say that the Government have under consideration an experiment by way of choosing members of these communities in some other way than by nomination. The difficulty of course is one of practical politics. I may say that at a conference which was summoned by me of members interested in this problem a very thought-provoking memorandum was submitted by one hon. Member in which he said somewhat as follows :—"What the rules may be revised so as to provide for the election of candidates, of course to be nominated by Government, that in the case of Panchamas property qualification may be altered and the payment of Rs. 2 should be fixed as the minimum qualification for house-owners who belong to that community, and that all those who hold school-final certificates, whether they are eligible for college studies or not, must be made eligible for standing at the election." I may at once say that it is impossible to contemplate the election of all members of these communities throughout the Presidency because of their numbers. We thought something like an experiment might be tried and for this purpose we think that the metropolis should be chosen as the centre where one of the members belonging to these communities should be chosen by the members of those communities. The electors should be placed in a separate list which would include many more names than would come under the ordinary rules of election. Government have already under contemplation some such attempt and from the opinion we gather from the various members who have attended the conference I think they are all agreed that there is no use of attempting to have an electorate for the whole Presidency and that their numbers would be too large and too incongruous for such an attempt to be successful. The experiment that for the purpose of choosing five or six members you must have an electorate of four or five millions of people throughout the Presidency is impossible of achievement and not fit to be undertaken at once. As I said the Government has under contemplation an experiment to be tried in Madras of some such system as I have indicated, and a number of members who attended that conference have themselves said that if this experiment were to fructify and prove successful it might be extended to other parts of the Presidency according to the public opinion prevalent at that time and the opinion of the members of the community concerned."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"I would like to offer one or two remarks as I happened to make a special study of this problem and as I was entrusted with this affair by an Adi-Hindu gentleman who attended the Belgaum Conference and who expressed his views on this matter. I am very glad to note that a beginning will be made and the principle of

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election will be introduced at least in Madras. I do not catch what the hon. the Law Member has said, whether the candidates ought to be nominated by Government”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ May I say this? In Madras it is hoped that there will be an electorate forthcoming of members belonging to these communities and the question that is outstanding is whether that electorate will be constituted on a property basis alone, or property basis plus literary basis, or property and literary basis alternatively and such electorate will choose one of its members as in the old Council and that name will be communicated to His Excellency the Governor.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“ Is it one or two?”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ That is a matter of detail.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“ I am not criticising the policy of the Government but I should like to contribute a few elements and I leave it to the Government to consider them for what they are worth. I would like the franchise to be as low as possible and rather than the double qualification, I would certainly favour either property qualification or education. But in regard to the mufassal we may allow that matter to rest as it is at present. If the experiment which has been introduced is found successful, we may think of extending it to mufassal also.

“ There is one extremely important matter to which I would like to draw the attention of Government and that is that the Adi-Hindu friends should be included in the general electoral list. If you take them out of the general list and constitute them utterly as a separate electoral list with no kind of relation to the general electorate, it would mean that even the little connexion between the depressed classes and the higher classes will be practically lost.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ I may say at once, Sir, that there is no such idea. The Government do not desire, nor have they the power because under the report of the Joint Committee for ten years except under the exceptional provisions which have been made, the franchise could not be extended. We have no power to alter the rules except with the consent of the Secretary of State. Therefore the general electorate will remain as it is. In addition to that, for the purpose of the proviso to the electoral rule which provides that the Government may make rules for the selection of persons to be styled representatives of these classes, we should use this as a method of selection independent of and not exclusive of the ordinary electoral rules or the electorates.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“ I am very glad to hear that statement and I have no further observations to make. I was under the impression that when they spoke of a special electorate they would take the Adi-Hindus also out of the electorates so as to avoid giving them the privilege of having a double vote. Since that is not contemplated I have nothing more to say except that the system should be introduced as quickly as possible.”

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR:—“ Mr. President, may I ask the hon. the Law Member to tell me whether this special electorate which is to be formed for the Adi-Dravidas will be confined only to the Hindus?”

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* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ I may say, Sir, that even at the small conference at which about twenty hon. Members were present there were many difficulties felt as to who came within the expression depressed classes. I think distinction was very clearly drawn between backward communities and depressed classes. And one hon. Member said that the Government in nominating people of the depressed classes had only nominated six persons belonging to the depressed classes and that all the rest belonged to the backward communities. I am sure that all the hon. Members of this House belonging to these communities will endorse that view. The point, I take it, underlying my hon. Friend's question is whether members who have embraced other faiths than the Hindu faith will also be included in the term ‘depressed classes’. That is a matter which I would leave for further investigation. It is a matter for the communities to settle. I may say that the Government have not come to any conclusion one way or the other.”

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR:—“ I am thankful to the hon. Member for saying that the Government have not come to any conclusion. I would further request the hon. Member to carefully consider this case and see if it is possible to include them in a special electorate. But if it is not possible, I would like to draw the hon. the Law Member's attention to the advisability of lowering the property qualifications of those who have embraced other faiths so that they might have the chance of being elected members of this Council by this Indian Christian electorate. My reasons for urging the claims of those who have embraced Christianity are well known to the hon. the Law Member.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ I would like the hon. Member to elucidate the point further. I did not quite catch him.”

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR:—“ What I mean, Sir, is that as the hon. the Law Member has said now that the matter has not yet been definitely settled, if there is a possibility of the matter being further considered, the members of the depressed classes who have embraced other faiths should be included in a special electorate. If that is found difficult or inadvisable, I would request that the property qualifications should be lowered to members of depressed classes who have embraced Christianity so that in their own electorate they might have a chance of being elected. For the past two years a terrible agitation has been going on and a great deal of trouble has been caused by people who on account of their having embraced Christianity have lost their privileges with the result that the problem created is really of a very harrowing nature and these members of the depressed classes are subject to all kinds of indignities. Therefore I request the hon. the Law Member whether he would be pleased to include them in the special electorate which is to be formed in the City of Madras, or if that be found impracticable, he would extend the kind of privilege to the members of the depressed classes who have become Christians by lowering their property qualifications, giving them the opportunity by the strength of their votes of being returned to the Council.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ I do not want to rouse any hope which the Government cannot possibly bring into fruition. Because so far as the Joint Committee is concerned, it is of opinion that the franchise set by the rules made under the Act should not be altered for ten years

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and at present it is outside the powers of the Legislative Council to make any alteration in the franchise. That being so, it is not open to the Government to make any rules or suggest any regulations by which the present general franchise should be altered. All that I said would be considered would be when forming what may be termed a special electorate—because it will not be an electorate in the full sense of the term—the question of the inclusion in the special electorate of persons who, albeit they are members of the depressed classes, have embraced other faiths. It is a question which will admit of further discussion. That is a matter quite apart and must not be confused, I humbly submit, with the general question of the revision of the franchise in regard to which the limitations of the Government are perfectly obvious."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I will just say one word. If I understood my hon. Friend aright, he seems to imply that the question whether Adi-Hindus who have become Christians could be included in this Adi-Hindu special electorate would be further considered. I wish to know whether at present under the rules now in force the Adi-Hindu or Adi-Dravida Christians are not entitled to be included if they satisfied the qualifications in the Indian Christian constituencies. I understand they are entitled to and they are included. If so, I wish to point out that they cannot be included in this special electorate. Because, they are Indian Christians and if they satisfied the qualifications for inclusion in the Indian Christian constituency, they will be automatically included. And you cannot in these circumstances say that if you did not satisfy these qualifications, though you are eligible for inclusion in a certain constituency, we shall put you in some other constituency."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I am sure the House is very much obliged to the hon. Member. But I think he has already spoken upon this particular motion. And except a personal explanation nothing should be permitted."

"We have come to the end of the two and a half hours' limit appointed for this demand and I shall put this question to the vote if the hon. the Mover presses it. Otherwise, I shall go on with the demand."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I find the Government are more progressive than my hon. Friends of the depressed classes. There is no use of putting the motion to the vote. I shall, with your leave, withdraw it, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was then put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND X—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—SECRETARIAT.

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Sir, I beg to move

'that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 13.87 lakhs for General Administration—Secretariat.'"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Motion No. 369 to reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,200 for pay of establishments by Rs. 10,000 has been transferred to the sub-head 'Law Department' as it does not seem to have anything to do with the Secretariat. It will be taken up as No. 394-A. I have been obliged to make this transfer, as I have ruled that a certain relevancy of subject should be insisted upon. Instances to the contrary in the practice of other houses have been quoted. But that does not relieve us from the

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necessity of enforcing a certain amount of order. Otherwise we need not follow the budget at all. Anybody may take page 1 of the budget for instance and give all the motions with reference to that page. I have further exercised a certain amount of discretion as to the propriety of motions coming under the items under which they were originally arranged by the hon. Members moving them. And I have asked that this along with certain other motions be transferred to its appropriate place. There was a similar motion by the hon. Member from Ganjam, Mr. Das, of which I ordered the transfer."

Motion No. 70

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, I beg to move

'That the allotment of Rs. 16,200 for pay of establishments be reduced by Rs. 8,100.'

"I have said in my motion, Sir, that my object is to raise the question of reducing the strength of the Executive Council from four to two. I need not raise the question in such a specific way but I would rather like to raise the question in general terms of reducing the strength of the Executive Council."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I wish to have information, Sir, whether the hon. Member desires to move it as a vote for reduction by Rs. 8,100 or as a token motion."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am in your hands, Sir, and in the hands of the House in that matter. I calculated the allotment necessary for two Executive Councillors and proposed the omission of the amount."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I am only saying this: I hope my hon. Friend will forgive me. Assuming that he carries it and assuming that His Excellency does not certify it, it only means that some unfortunate clerks will be sent away. While one can feel that the question to be raised is of reduction of the strength of the Executive Council it is a different matter to reduce the pay of establishments which only means that some clerks would be sent away."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Nothing is farther from my mind than that, Sir. If the rules allow, if you, Sir, and the House will allow me, I quite agree to it being made a token motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"You can make it at once, if you so like."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I will then make it one rupee, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The discussion will then be on the following motion:—

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,200 for pay of establishments by Re. 1.'"

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, I am not old, but I am old enough to remember the time when this Government was carried on by three men good and true in the old days, when you had a Governor and two Members of the Executive Council. The Governor had the duties, onerous, as I am sure you recognize, of your high office,—of course, the Council was then much smaller in numbers—of presiding over the sittings of the Council, and judging from the reports of the proceedings of the Council, they seem to have been

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quite interesting in their own time. Besides presiding in your place, Sir, the Governor had portfolios assigned to him. I remember Lord Pentland had the portfolio of Education in his hands and devoted several hours every day to that. I believe, Sir, every Governor until the Reforms scheme came had portfolios of his own. Then, Sir, there were only two Members of the Executive Council who between them did all the work which now the seven Members on the Treasury Bench are trying, I am sure most conscientiously, to do, with, as my hon. Friend said the other day, some members on the Sub-treasury Bench. Moreover, Sir, we have, in addition to these, the three eminent gentlemen called the Council Secretaries who are supposed to help the over-worked Ministers in preparing for their work in Council and elsewhere. And we have also our esteemed friend, the Deputy President, who is to assist you, Mr. President, in the duties of your office.

"All these duties, Sir, were discharged by three men in those times. Now I want to know if it can be seriously suggested that because there is a Reformed Council, you must quadruple the strength of your Government Members. Fortunately for me, Mr. President, I am strengthened in my position, if any such were required, by the fact that two or three years before I came here to this Council, this House practically unanimously or by an overwhelming majority passed a resolution in favour of reducing the strength of the Executive Council from four to three, in those spacious halcyon days when parties were unknown in this Council and some questions at least used to be discussed on their merits. I do hope, Sir, even to-day that on this question my hon. Friends on the other side will not look askance at me, because unfortunately I happen to father this proposal, but would join with me in urging that the strength should be reduced.

"Now, Sir, I know one usual way in which our vanity is tickled or our self-interest is appealed to is this: 'If you have four men, you can have two Indians'. What does it matter if two Europeans are there when two Indians get those places? We cannot have two, because that is too small. We cannot have three, for half the number must be Indians. Therefore have four, so that there may be two brown bureaucrats along with two white ones. This is their view. I may say, Mr. President, that I am not one of those who are over-impressed with the Treasury Bench, especially on the Reserved side, whether it consists of Indians or Europeans. I know it is usual with Indians of the most progressive school to urge that wherever there are Europeans there must be an equal number of Indians. Now, I may say that I am only expressing my own personal opinion and am committing nobody when I say that so long as the Reserved half continues to be irresponsible, it does not matter to me in the least whether it is an Indian or a European who sits there. Therefore I am not impressed by the argument that we must have either four or two because we must have an equal number of Indians and Europeans. If really we want to retrench, let us have retrenchment, and I do not think—in spite of the fact that all my hon. Friends over there say that they are overworked; they seem to be always busy with heavy files and attending to other work as my hon. Friend there is doing—there is full work for them. And it seems to me that even if there are 40 men more appointed, they would still be saying that there is still too much work. I do not think that all these four gentlemen are so heavily overworked, though they have so many files exhibited before them."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think I must say for the information of the House that no hon. Members, not even the hon. Members of the Government, are expected to bring into the House or to exhibit files unconnected with their work in the Council. I always presume that the files sometimes paraded here have reference to the work before the Council and I do not think it is a result of over-work outside the Council."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I take that statement, but I thought that that (Secretaries') bench is part of the House."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"That is not part of the House."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"That is part of the House. Unfortunately even your rulings, Sir, cannot make physically visible portions invisible. Unfortunately I have seen him there, and when I saw the files exhibited . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think they are files which are brought in by the Secretaries who sit there. Those files too are probably there in connexion with the work that is expected of Members of Government here, that is, in answering questions, speaking on motions, etc."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"That is only a small matter, Sir. But to resume my point. I do not think that the work of the Government has so increased between the pre-reform days and to-day as to require all these seven men who, from what we see of them here, seem to be over-worked. Moreover, Sir, I may say that certainly the Montagu-Chelmsford report does not contemplate nor does the Government of India contemplate the existence of four Members. What is intended is that there should be non-officials of an equal number. So, if you have two, you may have one non-official and one official. That is all what is contemplated. But because we have these four offices, unfortunately insistence has been allowed to be made on the need for communal representation even on that Bench. The result has been that an unseemly scramble for the highest office under the Crown next to that of His Excellency the Governor in this Presidency has been encouraged to go on. My hon. Friend the Law Member the other day, speaking on another occasion, said that there should be a rule, and so far as he was concerned he was trying to advise the Governor that these offices ought not to be given to those who strive after them. I wish to God that that rule applied to Madras, but I am afraid it does not. I do not want to go into the history of recent appointments. But certainly, Mr. President, the multiplication of the number of these high offices gives rise to an implied undertaking or understanding that they would be distributed on the principle of communal representation, which in turn has led to unseemly scrambles which are not in keeping with the dignity of those offices; nor do they contribute to the good tone of public life nor are they good in the interests of the Presidency. For that reason also, I should like this Reserved half to be moderate in its strength. Sir, even the majority of the Muddiman Committee contemplate transfer of forests. I am sure the hon. the Home Member will heave a sigh of relief, for if not himself, his successor will have no need to answer questions regarding forests, which I call a huge joke. Even if the majority report is going to be accepted by Lord Birkenhead's Government, I think the time is coming when more work will have to be thrown on the Ministers and less on the Executive Councillors. Therefore taking all these things into consideration, I do venture to urge upon the Government and upon every section

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of this House that if we are keen on retrenchment, we should retrench at the top, reduce the number of Executive Councillors from 4 to 2 and if those two Members feel that they cannot do justice to the work, let Ministers press upon them (and we will support them in their endeavours) what they have pressed in their recommendations to the Muddiman Committee, namely, that these subjects which the Executive Councillors feel themselves unequal to administer may be transferred to the control of the Ministers, who, I am sure, will be quite anxious and quite glad to take charge of them. But the point which I urge is that there has been no case made out for the four members except this that they are four and must therefore remain four. I do not think that that argument will commend itself to any one. In conclusion, I beg to bring forward this token motion in order to convey to the Government the sense of this House that we want a real reduction in the strength of the Executive Council."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I have also given notice of a similar motion and I will just say a few words in support of what has been said by the hon. Member for the University. You may remember that when this matter was specifically brought before the last Council, the original proposal was to reduce the strength from 4 to 2. But by an amendment proposed by one of the hon. Members the number was proposed to be three and that resolution as amended, that is, that the number should be reduced from 4 to 3 was adopted by this House almost unanimously. Various attempts have been made by me and some others afterwards just to see what became of that resolution of the Council. And over and over again, the Government have been saying simply that the matter has been under correspondence between the higher authorities and this Government, and not even on one occasion till this day has it been said that either this Government were against such proposal or that the matter has been finally disposed of one way or the other. Now, Sir, without saying anything about the Members adorning the front Bench on the Reserved side at present, we may just take a possibility of some vacancies occurring soon and therefore we urge that whatever we say may now be taken into account when those vacancies occur, so that they may not be filled up. One serious objection that has been for ever raised against this number four being reduced to three is as to the way in which it can be divided between Europeans and Indians. No doubt, the report of the Joint Committee clearly says that should it be the object of the Government to have two officials, there should be two Indian non-officials. I may make a suggestion, Sir, that apart from questions of seniority and other things, if the number is to be reduced to three in case it cannot be reduced to two, a very good way of dividing the posts is this. We can have one European official as an Executive Councillor, we can have one non-official Indian, and as the third Member we can have an Indian official. An Indian official would be able to represent the views of the large majority of Indian officers in the Government service and certainly it will not be too much to say that the Government would find it very difficult to select one such gentleman to be a Member of the Executive Council. We have one in the case of our late President who rose to the position of an Executive Councillor from the lower ranks of the service. And certainly it cannot be said that we would not be able to find one other similar person hereafter. I know that the one important objection that will be raised, I am told it has been raised, is that he will have to be put over the heads of several of

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those who are his seniors. That is no doubt a difficult question; but if we look into the Civil List it will be clear that a similar fate has happened to a number of senior Indian officers in whose cases a number of European juniors have been placed over their heads on more than one occasion. In the case of these Executive Councillors' appointments, we should not trouble ourselves much about seniority and juniority but we should select the best person. If the decision be that the number should be reduced to three, in case it cannot be reduced to two, we can have one European official, an Indian non-official and an Indian official. This will be the best solution for the selection and if that is made, all of us, both the services as well as the public will be satisfied and there will be some saving also so far as money is concerned. It is with that view that I am making that suggestion, and to-day at least I hope the Government may be pleased to say whether after four years of correspondence with the Government of India and the Secretary of State they have not come to any final conclusion on this question, or whether they would be prepared to reduce the number from four to three, or whether there will be still chance or hope that the number will be reduced to three at least in the near future when further vacancies may occur some day or other."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Sir, the people in the country find to their deep disappointment that every onward move in our reforms with regard to the constitution, results in top-heavy appointments and in increasing the cost of the administration considerably, so that the work which was easily done in the good old days by two persons ('hear, hear') is now done by seven persons. Three of them belong to the Ministry who after all are to a great extent as top-heavy and as absolute bureaucrats as those on the Reserved side. After all people wonder what has been the benefit of the reforms. In regard to the drink evil, I am afraid that drink under the present excise policy will go on increasing (cries of 'order, order'). I do not know what the point of order is that is sought to be raised. Though it may be very painful to my hon. Friend to hear . . ."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"On a point of order, Sir, I was just trying to draw the attention of my hon. Friend unofficially to the fact that he was not quite relevant in his remarks. He does not choose to take note of it and so I raise the point of order that his remarks are absolutely irrelevant to the motion before the House."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Because I think that they have laid down an excise policy which was voted and adopted by the Reserved half, and as the Minister said 'I am helpless. What can I do. It is a matter of finance, it is a question of funds,' this is relevant."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Am I to understand from the hon. Member that the result of the division was due to the Reserved half?"

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"I am sure, the whole thing was inspired by the Reserved half and this policy is inspired by the Reserved half. I make that observation with all the knowledge of what is going on inside in the Government. Well, in any case, I am sure that no British official will support a prohibition policy, a policy which will end in total prohibition and which will put an end to the whisky trade of Great Britain. So we can rest assured that the present Ministry will not come forward and say that we are determined to carry on this excise policy, this national excise policy

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that will end in prohibition. After all with this Reformed Council it is simply shocking and it is intolerable to see that the excise policy of this country is not mended sooner or later. If it is not mended we shall have discontent always on the increase, which I am sure will not be conducive to the peace of the country. The increase of discontent continues and the people are feeling intensively, and with this increased expenditure, which is brought about by the Reformed Council, it is very difficult for us to bring home any justification to the poor taxpayers, and to face them at the time of election. It is therefore I say that this present system of Government should be mended sooner or later. Well, much has been said on this point. I am not going to deal with it any further than to strongly urge that Government should widely open their eyes to the state of deep feeling of discontent on account of top-heavy administration not only of the heads of the departments, namely, a number of directors, deputy directors and so on, but also top-heavy administration in the Government. So, with these few remarks, I strongly support this motion."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, the last Council passed a resolution, which has been referred to by my hon. Friend, the Member for the University, that the Executive Councillors should be reduced to three. I agree with my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, in thinking that the present Executive Councillors do not have enough of work. As a matter of fact, in one of the conversations which we had, the late lamented Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar, once told me that practically he had no work whatever. However, apart from that statement, we know, as Mr. Satyamurti has rightly pointed out, that the work which was formerly done by three gentlemen is now being done by seven gentlemen. Of course we must make some allowance for the increase of work due to the bringing into existence of the present enlarged Council. No doubt, Members of Government, whether on the Reserved half or on the Transferred half have to spend much longer time for speaking in the Council and listening to the debate and answering questions, than they used to do when the Council was much smaller. Nevertheless making allowance for this increase of duties the number seven is certainly too many. The argument in any case that has been referred to by Mr. Satyamurti about the reduction of the strength of the Executive Councillors, is in my opinion a sound one. Then the question of the number of Indians as against the Europeans has been fully dealt with. With reference to that, I would suggest that in accordance with a resolution that was passed some time ago by this Council, namely, that the Executive Council should consist only of three Members, and in accordance with the policy that has been advocated throughout India by all of us, out of the three Members who are to be retained, two should be Indians and one should be an European. There is a rumour that Mr. Graham is about to go on leave. I do not know how far it is true. If that happens to be true that place need not be filled up. Then there will be one European Civilian Officer, and two Indians in the Reserved half and for the present the vacancy that may arise need not be filled. If what we hear be true, namely, the departure of my learned friend Mr. Graham, then I am sure the whole House will lament it."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" May I ask, Sir, whether civilian members can be called learned ? " (Laughter)

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I point out, Sir, to my hon. Friend, Mr. Ratnaswami, that they have a right to be called learned."

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They are as learned as others. Now to proceed further, when that vacancy arises by the departure of Mr. Graham, it need not be filled up. Then the Executive Council will consist of three Members; two Indians and one European. When another opportunity arises the strength may still further be reduced so that at present I think a resolution may be passed fixing the number of the Executive Councillors at three, two of whom being Indians. And then when the next opportunity arises the strength may be further reduced."

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU :—" I have tabled a motion similar to this. All that I wanted to speak about has been dealt with. I have nothing to add. So I support this motion."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The official reply on this resolution will naturally come from my hon. Friend the Finance Member, who holds the portfolio. I rise now to suggest one or two points. It has been said more than once that Members of the Executive Council in the present circumstances have nothing to do. That opinion is merely an opinion, and is necessarily based upon mere surmise. I being the only Member of the Council who held a portfolio in the pre-Reform Government in what I should, I suppose, describe as the bad old times am able to speak with personal knowledge. Having been a Member of Council before the Reforms and after, I find that the burden of work, which I now have as Home Member is not in any way smaller than what it was before and even then it was quite enough to tax the energies of one man."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I also rise to support the motion brought forward by the Member for the University. In doing so I do not wish that we should be persuaded so much by considerations of retrenchment in a solution of this problem. Even the consideration that the hon. Members of the Executive Council have not enough of work to do, is not one of the important elements which would enable us to come to a decision regarding this question. I view it from the larger question of general and public policy. This House by a vote passed early this year expressed itself in favour of provincial autonomy. If we understand the full significance of the resolution which we passed, I think that this is one of the steps that should be taken for the purpose of achieving that object, and that it is necessary to work for the reduction of the strength of the Executive Council. If this policy is approved, I very well conceive that we cannot at once attempt reduction of the figure to two as suggested. But a more reasonable course is as suggested by my hon. Friend the Member for Malabar to start with three in the first instance and later on at the next step to reduce it to two. That is only a feasible and practical method by which, we can ask for the introduction of this rule. Therefore, Sir, we in this House, which gave its decision in such an unmistakable manner for provincial autonomy, should take the first step for the reduction of the strength of the Councillors. Whatever differences we might have with the transferred departments, when we all agree that we should attain provincial autonomy we have no other reason to do so unless the strength of the Reserved half is reduced."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" Sir, I suppose that all hon. Members know perfectly well that it is not within the power of this House or within the power of this Government to make any reduction in the number of Executive

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Council. I take it that all that it wishes is, to reiterate the opinion expressed in the resolution which was carried, I think, in 1921. There are, however, two points which I would like to mention. I do not think that memory of the hon. Member for the University has served him well or that he can really remember the time when all the business of the Government was carried on by three Members, namely, the Governor and two Members of Council. For some years before the Reforms, and probably as long ago as he can remember, there were three Members of Council besides the Governor."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I was referring to the time before 1909 when we had only three members."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"If the hon. Member's memory goes back as far as that, he must be older than I thought he was and I hope that he will not take it otherwise than as a compliment that I accused him of youth. The second point is that another hon. Member spoke about the work being so easily done by three Members in good old times. The old times may have been good or may not, but when he says that the work was done easily I am quite certain that he knows nothing about it. Speaking from personal observation I can tell him that in those good old times Members of Government were to be seen surrounded by piles of boxes some of which were delayed for years and all papers were subjected to long delays."

"The activities of the Government have been extended in various directions and there is a continual insistence on the part of the Members of this House who want information of all kinds regarding events in the districts and elsewhere. The number of questions and resolutions is appalling and though comparatively few of the resolutions actually reach the stage of discussion there is no means of knowing beforehand which will come up and it is necessary therefore to prepare for all. Another point of difference is that Members of Government now have frequently to go on tour in order to satisfy themselves and the Council as to what is happening in the mufassal. I may remind hon. Members that in the good old days it was practically an unheard of thing for a Member of Council to tour. Again, we are continually been asked to abolish all intermediate authorities. I do not at present contemplate the possibility of abolishing any of them, but if abolition did come about there is no doubt that instead of its being possible to reduce the number of Members of Council it would be necessary to appoint more. Hon. Members on either side of the House who have not had actual experience

1-30 p.m. cannot possibly say whether there is work for four Members or not. Personally I find I have enough to occupy me the whole of the day and I believe that the experience of my hon. Colleagues is very much the same. It is possible that the late Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar said at some time or other that he had not enough to do. I do not think that that was always his condition and in any case it is impossible to apply his standard to every one. He had an abnormally quick brain and was able to get through an enormous amount of work. However, it is not necessary to go into these details now in view of what the powers of the House are."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May we have some idea as to the result of the correspondence on this subject?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I believe that there is no further result."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I called the name of the hon. Member Mr. Prabhakaran Thampan but then he was not in his seat. He has given notice of a similar motion. But in view of the discussion in the Council if he does not want to say anything further we can directly go to vote if the motion is pressed."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Sir, I only wish to say one word. Mr. Satyamurti's motion is that the number be reduced to two. In view of the fact that two new appointments have been recently announced and that the vacancy likely to occur is only one some of us think that the number may be three and not two. If he will consent to that I have no objection to vote in favor of the motion. But if he will stick to his motion for reducing it to two I am afraid I may have to vote against the motion."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I say one word. . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think we had better adjourn for lunch now and take up the matter afterwards. I see that it will take more time than I expected."

The House then adjourned for lunch.

After lunch (2-15 p.m.)

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, I desire to say a very few words. My hon. Friend, the Finance Member, has opposed my resolution. He states that the work has increased enormously and one of the prominent examples he gave was that the number of questions and resolutions has become appalling. On that matter I should like to make a sporting offer to the Finance Member. For the last few weeks I have not sent up many questions and I find that now-a-days we are closing question time in 5 or 10 minutes after 11 o'clock. If my hon. Friend will agree to reducing the strength of the Executive Council, we on our part will undertake to reduce the number of questions. If the Government accept that, he will find that that part of the work will be lessened. As for resolutions, on the whole, we do not discuss more than 30 or 40 resolutions in a year. That cannot be said to be appalling. As regards tours, I do not know if they are so necessary in these days of quick telegraphic and postal communications and also owing to the fact that the large number of local officers can keep Government in touch with what is going on in their respective divisions. With regard to intermediate authorities, the Finance Member was in a peculiar position. He says we asked for the abolition of the Board of Revenue; the Government is against it, and if the abolition does come about and the number is reduced, then he says that the number of Executive Councillors will have to be increased. As my hon. Friend Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar suggests, if the Government are going to accept the resolution about the abolition of intermediary authorities, then we will consider the strength of Executive Councillors being kept at the present level."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Government did not contemplate the abolition in the immediate future."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Why should that argument be used? Then my hon. Friend said that those who have experience of the work of Government can take only one view. Unfortunately, we can never have experience of Government work in our country. Those that become experienced have

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become bureaucrats; but we have got instances of men who have been in service going out and saying that they have not got enough of work. My friend, the hon. the Finance Member, says that all of us have not quick brains. I ask the hon. the Law Member whether he has got enough work for five hours, in a day or for seven days in a week. I think he had very much more work when he was at the bar."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"So far I agree."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Therefore why should he not give to the country what he gave to his clients. As for quick brains being got, it is in the hands of the Government; if they do not get quick brains, the fault is certainly not mine."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"We could not always get such quick brains as Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"He has not exhausted the last word in quick brains in Madras. I only want to say one more word. There has been a feeling expressed that I ought not to press this motion with regard to the specific number. I am content to take the vote of this House on the question of reduction, as to whether it should be three or two, and leave it to Government to examine the case and satisfy us as to the number. I request you to kindly put the motion to the House as a token motion raising the question of reducing the number from four to any lower number three or two."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"May I suggest that the difficulty can be met by taking votes on motion Nos. 373 or 374?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"If the hon. Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar will reduce his amount by one rupee I will put that motion to the vote."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"There is one difficulty; the reason why I passed over that was that it raised the question of reduction of pay and not of number. That was why I thought that it would be better if we take the sense of the House on motion No. 373 or 374. What we want in this resolution is reduction of strength."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"It is not stated there that the number should be reduced from four to three or two."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"No. 374 is the best."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I agree to any motion, so long as the question of reduction is voted on."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"It was agreed that the reduction should be by Re. 1."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"If other hon. Members drop their motions then Mr. Prabhakaran Tampam will have to reduce his amount as agreed to by the House by 1 Re."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"I have no objection."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I thought I moved it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think the hon. Member was willing to make a motion on behalf of somebody else. He did not propose a definite reduction. I have no objection to put it as an amended motion to hon. Members."

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* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Motion No. 373 on the agenda definitely proposes a reduction of strength."

"I move to reduce the amount by one rupee."

The motion of Mr. J. A. Saldanha moved on his behalf by Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 83,200 for Executive Council by Re. 1' was put and carried.

Motion No. 71.

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 50,000 for travelling allowances be reduced by Re. 1.'

"Sir, we feel that there is a necessity to reduce the pay of higher officers. Even in the last Council we carried a resolution to say that the pay of the officers should be reduced to two-thirds of what they are getting now. Anyhow, we feel strongly that the pay of Ministers as well as Executive Councillors should be reduced to some lower amount, say to about Rs. 3,500. That is my personal view. So far as the amount is concerned, I think it would be very good if this is taken as a token motion and Members of Council, so far as the present Indian Members at least are concerned, and all future Members, will agree to the reduction. I need hardly say that if they sacrifice a portion of their pay they will be setting a very good example. We want a reduction of pay, and Rs. 3,500 is certainly sufficiently high. It is higher than the pay of almost all the departmental officers and those who are supposed to be subordinates to the Members of the Cabinet. It is with that view I raise this motion."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"Mr President, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion moved by my friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar. The 'happy family' being composed of both Ministers and Executive Councillors, I for one fail to see how the salary of the Minister should be in any way less than the pay of the Executive Councillor. To bring about a uniform salary to all these hon. Members—perhaps it will automatically decrease—and also in view of the fact that some of the subjects have yet to be transferred, I heartily support the motion."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"I have to oppose this motion. To keep up the dignity of the office the present salary is necessary. There are instances of men like Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar and the present Law Member, who were making a larger income at the Bar, but who have accepted office at a sacrifice. If the salary be reduced, the chances are that the best intellects may not be available. The salary of the Ministers also is not altogether unrelated to this matter. If I can give expression to my opinion I think that a mistake was made by the Ministers in accepting a lower salary. It was only when your distinguished predecessor Sir P. Rajagopalachariyar announced from the Chair that he and the Ministers had decided to take Rs. 1,000 less that we knew of the proposal."

"If our leaders had consulted us I for one would not have advised them to accept a salary which is less than that of the Executive Councillors. My opinion is that the present salary of the Executive Councillors ought not to be reduced and that their salary apart

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from the question whether there ought to be only two Ministers or two Executive councillors must be Rs. 5,333-5-4. I therefore have to oppose this motion."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, I am surprised at my hon. Friend's attitude on this question. He is a janmi from Malabar who neither spins nor toils for his countrymen."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"I am not a Congress Swarajist."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am sorry that my hon. Friend's knowledge of literature is very defective."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"I admit that it is very defective so far as the Congress is concerned."

Mr. P. ANJANEYALU:—"May I say, Sir, that so far as what Mr. Satyamurti has said is concerned it was only a biblical expression?"

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I would recommend to my hon. Friend to read the Bible."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"I refuse to be guided by my hon. friend Sir."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am sorry, but my point is this. To suggest that a man should be paid a particular salary, because his office is a high office, is a proposition of which no Member of this House who realizes that he is a citizen of a country which as I am never tired of saying is the poorest in the world, is capable, except perhaps the Malabar janmis. Mr. President, your office is an exalted one, I submit as exalted as any office on the Treasury Bench. You have often times to decide very disputed points and give rulings which bind the Members on the Treasury Bench as much as other hon. Members of this House. Is it suggested that because you are paid a little less than half of what they are paid, your office is less exalted? What is the argument? Is it that the rupees, annas and pies which a man gets has any relation to the dignity of his office? Let my hon. Friend clearly understand that the dignity of the office is derived from the dignity of the man who holds the office and not from the dignity of the rupees, annas and pies paid to him month after month. After all, I have known people who occupy very high offices conducting themselves in a most undignified manner, and I have also known many who toil on Rs. 40 a month conducting themselves in a very dignified manner. Dignity is in the manner born and does not depend on the rupees, annas and pies earned month after month. Now, seriously speaking, I do think the time has come—I realize we have not got the necessary power—when every opportunity should be utilized by members of this House to press it upon those with whom the ultimate disposal lies that we are for reducing the salaries of our highly-paid officials. I am sorry I have not got the figures now; but I know there are Cabinet Officers in England, in the United States of America, in Japan—much richer countries than my unfortunate one—who are paid much less than the salaries paid to the Members on the Treasury Bench here. Because the East India Company in those days when the voyage to England took about six or seven months, when the amenities of life were few here, fixed some high salaries, why should those continue? Why should those salaries be perpetuated? I am sure any Indian who has gone out of this country and who has moved with high officials in other countries and who has compared the salaries in

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this country with those paid to them will agree with me that our high officials are overpaid. Instead of moving for a reduction in their salaries my hon. Friend on the Sub-Treasury Bench (Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan) came forward with a proposal that they should remain at the present level. More than that, he also gave bad advice—I believe gratuitous advice—to the hon. the Ministers telling them that they committed a great mistake in having reduced their salaries from Rs. 5,000 and odd to Rs. 4,000 and odd rupees. I very rarely agree with the Ministers. But, on this occasion I am glad to congratulate them as Indians that they felt that they owed a duty not only to their pockets but also to their country and reduced their salaries. I do not know if the announcement of this reduction by your distinguished predecessor simultaneously with a reduction in his own pay was inspired by him or not. He is far too shrewd a statesman not to have been at least partly responsible for this gesture on their part within a year before the election. I am sure that it was partly actuated by the feeling that an action like that on the part of those in power will always command the approval of the electorate. I suggest to my hon. Friend Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan that, if he thinks that the Ministers committed a mistake in reducing their salaries, he should go and stand before a popular electorate with that cry and see what happens to him."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"I will try."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, May I say a word in this connection, Sir? My hon. Friend the Member for the University if I heard him aright stated that the Ministers were inspired by the ex-President of this House to reduce their pay. Nothing of the sort. There was no such inspiration from anywhere. When we were effecting retrenchment in the various departments under our charge, we thought that we should ourselves set an example. There was no prompting from friends or foes. We voluntarily reduced our salaries. There was no vote of the Council that our salaries should be reduced. Our action was purely voluntary."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I stand corrected and stand gladly corrected. I am glad that the hon. the Ministers without any pressure from any quarter whatsoever have felt bound by a keen sense of duty to their country and the electorate to reduce their salaries. That is a sufficient answer to my hon. Friend Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan. May I now ask the Members of the Executive Council to follow the illustrious example set by the Ministers? Perhaps the European Members may feel that they are carrying the White-man's burden here, that they have a kind of right for these fat salaries and that they cannot give up material comforts which a fat pay enables them to enjoy. But may I not appeal to my friends the Indian Members? There is only one Indian Member just now, but one more would be coming next month. I am only appealing to them to follow the example set by the Ministers and forego a part of their salaries. I do not want to say anything which will be understood as trying to suggest any personal feelings. I am sure the hon. the Law Member has not accepted this office for the sake of the rupees, annas and pies it carries with it. He has said so himself in this Council. I cordially agree with him. May I not therefore ask him to carry this spirit a little further and announce from his place that he on his part will be quite glad to accept this resolution and carry out the spirit underlying it? That is the only way in which we can reduce the salaries of Europeans in this country. Mr. President, we can again and again ask

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the European to take a lower salary. The European knows how to tickle our vanity. He would say, 'I will appoint one or two more Indians on the same salary which I am drawing'. We are fighting among ourselves. If instead of that, our friends are prepared to accept lower salaries, then we can go to the Europeans and say 'The best among us, though not more efficient than you but at least as efficient as you are drawing a lower salary. May you not agree to a lower salary likewise?' That is the only way in which we can carry out this retrenchment which is highly necessary. India is a poor country. We here sitting on cushions and enjoying electric fans are the representatives of poor men—the average income per head per day of a man being one anna. It is unjust that we should go on enjoying like this when millions of our countrymen go about starving or half-starving. The problem is too big to be solved like this, I admit; but if our friends agree with what I said, they must be content with lower salaries. With these few words, I have very great pleasure in supporting this motion. I request every section of the House to sympathize with the poor of this country and support this motion."

* The hon. Mr R. A. GRAHAM:—"Sir, as the hon. Member for the University said, we have not got control over this matter—neither the Government nor the Council. I take it therefore that this motion is intended to give expression to the sense of the House in regard to this matter. If my own opinion is asked, I should say that the salary is certainly not excessive. It is not a question which affects me personally, but that is my opinion on that point. It may be that the salaries of Ministers in some countries are not so large; but I should say that the total expenses in most countries are considerably greater. My hon. Friend referred to the salaries of various officials in England. Let me remind him of the salaries which the Judges in England draw. They get a salary of £5,000 a year and also have their pay as pension however short their services may be. The salary of a Member of Council was fixed some 70 or 80 years ago. There has been no variation since and I should think that the financial position of a Member of Council is now very much inferior to that in those days, both positively and negatively. Therefore, any reduction now would be entirely unjustifiable."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"So far as this question is concerned, I only wish to bring to the recollection of the House that ever since the inauguration of the Reforms there have been motions for reduction of the salaries of Ministers. In the course of the discussion it was made quite manifest that it was nobody's intention to create any difference in the status and dignity by reduction of the salaries of these respective Government Members and Ministers, but that in the interests of the welfare of the country it was necessary to set an example of retrenchment. When we realize that things have so far changed, that the cost of the administration has in recent years risen by leaps and bounds, when we realize that the country has not grown richer in this interval nor has there been any reduction in the taxation of the people of the country, I for one will agree that there is no better method of retrenchment than this. When attempts are made for reducing the salaries of officers in the subordinate services, quite naturally and reasonably there is resentment all round. When this is going on, there are proposals coming up for giving increased salaries to another class of officers. Therefore, if we are going to achieve any results in the near or in the

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immediate future in the way of effecting retrenchment in salaries, unless we set an example from the top, there is no use at all. It is from this standpoint that I say that this House should look at this question. When proposals were made for the reduction in the salaries of Ministers, every one expressed that it was only the beginning of an appeal to be made to the Members of the Executive Council to follow the example set by the Ministers. I remember a discussion on some former occasion when it was clearly pointed out that we could not by a vote of the House effect a reduction in the salaries of the Executive Councillors, but then it was hoped that they could take the example of the Ministers and have a reduction on the same lines. It is true that the Ministers' salaries were not reduced by this House. It is true that it was done by them voluntarily. But may I not appeal to the Members of the Executive Council to have some consideration for our views and to co-operate with us in our anxiety to effect retrenchment by setting an example so that it would be time enough for us to follow it?"

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I think it is not necessary that the Executive Councillors should receive higher pay than that of the hon. the Ministers. The hon. the Ministers are now receiving the pay of the Executive Council Members minus one thousand rupees, i.e., Rs 4,300 and odd. Having regard to the circumstances of this country, having regard even to the high cost of living and some remuneration for the trouble the hon. the Ministers and Executive Councillors are taking and having regard also to the need for providing for their children, I think the salary that the Ministers are getting is adequate and necessary; and I believe there is no reason why the Members of the Executive Council should be paid higher pay. With reference to the pay of the Members of the Executive Council, I beg to differ from my hon. Friend, the learned Member for the University, and think that there is no need to make any distinction between the European Members and the Indian Members. It is a fact that a large majority of the Indian Members who have been appointed as Executive Councillors till now, accepted their appointments not for the salary but for the purpose of working for the country. The Maharaja of Bobbili did not accept the Executive Councillor's appointment for the salary he got. As a matter of fact, all the salary he was receiving during the whole period he was in office was spent by him for founding an Institute in Ootacamund which is of so much use, viz, the Lawley Institute. Mr. Krishnaswami Ayyar also accepted the appointment not for the pay. All of us know that at the bar he was making a very much larger amount than the pay of an Executive Council Member. Sir Sivaswami Ayyar also."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"May I ask whether my hon. Friend knows whether the Maharaja of Bobbili would have accepted the post if there was any invidious distinction between the pay of an European and an Indian Member?"

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"That is exactly what I am saying. I am emphasizing that point. I do not want to make any difference between the European and the Indian Members of the Executive Council and between the Ministers and the Executive Councillors. Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar and my hon. Friend Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar, who stated on a former occasion that he was making more than Rs. 10,000, did not accept the appointment by reason of this Rs. 5,000 and odd. They

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accepted the appointment because it gave them opportunities of serving the country and of course, when they are doing the duty, they must keep their body and soul together in a very decent manner; for that purpose Rs. 4,000 is quite adequate for them and for the European Members as well. You should not make any difference between the European and the Indian Members of the Executive Council. With these reservations, I have very great pleasure to support the motion."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I wish to say just a few words. So far as Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan is concerned, I want to know if he makes any difference in his regard towards the hon. the Ministers as compared to that he has towards the Executive Council Members."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"I have certainly greater regard for the hon. the Ministers as they are representatives of the people."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"In spite of the fact that the hon. the Ministers are getting less pay than that of the Executive Council Members, I am glad that he has no less regard for the hon. the Ministers. His place in the Sub-Treasury bench is creating this impression in his mind. I want to ask the Indian Members of the Executive Council to reduce their pay and thus give a lesson, as it were, to the European Members. I do not want to say that the pay of the present European Executive Council Members should necessarily be reduced, for it might be difficult for them because they have come there with the hope that they would get this pay. As regards future entrants, they may be paid lower pay. Anyhow, as it has been said from all sides of the House, the fact that any Member of the Government is an Indian or an European or is getting lower pay, will not in the least affect our regard for him. If they make a self-sacrifice and receive lower pay as the hon. the Ministers, our regard for them will be much more than it would otherwise be."

"The hon. the Finance Member referred to other places. I do not want to go to other countries than England. The burden that is carried by every Member of the Cabinet there, must be much heavier than the burden carried by the Members of the Cabinet here, and, generally speaking, every Member of the British Cabinet receives £5,000. My hon. Friend, Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan, said that there were a large number of subordinate officers who were getting high salaries. In England, the Postmaster-General and other departmental heads are receiving far higher salaries . . ."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I correct my hon. Friend? The Postmaster-General is not a departmental head."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"The head of the Postal Department, I do not know what he is called, gets much higher pay than the Cabinet Ministers. He gets I believe £3,000. There is no doubt whatever. Several Judges get higher pay than the Cabinet Ministers. Whatever that may be, we can clearly see that responsibility does not depend upon salary. Our regard also does not depend on salary. The hon. the Ministers have reduced their pay by Rs. 1,000. We hope that the hon. the Members of the Executive Council also or at least some of them will receive reduced pay. I hope that the matter will be seriously considered and we will have a decision soon."

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Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Great injustice was done by my hon. Friend, the Member for Malabar, in not bringing to the notice of this House the self-sacrifice of the Raja of Kollengode, of his own district. I draw his attention to paragraph 78 of the Finance Budget Memorandum, and there it is stated that the decrease in the revised estimate for 1924-1925 is due to the fact that the Raja of Kollengode was getting only Rs. 2,667 per mensem for the period he was a temporary Member of the Executive Council."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Was it a voluntary sacrifice, Sir?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I must point out the rules did not permit of his drawing higher salary."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"It shows that he was quite happy and dignified with half salary."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"It was said that he could not draw more on account of the rules to show that it is not the nobility of the gentleman that was responsible for the reduction but the Finance rules."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"The Government of India Act."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"I give up that contention. But I want to show that even with the salary of Rs. 2,667 the Raja of Kollengode was maintaining the dignity of his office on the Treasury Bench. Was not the Raja of Kollengode maintaining the dignity of the post of the Executive Councillor when he was getting a lower salary? If the House is satisfied that he did maintain the dignity of office, nothing can be said either by the hon. the Law Member or the hon. the Home Member to reduce their salary."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Did he maintain the dignity on his salary alone? We know that he has other resources."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"The Executive Councillors also have other sources."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"I do not think that any of the Executive Councillors of the Government of Madras did not have the necessary funds behind them when they came to this office. I do not believe, having that example before us (of the Raja of Kollengode), that Executive Councillors cannot maintain the dignity which is necessary, with a smaller sum."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I would not have intervened in this debate but for the remarks of the hon. Member Mr. Krishnan Nayar. After he has spoken, I have to explain my vote I have to give in this matter. I am in favour of the motion, not for the reasons he has given. He said there was no reason why there should be any difference between the pay of the hon. the Ministers and that of the Executive Council Members. There I disagree. So far as the European Executive Council Members are concerned they come up from lower appointments. So far as the Executive Council Member's post is concerned, it is a prize appointment to which they are looking forward at the end of their career. But so far as the hon. the Ministers are concerned it is not the case at all. The Members

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of the Ministry are politicians who come in there as representatives of the people. I do not think that there is any sort of comparison between the Member of the Executive Council who comes to occupy that place as the prize of his service which he seeks for the purpose of bettering his prospects and for gaining money and the position held by the hon. the Minister as a representative of the people and for doing good to the people.

"Again, Sir, in the case of the hon. the Executive Council Members, their pay is fixed by other people, viz., the Secretary of State for India. But the pay of the hon. the Ministers, Sir, is fixed by this House. The House always fixes the pay after looking into all matters concerning the appointment. One of the considerations, no doubt, is the poverty or the richness of the country.

"There are also other considerations. I for one would add that the pay of the hon. the Minister should not be very high. When we fix the pay at a very large figure, there is always the danger that people resort to get into that post by means not quite honourable. From that standpoint also, I would fix the pay of our politicians at a low figure. The pay of the hon. the Ministers is within the purview of this Council and we can always fix them as we like. So far as the hon. the Executive Council Members are concerned their pay is fixed elsewhere and the next office to that of the Executive Councillorship carries with it a salary of Rs. 3,750. As I said, the Executive Councillorship is a prize appointment. We have nothing to do in the matter of fixing the pay of the Executive Council Members. Whereas in the case of the Ministers we fix their pay or they fix it for themselves. That seems to be the position that we will have to take into consideration.

"As between the Executive Councillors themselves there is no reason why the Indian Members who are generally gentlemen of position in this country should not take a lower pay if they like. There is no reason whatever for that. They do not come in as representatives of the people. If they do come in as representatives of the people, we have a right to expect them to take a lower pay. But they do not come in as representatives of the people. They do not hold their position in their capacity as representatives of the people. That being so, I do not think that it would be fair for us to make any difference between their pay and the pay of the European Members.

"That seems to be the position. The reason why I am prepared
3 p.m. to support the motion is that the pay of the officers ought to be fixed with reference to the financial condition of the Province. India, as has very often been said, is a very poor country and we cannot afford to keep the officers with the pay which is attached to their posts at the present moment. I would suggest that the pay of the Executive Councillors should also be brought down as also the pay of other officers serving under them and that the maximum of Rs. 3,000 should be arrived at as early as possible. It is in that view that I give my whole-hearted support to this motion and not in the view presented by the hon. Member from Malabar.

"The motion that the allotment of Rs. 50,000 for travelling allowances be reduced by Re. 1 was put to vote and carried.

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Motion No. 72.

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The motion which stands in my name runs as follows :—

'that the allotment of Rs. 6,300 for Staff Selection Board be omitted.'

"Ever since the Staff Selection Board was started, the necessity for its existence as an institution has been discussed more than once on the floor of this House; and so far as I have been able to gather the opinions of hon. Members of this Council, they think that it serves no useful purpose whatever. On the other hand, it raises all sorts of confusion as to the Government Order relating to communal appointments. To my mind, it serves no useful purpose. The selection which it makes now on an examination or inspection of the applicants for appointments in the City of Madras is unsatisfactory to all parties. The sooner it is done away with, the better. For these reasons I move the motion standing against my name."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"I beg to support the motion. So far as the principle of selecting candidates for appointments by a commission or a committee is concerned, I am certainly in favour of such a system. But the question is whether the present body of the Staff Selection Board is one which will satisfy the public either in its constitution or the working of it. So far as the constitution is concerned, it is not one which can command the confidence of the public. Then as to how far the Staff Selection Board has performed its function with regard to the selection of candidates by observing the communal Government orders, it is a thing which is very well known to the public, and I may say in one word that it has neither satisfied the Government nor the people. It is necessary that its personnel should be so constituted that there is a majority of non-official element in it and that it properly represents the interests of all communities. There is another thing. So far as its jurisdiction is concerned, it is said that it is confined only to Madras City and it has no concern with regard to the district staff. There has been no proposal as to what should be done so far as the district staff is concerned. Things have been going on merrily in the districts and there is absolutely no use saying that in accordance with the Government orders that have been issued, proper representation will be given to all communities with regard to appointments in the public service. Another point to which I should like to refer is the stipend of Rs. 20 which is given to a candidate after his probation. I really do not see the necessity for spending the public funds in paying persons whose services will not be required immediately but whose names will be kept on in the list till vacancies arise.

"I submit that the present scheme, unless they find an alternative one is objectionable from the point of view of public finance, and I am sure this Council which was very eager for retrenchment of public expenditure will agree with me in thinking that this Staff Selection Board is absolutely of no use to the public and will unanimously vote for this motion. For these reasons, I strongly support the motion which has been moved by my hon. Friend from Malabar."

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—"So far as the present Staff Selection Board is concerned, neither the personnel nor the working of it has been satisfactory either to this House or to the people outside. It consists of five gentlemen of whom three are officials, and one a Christian gentleman, and

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another a Muhammadan. I submit that some non-Brahman Hindus should have been appointed to the Committee. I submit that the non-Brahmans who form the major portion of the people of this Presidency have a right to be represented in this body."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Why?"

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—"I can very well understand the hon. the Home Member opposing my statement and saying that persons belonging to his race should be in a majority in this Committee. But I cannot understand the hon. Member for the University opposing my motion. The country of the Hottentots must be governed by the Hottentots and if Southern India is populated by non-Brahmans who are in a majority, Southern India must be governed by non-Brahmans. I certainly have no objection to the hon. Member for the University having the whole country populated by any particular community, and, if that forms a huge majority, I would not object to persons of that majority community taking their places on the Committee. I submit that under present circumstances we non-Brahmans must have a large majority in the Committee so that our control may be effective.

"Then looking to the working of the Board we have never heard of this Selection Board except by a reference in the Council, and I wish that if the Staff Selection Board were to prove useful to the public, it should work more actively and prominently so that it may command the confidence of the public. With these few words, I beg to support the motion."

Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—"I have nothing more to add than what my previous speakers have said in this matter. I formally support the motion."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"I regret I have to oppose the motion for reasons which I shall presently state ('Hear, hear'). The word 'hear, hear' seems to cheer me up. The House may remember that this time last year when a similar motion was brought forward weighty arguments were advanced for the abolition of this institution, but they fell flat with the result that the proposition was ultimately voted down. Hardly a year has elapsed and the same argument is advanced this year also. What is the argument advanced in support of the position taken up by the previous speakers? I was under the impression that the Ministerialists or a greater section of the Ministerialists had really lost all trust and faith in the Brahmans or, in other words, they only mistrusted the Brahmans. I am led by these speeches that the Ministerialists have no trust either in the Europeans or Muhammadans or Indian Christians. In making the composition or the constitution of the Staff Selection Board, the leading complaint seems to be that it contains one Muhammadan, one Indian Christian and three Europeans and not a single non-Brahman." (A voice: 'Muhammadans have no eyes.')

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—"If the hon. Member refers to my speech, I may say that it is not a question of trust or mistrust."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"If the Mussalman has no eyes, it is his fault."

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—"That only shows what is at the back of their minds. We have absolutely no quarrel with anybody. We want all communities to be represented in it."

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Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Brahmans are sought to be bracketed. There is no Brahman by extraction, but from the statement made by my hon. Friend, though they are not Brahmans by birth, at least in spirit they are Brahmans. However seductive and however fascinating such an argument may be, I venture to think that judged in the light of facts a moment's examination will show how those arguments have no foundation. But let me pass on. One or two arguments were urged by the previous speakers. They complained against the composition, against the working of that body and against the manner in which these communal Government orders have either been set at naught or cast to the winds. I have got the G.O. No. 76, dated 6th February 1924, and it begins as follows :—

"The Government have recently had under consideration the system by which appointments to the public services are at present made in this Presidency. The experience of other countries has shown that the best all-round system of making initial appointments is by competitive examination and the Government recognize that if the necessary standard of efficiency is to be maintained in the services and if the services themselves are to be rendered independent of political influences, it will become increasingly desirable to depend upon this system rather than upon patronage and nomination."

"Then another paragraph of that G.O. sets out the functions of the Board. One hon. Member said 'what is the use of selection of a large number of men and keep them on the waiting list paying them Rs. 20 each?' The answer is furnished in the Government Order itself.

"That says:

"In order to afford opportunities for employment to some of those who are declared to have passed, but who cannot be immediately provided with appointments, the Government are prepared to maintain a waiting list which will contain not more than twenty names at a time and to pay those on the list a monthly stipend of Rs. 20 until they can be absorbed in arising vacancies. In the interval before appointment, these men should receive a practical training in the principles of office procedure, typewriting, shorthand, precis-writing and accounts."

"Therefore, it is not true to say that these people are assigned no work and are simply idling away their time. This small amount of Rs. 20 is paid to them as long as they are kept on the waiting list and until a suitable opportunity arises for drafting them into permanent service. A certain amount of work is also assigned to them in the interval. The other paragraphs of the Government Order quoted from also throw upon the Staff Selection Board certain duties and obligations. Beyond a bare statement on the part of some hon. Members that they were not satisfied with the internal working of the Staff Selection Board, no tangible proof in support of the statement has been laid before us, and in the absence of such a proof, I am not prepared to accept the *ipsi dixit* of the statement made by some of my previous speakers. It seems to me, Sir, that their feeling appears to be, judged by the tenor of the debate, based on the fact that there is no non-Brahman Hindu on the Board and, whatever might have been the reason, that a large number of members of a particular community have not had sufficient encouragement. I think one hon. Member said that having regard to the strength of numbers of the community they had a right to be on the Board so that they might have a controlling hand. I fail, for my life, to understand what relationship there is between the two. If you are there in large numbers, you have other avocations in life; you have got enough wealth, enough lands, enough trades and industries not only to encourage you to follow but also to entitle you to keep your body and soul together. To make the one subservient to the other and ask us to believe that because

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of the physical strength of the members of a particular community, a community must be allowed to have a controlling, dominant, decisive voice to the extent of controlling the services in the matter of recruitment, appointment and promotion is a thing to which I am unable to subscribe myself, although I cannot disguise the fact that so far as the non-Brahman community is concerned in certain respects, they have a certain amount of grievance and my sympathy with them I have expressed in connexion with another resolution. So far as this motion is concerned, I feel constrained to oppose it."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, I beg to oppose this motion also. I wonder what exactly is the point my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, is driving at, whether he is opposing the system and principle underlying this Board or whether his objection is only to its composition. As to the system itself, it is a very reasonable one which prevails in every Parliamentary constitution with a party system. The appointments in such countries should be above all doubt and above party politics. I heard one Muhammadan hon. Member complaining that the Muhammadans had no eyes to see. I am sure that he has eyes to see merit, fitness and educational qualifications. I believe there are some hon. Members who wanted that selection should be made on mere communal grounds without any regard to fitness and educational qualifications. (Cries of 'No, no'). Very well, Sir. I do not see any reason of laying the charge that the Muhammadans have no eyes to see. As for the Indian Christian gentleman, I found out that he was an adherent of the Members of the Legislative Council on the other side who are non-Brahmans and belong to the Justice Party, and I wonder why this Indian Christian should be considered disqualified to be on the Board. There are other gentlemen, who are officials, on the Board. If the composition is not satisfactory in any way, we may add to the number. With all regard and respect to the arguments advanced from the other side, I think we shall have to wait patiently bearing in mind that the Government are soon going to develop this system by having a Public Services Commission in this Presidency for lower services and for higher ones, another at the headquarters of the Indian Government. I therefore think that the system of a Staff Selection Board is entitled to our support, and if there be any defect in the composition, I would appeal to hon. Members to patiently wait and not to hurry on by passing a vote in favour of the omission of the allotment for the Staff Selection Board."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am very glad to oppose this motion. In doing so, I must say that it gives me much pleasure to see after all the cat is out of the bag. Hitherto I was under the impression that the connotation of the term 'non-Brahman' according to the Justice Party meant to include anybody who was not a Brahman. But now we are told that a non-Brahman excludes all Muhammadans, Indian Christians and that the term connotes solely a non-Brahman Hindu. (Cries of 'Nobody said that'.)

"Sir, the Staff Selection Board has been objected to on two grounds. Firstly, the system is objected to. Some hon. Members said that to a certain extent they agreed with the principle that it would be much better to have an impartial body to select candidates for public services than leaving it to the patronage of the Members of Government. Whatever defect the Board

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may have in itself, I have no doubt, seeing the manner in which patronage has been used by the Ministry, that the Staff Selection Board should be retained, and I have no hesitation in giving my vote in its favour. I would rather have the patronage to be exercised by the Staff Selection Board, whatever its composition may be, than leave it to the Minister to exercise it. That is my first objection, Sir.

"Secondly, with regard to the composition of the Board itself, it has been objected to by hon. Members that because this House consists of a majority of non-Brahman Hindus they have a right to control the appointments, and that they should now be controlled by Muhammadans, Christians, Europeans and Brahmans is a vicious and objectionable principle.

"Sir, we are trying to see in this Council and outside that a sort of *esprit de corps* is created between the various communities including the Brahman, and that being the case, that an attempt should be made in this Council to exclude from the category of non-Brahmans, Muhammadans, Indian Christians and others is indeed deplorable. Hitherto I was under the impression that the expressions of sympathy on the part of the non-Brahman extended to the Muhammadan and the Indian Christian. I now find that there is an attempt on the part of the Justice Party to create a distinct cleavage between the non-Brahman Hindus and the Muhammadans and Indian Christians. So long as it served their purpose to include Christians and the Muhammadans within the category of non-Brahmans so as to get all patronage and power, well, they were included. But once it ceased to benefit them, the distinction between the non-Brahman Hindus and the other communities is sought to be introduced. That is what it really comes to, Sir. That is in fact the objection raised to the composition of the Board, so far as the non-Brahmans are concerned, leave along the Brahmans who have already been excluded from the category. Why should they, then, insist on non-Brahman Hindus being on the Board? The matter is quite clear that they object to the Board not on account of the principle underlying the creation but because there is no non-Brahman Hindu on it. There have been many instances in which this Ministry, if it served their purpose, have used the term 'non-Brahman' in a wider sense and have said: 'We are all non-Brahmans and we shall all be together.' But when it comes to a difference between the Christians and the Muhammadans on the one side, and the non-Brahman Hindus on the other, they say: 'we are in the majority; we must control the administration and you shall stand beside'. Sir, when the Ministry finds a non-Brahman Hindu who can serve the purpose of the Ministry, who will say ditto to their words and policy, they will then say 'we shall encourage the non-Brahman Hindus;' but when they find a non-Brahman Hindu who does not see eye to eye with them, they say 'you are not to be trusted, you do not belong to us; we only support the Justice non-Brahmans'. Sir, this attitude has been clearly displayed by the various hon. Members who spoke on behalf of the Justice Party. And I hope the Muhammadan and Christian hon. Members of this House will realise the position which their blind adherence to the Justice Party meant to them. I fully believe the motion will be opposed by all sections of the House."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, there is one reason more than any other, why this motion should be supported. Hon.

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Members on that side of the House have been repeatedly found eloquent whenever they had to condemn the system of officialized bodies, the system of having official organizations controlling the purposes of the nation. No more eloquent speeches have been heard in this House than from that side of the House whenever any question of de-officializing the agencies that are employed for the purpose of administration of this Presidency arose here. And yet to-day I am in the painful position—I do not say, I am surprised (for I am seldom surprised at anything that I hear from the hon. Members of the Opposition side)—of finding that a stalwart as my hon. Friend from South Kanara and such other stalwarts as the hon. Member from North Arcot have blessed the system of this Board. What is the constitution of of this Board? Are you going to give your consent to a body which is three-fifths official and two-fifths non-official? I shall go into the question of personalities later on, Sir, and even of communities. I am not going to burke the issue. But here is a simple proposition. I do not say anything about the policy of appointing a Public Services Commission at this stage, but the present Staff Selection Board is composed of three official gentlemen, three bureaucrats as you yourself have said, and two non-officials, both of them retired officials themselves. Is that the glorious body of Pancha Pandavas whom you are going to have, you, Members of the Opposition who have been so eloquent about the officialized bodies? Have you got so much confidence in such a body?"

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order in addressing us, Sir, as 'you'?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I am not quite sure that the hon. Member was not addressing an impersonal 'you'."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"On a point of personal explanation, I may say, Sir, that I pointed out that the Staff Selection Board is not one capable and of no improvement. There might be one or two members added to it. I only wanted that we should be a little patient, and on that ground we should not do away with the whole grant."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Now, Sir, are you going to contend that this officialized and over-officialized body, a body consisting of three permanent servants of the Crown and two non-officials who are non-officials but in name and who but yesterday were officials in spirit and in body, are you going to contend, are you going to suggest that this is the Staff Selection Board which is to function in such matters? If there were a purely non-official body, if you were to leave to that body the question of selecting individuals on weighing the pros and cons, politically as well as otherwise, of trying to understand the merits of individuals, something at least might be said in its favour. But here is a body which we cannot by any stretch of the imagination—be that a really non-political body—say that it is uninfluenced by political considerations; I am yet to know of an official or a non-official of any standing in this country who is not actuated by political considerations. It is an old fiction to say that an official has no politics. Unfortunately we are aware that several of them have. But apart from that, are you going to leave this function to a body which is so completely dominated by officials and in which only two non-officials are represented? The non-officials are not even in a majority there. They are hopelessly in a minority. That is a

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body which this evening has been blessed with approval by the hon. Members on the other side. They say that some of us have to-day come out in our true colours, that the cat is out of the bag—I hope it is not a cat from Cuddapah (laughter)—and that we have been found wanting (Voices:—"Rat from Chingleput"). Sir, Chingleput can be much too shrewd (laughter). They say, Sir, that we have been found wanting, that to-day we have come out in our true colours, and that we have no consideration for the Christians or the Muhammadans. Sir, we are willing to be judged by our actions. I am willing to be judged, my party is willing to be judged, and it should be judged, by our actions and policy. My hon. Friend, Mr. Marthandam Pillai, said that there were no non-Brahmans on that Board. I did not understand him to say, and he never suggested even, that there ought not to be a Muhammadan or a Christian, or that we had no faith or confidence in any of them. He merely gave expression to a feeling that it was just possible that one of the officials may give place to a non-Brahman. Was it wrong on his part? (A voice:—"There is no Brahman.") My hon. Friend says there is no Brahman. I agree, but then the approval that he has given to this body makes me suspect that he was not absolutely so far sure that he does not, will not or cannot find an advocate of his point of view in that body. Now, Sir, if you are true to the principles for which you stand and which you so constantly advocate on the floor of this House, if you want to de-officialize institutions, to have control over these matters, if you want non-officials to exercise their influence, you certainly—I am addressing every single Member of this House—will not give your approval to a body whose constitution is so radically, so hopelessly wrong as the constitution of the present Staff Selection Board. Do not make it a farce. That is all that we say. If you do think of a Public Services Commission, if you think of having a body like that, I shall not quarrel with you. But have a body which will command the complete confidence of every section of the House. Let us not have this body which does not command the confidence of any party. Over and over again, the statement has been made that this body somehow or other deprives the power of this or that Member of the Government. It is by no means a secret that this body has come into existence merely to bring forward suggestions as regards appointments to posts which are all non-gazetted. No Member of the Treasury Bench has got a right of patronage over non-gazetted posts. That is one of the axioms of Government service at present. Therefore the Staff Selection Board deals with appointments over which no Minister or Member of the Government has got the right of patronage. The purposes for which the Staff Selection Board has been constituted have been mentioned in the Government Order issued on the subject. Instructions have so far been issued that Government Members or Government in a body do not have and have not had in the past anything to do with non-gazetted appointments. The hon. the Law Member, I was surprised to see the other day, asked the Staff Selection Board to go into the question of the appointment of Deputy Superintendents. Personally, Sir, I feel that that was not a very happy suggestion. I have a feeling that the hon. the Law Member has not done himself justice by going to this Staff Selection Board in any case for helping him in the case of appointments to the posts of Deputy Superintendents. If the Staff Selection Board is to function properly, it has to be radically altered in its constitution and therefore it is that we by this vote seek to convey the sense of some of us here that the Staff Selection

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Board as at present constituted can very well be ended. My hon. Friend from South Kanara counselled patience. It does not come from him with very good grace to ask us to be patient. He is one of those least benefited by it, that is, by being patient. I am willing to be patient, and I am trying to be patient especially with my hon. Friend (Laughter). It seems to me that when the hon. Member himself admits that this body is incapable of being mended, there is only one course.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"That is capable of being mended."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"There is only one course open for him and others, namely, to end the Staff Selection Board."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Mr. President, Sir, we know that Mr. Marthandam Pillai has tabled resolution No. 378. His intention was to discuss or to express dissatisfaction regarding the constitution of the Staff Selection Board. He has omitted to move it and my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, moved for the omission of the whole allotment for the Staff Selection Board. What does it mean? If I understand their intention clearly, it is to omit the allotment, or it means that they want to do away with the Staff Selection Board but not to suggest any reform in the constitution of the Board. No doubt the hon. Member from Chingleput did speak about the merits of the constitution of the Board. But now, the issue before the House is not the constitution of the Staff Selection Board, but the existence of that Board. When that is the case, we, as a party, last year did support the existence of the Staff Selection Board, and when this definite issue is again raised, I believe the hon. Member from Chingleput is not justified in criticizing the constitution of the Staff Selection Board. I think, as the motion stands, he has to go on the merits or the demerits of the Staff Selection Board. We believe that as far as appointments are concerned, of whatever nature they may be, it is necessary that they must be removed from the political influences of the country, and it is desirable that the political inclinations of parties or people shall not have anything to do with the permanent services of the country. And therefore when we vote even to-day we are voting on its retention but not on its constitution or how it is to be improved. With these words, I do oppose the motion as it stands."

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—"Sir, by way of personal explanation, I must protest against the manner in which some of my hon. Friends of the Opposition have converted my speech. I did not say that the Muhammadans have no place or that the Christians have no place. They have every place and every right to be there. My only contention was that the large body of the non-Brahman communities have not got representation on that Board. That was my motion and I spoke on the basis of that motion. Sir, we are condemned that we are for communal representation, that our party used the Muhammadans and the Christians for their own purposes, and when the time came, these latter were left alone. I must very strongly protest against the insinuation and characterise it as an attempt to tamper with the loyalty of the communities" ('Hear, hear').

Mr. P. L. MOORE :—"On a point of order, Sir, is the hon. Member entitled to make another speech when he thinks that he has not made any impression he desired by his first speech?"

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* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—"I never wanted to make any impression whatever (laughter and cries of 'hear, hear'). What I wanted to say and I do say is that the Justice Party stands for all communities . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I forgot that the hon. Member was not speaking on his motion. He is speaking on a motion made by another hon. Member. If he wants to make a personal explanation, I would ask him to be exceedingly brief, for he has already exceeded the limit of personal explanation."

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—"I only said, Sir, that we wanted to be fair to the Muhammadans and Christians. But we do not want to be unfair to ourselves . . ."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"May I know whether the hon. Gentleman did not say that the non-Brahman communities must have the control? What does it mean?"

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—"That is my idea, Sir. I mean what I just now said."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, really I feel that, after having heard the hon. Members representing Chittoor and Tinnevely, the principle upon which the Staff Selection Board was constituted was sound, and that they have given up their case entirely. (Hear, hear.) To that extent, I also realize that they are converted to the views of the Opposition. For, it will be within the recollection of the House that when a grant was asked for in regard to the constitution of the Staff Selection Board last year, the hon. Members sitting on the other side of the House objected to the grant going in. It was through the aid of the Opposition that it was possible for the Government to allocate money for the Staff Selection Board. (Hear, hear.) I now see that the hon. Members sitting on the other side have realized that we are now right and that they are wrong. To that extent I say that it is a surprise to me that even my friend Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar should have been converted. Sir, the criticism about the Staff Selection Board is about its composition and about the lack of non-Brahman representation on it. Whether the Staff Selection Board is properly constituted, or whether it represents all the interests which are required to be represented on it, I think, should be judged by the results that that Board has achieved during the one year it has been in existence. I have listened in vain to the speeches of several hon. Members on the other side to hear them prove by facts and figures how far the interests of the several communities composing this country have been disregarded. I have not heard anything to that effect.

"But one argument which my hon. Friend, Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, advanced was that the Staff Selection Board is composed of 3-15 p.m. three-fifths by officials and two-fifths by non-officials, and at least for that reason he had accepted a position quite opposed to the Staff Selection Board. I quite agree, Sir, with the position he has taken of being always opposed to officialised bodies, and he sticks to that view even now. But the only difficulty, in case the present Members are removed, will be that he will be getting all the members of the Justice Party on the Board, who are worse than the officials. (Hear, hear.) We want to avoid that calamity. It is only with that in view that we will prefer officials sitting

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there, so that the interests of the minority communities may be adequately safeguarded. I have refrained so far from speaking anything about my community in this Legislative Council. Sir, I do not propose doing it also. (Hear, hear.) But one thing must be said. I am neither a Brahman nor a non-Brahman in the sense it is understood in this country. I am not a Brahman as I do not belong to that community. I am not a non-Brahman because I am as far removed from a non-Brahman as I am removed from a Brahman. Well, Sir, I ask who is there in the Staff Selection Board to represent my community. Supposing that one non-Brahman Hindu or two non-Brahman Hindus are allowed to sit on the Staff Selection Board it may be some Mudaliyar, Pillai or Nayudu who amongst themselves are far removed from each other. May I ask if the Government propose to make the Staff Selection Board as large as to represent all communities, as this Council is? (Hear, hear.) If that is the intention, I will certainly accord my assent to the opposition for the Staff Selection Board. Then the appointments will naturally have to be done by the Legislative Council which consists of several communities and castes. Is that a possible thing? I think that the Government have done a wise thing in restricting the numbers to a very few people and seeing that justice is meted out to all communities. I hope, Sir, that the members of the Staff Selection Board will realize that there are several communities which are not in one with what is generally and erroneously called the non-Brahman community, whose interests have to be safeguarded by them. I therefore oppose this motion."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Sir, I am amazed to find from his speech this afternoon that the chief objection of the hon. Member from Chingleput to the Staff Selection Board is that there are officials on it and that in its constitution the Government has not followed the policy which he regards as having been accepted by the House of de-officialising all public bodies. The Staff Selection Board, as he states, consists of three officials and two non-officials. I have never heard it suggested before that the duty of selecting persons as competent for Government service should be entrusted to non-officials. I should regard any such proposal as entirely perverted and I know of no body constituted for the purpose anywhere which does not consist entirely of officials. In any case I put it to the Council that the person who can best judge whether a man is fit for Government service or not is one who knows something about what Government service is. I think that all the objections to the Staff Selection Board which have been raised by various hon. Members are due to a failure to understand what it is and what it is for. We want in the first place to eliminate personal patronage as much as possible and in the second place to give equal opportunities to all kinds of people. It was never intended that members of the Staff Selection Board should be appointed for the purpose of pushing the interests of this or that community. Their instructions are to select as far as possible from all communities and also as far as possible to include in their selection members of different communities more or less in proportion to the strength of those communities. Of course it is not possible for the Staff Selection Board always to follow this latter direction to the letter. The number of persons qualified in some communities is very much smaller than in others. I notice that in the first list of selections which they have published there is only one member of the depressed classes. I take it that the reason for that was that there were not many applications from such persons before them and that they could not find any more members of the depressed classes who were

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educationally qualified to fill posts in Government service. I have no doubt that if they could have found more they would have included them. The main purpose of the Staff Selection Board is to ensure that no one who is not fit for Government service is appointed. The Board has not taken the place of the appointing authorities. Selections are made by the Board, but the appointments are made by the heads of departments and other authorities who have always had the power of making appointments. These authorities previously both selected and appointed candidates, but now they are authorised only to make appointments from the list of persons who have been approved by the Board; and I cannot understand how any one can think that this is not an improvement on the previous system under which patronage was entirely in the hands of individuals. The hon. the Mover of this motion said that the Board serves no useful purpose and that on the contrary it raised all sorts of contentions as to whether G.O. No. 658 has been observed. I contend, Sir, that the Board does serve a useful purpose. It is not fully developed yet in that it consists partly of persons who have other duties to perform which occupy a great deal of their time, and consequently it has for the most part been able to function in the city of Madras alone. There is no reason why it should raise any contentions about the observance of G.O. No. 658. The Board makes its selections more or less in accordance with the principles of that Government Order, but it is finally for the appointing authority to observe the order. He went on to say that the selections were unsatisfactory to all parties. Well, Sir, persons are not selected for Government service in order to please any party and I think it would be quite wrong if they were selected for that purpose. As to whether the selections are actually unsatisfactory to all parties I have no information and the hon. Member has not given us any information as to what particular selection is unsatisfactory to a particular party. Another hon. Member says that neither the constitution nor the working of the Board is satisfactory and that the constitution cannot command the confidence of all communities because there is no non-Brahman Hindu on the Board. The hon. Member thinks that the majority of the Board should consist of non-Brahman Hindus. The only purpose for which a Board consisting of non-Brahman Hindus could be constituted would be for the purpose of seeing that no one except non-Brahman Hindus is appointed to Government service. The Government on the other hand adhere to the principles laid down in G.O. No. 658 that all communities should be properly represented and that steps should be taken to see that they are represented. I entirely repudiate any idea that only such persons should be appointed as are approved by one or another party. The same hon. Member asked what justification there was for paying Rs. 20 a month to selected applicants and urged that it was a waste of money. Personally I think that the idea is a good one, that if applicants are selected by the Staff Selection Board they should be put on a waiting list and that they should get training in the kind of work they are likely to be wanted to do before they are actually appointed to an office. Unfortunately when the scheme was sanctioned there was no money for this purpose and that part of the scheme has not yet been brought into effect, so that no money is being wasted. There is no provision in the budget for the coming year either, not so much because there is no money but because if a training school is to be opened, where the selected candidates can be taught the kind of work for which they are selected, somebody must be put in charge of it, and we have not yet got any one to

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take charge. Another hon. Member said that while the principles of the Staff Selection Board might be accepted in same quarters he opposed its retention on account both of its constitution and of its working. Later on he said that there were no signs of its working at all and under the circumstances it is difficult to say what his objections to the working are, and I must presume that his objection really is to the constitution. One of his own arguments was that inasmuch as non-Brahmans form a majority in the country they have a right to control the selection of candidates. This, as I have said before, is a proposition which the Government must entirely repudiate, and if the hon. Member wishes to see signs of the working of the Board I would recommend him to look at page 101 of the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 3rd of March.

"The object of the Staff Selection Board was, with due regard to the desirability that all communities should be represented in Government service, to select only persons who are fit for appointment. It was most necessary therefore that the Board should be constituted in such a manner that no one connected with it could be accused of any party bias. I do not think that anybody could accuse the present members of the Staff Selection Board of any party bias one way or the other. What I regard as the weak point of the Board really is that it is not a full-time body and what we really want is a Public Service Commission with no other duties than those which are ordinarily performed by a Public Service Commission. In order to enable us to develop such a body it is necessary that there should be legislation. We hope that legislation will be undertaken soon and that before long we shall have a Public Service Commission in this Presidency. When that comes about it will not only function in the place of the present Staff Selection Board, but it will also have a good many other functions and operate throughout the whole Presidency."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I would remind hon. Members that the debate has to come to a close now and I hope the hon. the Finance Member will finish his speech soon."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Sir, I will content myself with saying that I hope the House will reject the motion."

The motion was then put to the House and declared lost.

A poll was then taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

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| 1. Mr. H. B. Ari Gowder. | 19. Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi. |
| 2. " P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nadar. | 20. " B. Oholappa. |
| 3. " A. V. Bbanoji Rao. | 21. Rao Bahadur P. Raman. |
| 4. " N. Devendradu. | 22. Mr. P. Sagaram. |
| 5. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar. | 23. " K. Saraba Reddi. |
| 6. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar. | 24. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. |
| 7. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 25. Mr. R. Srinivasan. |
| 8. Mr. J. Kuppaswami. | 26. " Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai. |
| 9. " T. Mallesappa. | 27. " M. Ratnaswami. |
| 10. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 28. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 11. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 29. Mr. R. Veerian. |
| 12. " P. N. Marthandam Pillai. | 30. " K. Venkatachala Padayachi. |
| 13. " P. C. Muttu Chettiyar. | 31. Diwan Bahadur W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 14. Honorary Lieutenant Madurai. | 32. Mr. Abbas Ali Khan. |
| 15. Mr. C. Ponnuswami Nayudu. | 33. " Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib. |
| 16. " K. Prabhakaran Tampan. | 34. Janab Muhammad Qadir Muhi-ud-din Sahib. |
| 17. Rao Bahadur K. Krishnaswami Nayudu. | 35. Muzshi Abdul Wahab Sahib. |
| 18. Mr. P. T. Rajan. | |

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Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 18. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 2. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 19. " S. Satyamurti. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 20. " P. Adinarayana Chettiyar. |
| 4. " Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 21. " P. Anjaneyulu. |
| 5. " Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 22. Sriman Biswanath Mahasaya. |
| 6. " Mr. R. A. Graham. | 23. Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar. |
| 7. " Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks. | 24. " K. Koti Reddi. |
| 8. Mr. R. W. Davies. | 25. " C. Maruthavanam Pillai. |
| 9. " E. W. Legh. | 26. " P. Peddiraju. |
| 10. " P. L. Moore. | 27. Rao Sahib C. Rama Rao. |
| 11. Dr. John Mathai. | 28. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasaya. |
| 12. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 29. Mr. M. Seetayya. |
| 13. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 30. " M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. |
| 14. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 31. " J. A. Saldanha. |
| 15. Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. | 32. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 16. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 33. " V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. |
| 17. Mr. P. Siva Rao. | 34. " Sumi Venkatachalam Chetti. |
| | 35. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |

* Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"May I point out that neutral votes have not been recorded? Am I to take it that there are no neutral members?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It is not invariably the rule to call upon hon. Members who have remained neutral to stand up. But if anybody expresses a wish that their names should also be recorded, that is done. But I noticed that to-day at the time the division was completed nobody expressed such a desire and therefore they were not taken down. Such a desire should always be expressed immediately after a division is completed and if that is done I shall always be glad to call on the neutrals to stand up."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I am not very particular about it. I simply wanted to call attention to the fact that the Council Secretaries, all three of them, are absent from their seats. If that fact is noted I shall be content, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Thirty-five hon. Members have voted for the motion and 35 have voted against it. I have now to give my casting vote and in doing so I have to vote in such a manner that the question may if possible come up before the House again for discussion in a more definite form. I therefore give my vote in favour of the retention of the Staff Selection Board, that is, against the motion. The motion in the result is lost."

Demand X—General Administration—Secretariat for a grant not exceeding Rs. 13.87 lakhs less Rs. 2 reduced by the House was then put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XI—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—MINISTERS AND CIVIL SECRETARIATS—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 3.64 lakhs under Grant XI—General Administration—Ministers and Civil Secretariats—Transferred."

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Motion No. 73.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I beg to move the motion standing against my name—

'that the allotment of Rs. 18,000 for Council Secretaries be omitted'.

"Sir, these Council Secretaries are not now in their seats, but by the time the motion comes to be voted on I expect they would have come to their seats. But in the meantime, let me place before the House a few reasons. As the matter has been discussed at length on two occasions on the very floor of this House and since there has not been any change in the political outlook, I do not want to weary this House by elaborate reasons. I want to say only this, that as this system is worked to-day in Madras it will be seen that the origin and reason of these posts have been completely forgotten. Section 52, clause 4 of the Act, confers upon His Excellency the power of appointing 'from among the non-official members of the local Legislature, Council Secretaries, who shall hold office during his pleasure and discharge such duties in assisting Members of the Executive Council and Ministers as he may assign to them'. Now, Sir, with regard to the duties of this office they are detailed at page 101 of volume II of the Council Manual in which they are stated as follows:

'Council Secretaries will be employed to work up replies to any questions or resolutions that may be handed to them by their Member or Minister and may further be given the responsibility of replying for the department in the Legislative Council when specially instructed to do so and upon lines approved by the Member or Minister.'

"I am now merely asking for information, Sir, as to how many questions were handed over by the respective hon. Ministers to their respective Secretaries to be worked up either at Vellore or Trichinopoly or elsewhere or at Madras. Secondly, how many resolutions were asked to be worked up by them? Also, Sir, I do not remember that I have ever heard the voice of my hon. Friends the Council Secretaries in reply to any questions in the Council, next to the famous sermon on the Mount on the occasion of the No-confidence Motion and subsequently when my hon. Friend Mr. Arpudawami Udayar, now one of the Council Secretaries, expressed his mentality that we cannot have an Indian Private Secretary on the ground that there are more than one community in the country and that therefore he would not vote for an Indian Secretary

"That was his contribution adding to the dignity of the House. I have not heard the voice of the other two members after they became Council Secretaries.

"Then, Sir, similarly in case of Bills, it is said the Council Secretaries will be employed for discussion and to speak on behalf of the departments concerned. I should like to know the Bills in respect of which my hon. Friends raised points of discussion and when they spoke so far as their departments were concerned. It is said they shall have no authority over the Secretaries to Government or permanent staff and of course they have had none. Then, the Council Secretary will act as confidential adviser to the Member or Minister and his position will resemble as closely as possible that of Parliamentary Under Secretary. Time and again, Mr. President, we have been reminded when it suits those in authority that the Council Secretary should approximate to the standard of Parliamentary Under Secretary. I ask the hon. Members whether in common honesty

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they can say that these estimable gentlemen have ever made an attempt, or even tried to make any attempt or have trained themselves to make an attempt to approximate, even in a very remote, distant and feeble degree, to the very eminent and useful work which Parliamentary Under Secretaries are discharging out. It seems to me, Mr. President, that we are playing about it; let us be frank and compel the Ministers to admit that they are employed as hostages for votes. There is one Muhammadan Member, there is one Christian Member and there is one non-Brahman."

Mr. ABDULLA GHATALA SAHIB:—"I protest against my friend's insinuation; we are not hostages for votes. I am not here in that capacity; I stand here for communal representation, and my hon. Friend is aware the other day when Lala Lajpat Rai was here . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I shall give the hon. Member an opportunity of speaking after the hon. Member, Mr. Satyamurti, has spoken."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"All of us are honourable men and the Council Secretaries are all honourable men. But I am simply commenting on the political significance of three hon. Members having been selected from three different communities, and I am entitled to put a construction which I feel is the only construction which can be put upon it by honest-minded, unprejudiced men who want to see through these affairs, and I do maintain that these people have been appointed as hostages for votes. It may be that these gentlemen do not feel so. Probably they are right. My hon. Friend, Mr. Ghatala Sahib, feels he is doing the right thing in sitting there. But I do say he is doing the wrong thing. I am expressing my opinion; I am not attacking any hon. Member's character or motive. I am simply suggesting that this happy accident of three members having been selected for a specific purpose lends colour to the view that they are kept there for the purpose of catching votes. Sir, there is a very significant passage in the Madras Government's letter to the Muddiman Committee referring to the work of these esteemed friends of mine. At page 42. Sir, the Madras Government have written a very detailed, a very careful minute to the Muddiman Committee for their edification. When they come to discuss the work of the Council Secretaries, they are careful to add that it is the opinion of the hon. the Ministers. This is what they say: 'As regards the practical working of the Council Secretaries, the Ministers are of opinion'—there are occasions when silence is more eloquent than speech and this is one of those occasions when the hon. Members on the Reserved half have deliberately refrained from expressing any opinion on the work of the Council Secretaries, because they do not agree with the hon. Ministers; they are far too polite to say so—that since 1921 they have proved of very great assistance in various ways. They have sat on Select Committees'. So have other unfortunate members on other Select Committees. Sit they must, and is it for that they are paid and is it a thing which no one else can perform? (An hon. Member: Sitting on the Committee means doing work.) (Loud Laughter). I thank my hon. Friend for the interpretation which he has put upon the word. Sir, then they say that they have helped materially towards the passage of various measures. Now, I have been in this Council for two years, and I am yet to hear the dulcet sounds of the Secretaries. How did they materially help the Ministers except by votes for or against a bill? (Mr. C. R. Reddi: Is not that material help?)

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(Loud laughter) Then, Sir, 'they have also occasionally spoken on behalf of the Ministers on resolutions and motions on the budget'. I ask my hon. Friends on the other side of the House to point out one occasion when my hon. Friends the Council Secretaries got up and replied on any resolutions or motions on the budget. The word 'occasionally' may cover many sins, but even 'occasionally' must mean some occasions."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I point out that this is the first budget after the appointment of these Council Secretaries and ministerial subjects, such as excise, are yet to come ? "

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" My hon. Friend had so many opportunities of discussion when he was Council Secretary. If the present Council Secretaries were of his mind and equipment, they could have spoken on several motions on the budget. If my hon. Friend wants to justify the appointments, he must either accept one himself or vote for the motion. My hon. Friend seems to think that I am trying to read something which does not apply to these hon. Gentlemen. I will read the previous paragraph: 'The new Council Secretaries were appointed in 1924 after the last election—Mr. Abdulla Ghatala Sahib, Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar and Mr. T. C. Tangavelu Pillai'. That is the governing paragraph. Then, 'owing to the fact that the heads of most of the departments and the Secretaries to Government in those departments are not themselves members and cannot always be in attendance in the Council, the Council Secretaries have proved of the greatest value in keeping Ministers in touch with the opinions of the different sections of the Council'. We have yet to have the honour of a visit to this side of the House from my hon. Friends. Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar has occasionally consulted us; Mr. Marthandam Pillai has occasionally exchanged his views with us; but I am yet to see any of the Council Secretaries trying to find out the opinion of the unfortunate Members here."

"The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I deprecate any hon. Member visiting any part of the House for the purpose of enlisting opinions; that should be done in the lobbies or elsewhere."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" There are no lobbies here (laughter). Apart from that, Mr. President, this is what they say 'at the sittings of the Council they are useful in supplying them with such information as may be required'. If I err, I err in Ministerial company; I leave it there. In the course of any debate, I am yet to see any Council Secretary leaving his secure seat there and coming down here and handing over any paper to any hon. Minister in the course of any debate. Then, Sir, we are told, the Council Secretaries have also been instrumental (hear, hear) in securing the vote of the party on Transferred subjects, and on several occasions have been used for the same purpose (mark my words) on behalf of the Reserved half of the Government. Now the cat is out of the bag (laughter). We now know the real purposes for which they are appointed. They have been instrumental in securing the vote of the party on Transferred subjects and on several occasions have been so used. I wonder if my hon. Friends on the Reserved side will agree with that statement and whether they have really used these unfortunate gentlemen for the purpose of securing votes for them in this Council."

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Mr. ABDULLA GHATALA SAHIB :—" I have never secured any votes for any party." (Loud laughter.)

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am very much obliged for my hon. Friend's information. After this categorical statement of my hon. Friend, the hon. Ministers will do him and us the justice of withdrawing the statement, so far as he at least is concerned. Then they conclude the *Swastha prajabhya* fashion 'It will thus be seen that the Council Secretaries have proved the utility of the institution and have contributed towards the smooth working of the Council.' They have done nothing of the kind. It seems to me that these people have been appointed for the purpose of securing votes.

"I only want to say one word more. In the very illuminating report written by Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford, in introducing the Reforms, they say that they contemplate this institution as a training ground for future Ministers, that is to say, able, aspiring, qualified young men of the party in power, should be placed in that position, so that they may acquire the parliamentary tradition of replying on debates and giving ready answers without fumbling about. But we find these gentlemen, either of their own choice, or by the conditions of their appointment or for any reason, not having been taken to account, so far as work in this Council is concerned. They are doing no good either to themselves or to the party or to the Council. I have no personal prejudice against the three Members. I shall be glad if they are doing good to themselves. They are doing no good because they have deprived themselves of the freedom of vote and speech and the result is they are absolutely unable to influence the course of discussion by their vote or speech in this House, and in return they get Rs. 500. Moreover, Sir, I find that they are wanted to look forward to the place of Ministers and in what way are they doing that? Again, Sir, after the appointment of these three gentlemen, they have been allowed to have their headquarters away from Madras—I speak subject to correction, if I am wrong I shall stand corrected—I am told that two of these gentlemen are at Vellore and Trichinopoly, most of the time except when the Council is sitting, and one of them is on active work. (A voice: Both are on active work.) Now, Sir, I ask if this is allowed under the rules. I do not think that we can be called upon to vote away Rs. 1,500 a month for these sinecure officers, when they do no work whatever. I do hope that all those who feel the freedom from party discipline will vote for the resolution and convey to the powers that be that we do not want money to be wasted on men who serve no purpose either for the party or for the country."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, it is quite characteristic of my hon. Friend, the Member for the University, to indulge in a little bit of exaggeration, and in doing so in this case, I am afraid he had done injustice to himself. The Council Secretaries as noted by him are able and energetic Members of this House. (Ironical laughter.) Their duties lay in assisting the Ministers not in the Council room here bustling about and speaking to the Members, but in assisting the Ministers in their work and preparing their work for the Council. In the preparation of answers to questions to be submitted to the House, the Council Secretaries assist the Ministers in tracing up references and discussing with them about interpellations to be answered and where the information can be got. When the Secretariat has put up the replies, the draft replies are looked into

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by the Council Secretaries and the final answers are prepared with the Ministers. Then again, with regard to Bills, which the hon. Member has referred to, I may tell him that they are also of use in assisting Ministers in finding references on particular matters, in discussing particular cases, in the drafting of the Bills. If they are not able to fulfil all the functions of parliamentary Under Secretaries, it is not their fault, but it is due to the system that we have here. If there are greater opportunities provided under the rules, it will be quite possible they will be more serviceable.

"But I may say so far as their work is concerned, viz., in assisting the

4-30 p.m.

Ministers in framing answers to questions, in dealing with Bills and such other matters they have been of great use and they have been discharging their responsibilities quite satisfactorily. My hon. Friend perhaps expected them to be moving about in the Council and speaking to hon. Members in securing votes and all that. I should consider that that is not a legitimate duty of the Council Secretaries as such and, if they do it, I do not mean encouraging it very much."

*Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I only quoted their statement that they were useful in securing votes and ascertaining the opinion of the Members while sitting in the Council."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The statement was not like that. I object to the hon. Member's version of it, because it supposes that the Ministers meant that the Council Secretaries should go about the Council Chamber securing votes."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"I therefore submit that the legitimate work of the Council Secretaries is more in the office with the Ministers than in the Council helping the Ministers in matters I have already referred to. The Council Secretaries have also been useful in looking up to references in the various reports of the debates of this Council. For instance, when a resolution is being discussed, the Council Secretaries look up to the various speeches made at the previous meetings and they put up those references and we discuss with them to see how best our views could be expressed in the Council. In this way both in answering interpellations and in helping us in drafting and revising Bills under preparation and in enabling us to prepare ourselves for the subjects that come up for discussion in the Council, the Secretaries have been of great assistance to us. They are very much needed. I cannot appreciate the remark of the hon. Member that they are used as vote-catchers. I can appreciate his sentiment in the matter. But I would ask the hon. Member to see if it is a reasonable and justifiable position to take up. It is not reasonable and justifiable to say that they are used not only for this purpose of catching votes, but."

*Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"On a point of personal explanation, in a statement sent by the Reserved half of the Government from which the Transferred half have not dissented although they have sent two or three dissenting minutes, this sentence occurs: 'The Council Secretaries have also been instrumental in securing votes of the party on Transferred subjects and on several occasions they have been used for the same purpose on behalf of the Reserved half of the Government.'"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"It is not necessary for me to enter into the genesis of the statement made in that report by the Executive

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Councillors. All I can say is that from my experience it has not been so. They have not been used for the purpose of catching votes. They have been used for the purpose for which they have been appointed, viz., to assist the Ministers in the work of the Legislative Council and as such they are discharging their responsibilities with satisfaction to us and credit to themselves."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"May I ask whether the hon. the Minister for Education spoke for himself or for the Ministry as a whole? If he has spoken in his individual capacity, we want to know what the other Ministers have to say."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"For the whole Ministry. (A voice: Also for the Reserved Half?)

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, Sir, there seems to be no reason why matters should be minced and facts not recognized. (Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao: 'Hear, hear.') It has been said that these appointments are intended for securing votes. Well, Sir, in the Parliament, the Ministers can appoint more Secretaries than the six or seven our Ministers can appoint here. On that score therefore, I do not object to the Ministry having the right to appoint three men as Secretaries from whom they could get as much work as they can possibly get to securing votes. But what strikes me most is the fact that in connexion with the motion which had to be decided by your casting vote all these three gentlemen were absent when the vote was being taken. Are they or are they not at one with the Ministers? They should have been here and should have voted with them. Now the question arises whether these three gentlemen, secretaries under the Ministers, are not bound by the discipline which must be common to all Government servants, viz., of voting with the Government whether with the Executive Councillors or with the Ministers. I can understand cases in which the Ministers themselves differ from the Executive Councillors and remain neutral. In such cases they are perfectly justified in voting with the Ministers, but in a case in which the Ministers have voted with the Executive Councillors is it open to these gentlemen to clearly walk out or at least not be present in the Council to support their Ministers who have voted? This involves a constitutional principle and ought therefore to be decided by this House and I am expecting an explanation of their conduct from the Ministers or from the Secretaries themselves. If they say that they were absent for particular reasons and explain what those reasons are, it would be for us to see whether it is a proper explanation or not. I must say that unless an explanation is forthcoming I must vote for the motion."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"As a matter of constitutional practice, I doubt if it is open to an hon. Member to ask why another hon. Member absented himself at the time of voting any more than why he was present. Any inference can be drawn from his voting or not voting. I do not know how an hon. Member can be made accountable to this House for his voting or for his not voting on a particular occasion."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I am only asking the Council Secretaries to explain their absence if they choose."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"But can they be called upon to explain?"

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Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"If they care for my single vote they may explain."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"May I ask my hon. Friend the ex-Minister to explain what their mental attitude could be?"

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I cannot divine it."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya:—"In the ordinary circumstances we would not have asked why certain Members voted in a particular way or why they were absent at the time of voting. Here the circumstance is this: We are now asked to vote the salaries of these people and therefore we want an explanation from them. If we find their explanation satisfactory, we would vote for their retention and if not against them."

*Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, a direct question was put by the hon. the Mover, viz., how many questions were answered by the Council Secretaries, and it has not been answered. Sir, there is a feeling in the House and it is known to the hon. the Ministers also that these Secretaries are doing nothing. If really they have been helping the Ministers in drafting the answers to questions it must be easy for them to give us the number of those questions."

"There is another point also on which some information is necessary and which has not been forthcoming. We wish to know for how many days these gentlemen were in Madras excluding the days on which they were here for the Council meeting. It is well known that there is no longer any restriction that they should remain in Madras. They are living in their own places. Usually they come to Madras a day or two previous to that on which the Council meets. We want to have the above information before we are asked to give our vote on this matter."

"There is yet another point on which I want some information. In the last Council there was a restriction that the Council Secretaries should be full-time men and that they should not be engaged in any profession of their own. Now I understand that two of these gentlemen are professional men and are practising elsewhere. I want to know the reason why."

Rao Sabib T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI:—"I do not practise."

*Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"At any rate, Sir, there is another gentleman who is practising. I suppose from his silence that he has not got the same answer to give. What is the reason for this change? In the last Council it was specifically mentioned that these gentlemen should not practise. They were expected to devote all their time to helping the Ministers in their work. Now I find that all on a sudden a change is made that they need not be full-time men and that they can go to their own places and practise. Where is the necessity for this change and why was it made? An explanation is necessary from the hon. Ministers on this point."

"The change I mentioned and the want of information required are responsible for rousing the suspicion that the inference drawn by the hon. Member for the University is likely to be correct. I am told that they do not draw any travelling allowance for coming here from their place of residence. It is a matter for congratulation. But then they could draw that also if they are so minded. These are matters about which the Ministers have to give their explanation to the House and I believe they are bound to do so."

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*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Before the debate continues I think I should meet the constitutional point raised by the hon. Member, Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. It is rather a serious matter whether an hon. Member can be asked in this House why he voted or why he did not vote in a particular way. I think an hon. Member is bound to answer that question when put by his constituents. He may be bound to answer it in case he is a servant of the Crown as the Council Secretaries are, when that question is put by his employer, the Government. But I do not think that he is bound to answer that question when put by anybody else."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"May I just offer a word of explanation on that? I gathered from my hon. Friend, Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu, that he put that question because the way in which he would vote on this motion would depend on an explanation, if any, that would be forthcoming. Now, Sir, I am asked to give my vote in favour of a certain motion and as such I hold that I am perfectly entitled to say that to such and such a course of action on your part I take objection and that if you explain it away satisfactorily, my vote will be given to you or it will be cast against you. The other point was—I do not attach so much importance to it—that mentioned by Mr. Rath that as we are now voting the salaries of the Council Secretaries and as an incident, which in its own way is as great a constitutional issue as the one to which you drew our attention has occurred, we are entitled to know where exactly they stood. Now, Sir, I do not wish to say more than this. I do not think we have a right for an explanation from the Council Secretaries. But I do not think there is anything wrong in our asking for it and saying that the vote we are going to give would depend on what response they make to such a request or, if you like, demand."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Is there anything in the constitution or the rules binding the Council Secretaries to vote with the Government at all times?"

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"I may be permitted to draw the attention of the hon. the Education Minister to the report of the Muddiman Committee, paragraph 74. It is said distinctly that in the case of Reserved subjects, all the Government officials may be called upon to vote with the Government by the Government."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It is a matter of discipline which the Government can enforce. I do not wish to continue the point raised by hon. Members further. But it is obvious that the other answer is open in all such cases that every hon. Member can vote or may not vote according to his own conscience. I do not see what further inference can be drawn."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"In opposing this motion for reducing or taking away the salary of the Council Secretaries, I beg to point out that by the Act it is contemplated that there shall be Council Secretaries."

*Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"The Act does not contemplate that there shall be, but that there may be Council Secretaries."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"And they shall be paid such salary as is fixed by the Council. We have gone on with Council Secretaries for the past four years. There was great jubilation amongst the

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friends of those who moved this motion when they found that Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu was beginning to search his heart as to whether he should vote for the Council Secretaries or not. I think that he changed his heart only after he sat on the Opposition benches."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I have often said that I am neither on the Opposition nor on the Ministerialists' side. I am where I am."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"That is much more pitiable. It is much better not to be changing. If he is sitting on the fence and if it is not known whether he will vote with this side or with the other, then he disturbs the equilibrium of himself and of various other persons. Under the circumstances, it is better that he keeps a definite mental attitude with reference to these matters instead of allowing it to be tilted this way or the other."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I refuse to be guided by the kind advice given by my hon. Friend."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"He might or might not. I think it behoves us who sit in this Council to give him a piece of sound advice whenever there is a little tilting. In these circumstances, I do not consider that the House should seriously take this proposal about eliminating the salaries of the Council Secretaries or of reducing their salaries. Rupees 500 is not a large sum to be paid for a decent gentleman. It is but right that they should not be full-time officers; and it is but right that this institution known as Council Secretaries should be continued and not allowed to wither away for want of nourishment. They should be permitted to continue their own avocations and I am glad that the policy of considering them as part-time officers has been adopted. Under these circumstances, I oppose the motion."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"I have really no objection to the institution of Council Secretaries. As the hon. the Member for the University said, it serves a really useful purpose. But the way in which this office has been treated by the Ministry by allowing them to be part-time officers is really most objectionable. If the salary of the Council Secretaries is insufficient as the hon. Member for Madras has put it, the Ministry ought to have induced the Reserved half to allot more money and ask us to vote for the same. That is a position which we can understand. But to say that they are getting only Rs. 500 per mensem and therefore they cannot be full-time officers, is very objectionable. Let them do their work satisfactorily and let them get more money if they deserve; but not allow them to be merely birds of passage. Besides, Sir, the hon. the Education Minister has not been able to tell us really how many replies the Council Secretaries are working at. We were told that the draft replies are sent to the hon. the Ministers and the Council Secretaries. Are we to understand that all the replies pass through the Council Secretaries or only very few of them? We have no positive reply for that. Another thing which the hon. the Chief Minister fought shy of, is about the vote-catching business. I do not see any possible objection to the Council Secretaries trying to persuade hon. Members of their party and of the Opposition to vote for them. I think it is the parliamentary practice."

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The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"May I know from my hon. Friend from Cuddapah what it is that I fought shy of?"

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"I referred to the hon. the Minister for Education. Hon. Members wanted to know whether the Council Secretaries had been using their influence for getting votes. The hon. the Minister for Education fought shy of it. I really see no objection to their catching vote. It is one of their functions. They are not doing their duties properly. Really able people ought to be encouraged not merely for the purpose of vote catching but for other purposes also for which the hon. the Ministers may require help. I for one, would have no objection provided we get the type of persons that will be useful to the Ministry."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"There were several applicants and we selected the best three. We thought that these three persons were the best."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR:—"May I know whether the Council Secretaries can vote on this motion?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"There is no objection so long as they are Members of this House."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Does the number of peons present here indicate any special interest on their part in the voting?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Not more than the presence of the Secretaries to Government or the number of people in the galleries."

The motion was put to the House and declared lost. A poll was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

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| 1. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 12. Mr. C. Maruthavanam Pillai. |
| 2. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi | 13. " S. Muttayya Mudaliyar. |
| 3. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 14. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 4. " T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 15. Sriman Sasibhusan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 5. Mr. P. Siva Rao. | 16. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. |
| 6. " P. C. Venkatapati Raju. | 17. " J. A. Saldanha. |
| 7. " A. Kanganatha Mudaliyar. | 18. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 8. " S. Satyamurti. | 19. " V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. |
| 9. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. | 20. " Sami Venkatchalam Chettiyar. |
| 10. Mr. A. Chidambaram Nadar. | 21. " G. V. Venkataraman Ayyangar. |
| 11. " K. Koti Reddi. | |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 14. Mr. P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nadar. |
| 2. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 15. " A. V. Bhanaji Rao. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 16. " N. Devendrudu. |
| 4. " Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 17. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar. |
| 5. " Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 18. " P. V. Gopalan. |
| 6. " Mr. R. A. Graham. | 19. Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar. |
| 7. " " N. E. Marjoribanks. | 20. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. |
| 8. Mr. R. W. Davies. | 21. Mr. J. Kuppuswami. |
| 9. " E. W. Leigh. | 22. " V. Madhava Raja. |
| 10. " P. L. Moore. | 23. " T. Mallesappa. |
| 11. Dr. John Mathai. | 24. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. |
| 12. Rao Sahib P. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 25. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. |
| 13. Mr. H. B. Ari Gowder. | 26. " P. N. Marthandam Pillai. |
| | 27. Honorary Lieutenant Madurai. |

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Noes—cont.

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| 28. Mr. C. Ponnuswami Nayudu. | 41. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 29. „ K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai. | 42. Rao Sahib K. V. Ramachari. |
| 30. „ K. Prabhakaran Pampan. | 43. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikuchalan Chettiyar. |
| 31. Rao Bahadur K. Krishnaswami Nayadu. | 44. Mr. K. Venkatachala Patayachi. |
| 32. „ O. M. Narayanan Nambudripad. | 45. Diwan Bahadur W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 33. Mr. P. T. Rajan. | 46. Mr. Abbas Ali Khan. |
| 34. „ B. Ramachandra Reddi. | 47. Khan Bahadur Haji Abdulla Haji Kasim Sahib. |
| 35. Rao Bahadur P. Raman. | 48. Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib. |
| 36. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. | 49. „ Hamid Sultan Marakkayar Sahib. |
| 37. The Raja of Ramnad. | 50. „ T. M. Moidu Sahib. |
| 38. Mr. R. Srinivasan. | 51. Janab Muhammad Qadir Muhi-ud-din Sahib. |
| 39. „ Chavadi K. Subramaaya Pillai. | 52. Munshi Abdul Wahab Sahib. |
| 40. „ M. Ratnaswami. | |

Neutral.

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| 1. Mr. Abdulla Ghatula Sahib. | 3. Mr. R. Veerian. |
| 2. Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkatreddi Nayudu. | |

21 hon. Members voted for the motion and 52 against, 3 remaining neutral.

The motion was lost.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The House will now adjourn as it is 5 o'clock and re-assemble at 11 a.m. to-morrow. Since the debate began at 4-15 p.m. it will be continued for 1½ hours after the recommencement of this business.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 24th March 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI Avargal, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Forests.

Free grass cutting in the forest reserves in Bellary district.

* 634 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Conservator of Forests, Second Circle, Bellary, recommended towards the close of 1922 that free grass cutting for local consumption may be allowed throughout the Bellary district; and if so, what orders have been passed thereon?

A.—No such recommendation as is referred to in the question was made by the Conservator. In 1922, the Collector of Bellary allowed the free removal of grass in certain areas on account of the failure of rains. His action was approved by the Chief Conservator.

Revision of boundaries of reserved forests in Bellary.

* 635 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the boundaries of the reserves in the Bellary district, which were found to be too close to villages and were suggested to be revised by the Conservator of Forests in his inspection notes of the Adoni range, dated 15th November 1921, and whether they have been given effect to and, if so, when?

A.—The boundaries have not been revised as the reserves have been handed over for panchayat management.

[24th March 1925]

Jails.*Imprisonment of Mr. Nilakanta Brahmachari.*

* 636 Q.—MR. V. PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. Nilakanta Brahmachari, a prisoner in the Central Jail, Multan, from 21st August 1924 was objected to by the jail authorities or any other officer of Government from corresponding with his relatives or friends, as the case may be, and, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government or any of its officers received any application from any friend or relative of the prisoner seeking permission to interview the prisoner;

(c) if the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, whether such permission was granted, if not, why not; and

(d) with reference to the answer given by Government to clause (c) of question No. 43 on 4th February 1925, whether it can be precisely stated what offence the prisoner had committed to render himself unfit for detention in any of the jails of this Presidency?

A.—(a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The hon. Member is referred to the reply given to Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo in connexion with a supplementary question to question No. 162.

Bench Courts.*Members of the Bench Court of Ootacamund.*

* 637 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the majority of the members of the Ootacamund Bench Court are Europeans;

(b) the reasons for this;

(c) whether the large majority of the parties appearing before the court are Indians;

(d) whether the members of the Bench Court are mostly men without any judicial experience and unacquainted with the rules of procedure and evidence; and

(e) whether there are men with judicial experience who may be appointed to the Bench?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Selection of persons for the appointments is made from among the best men available and with due reference to local conditions.

(c) to (e) The Government have no information but will call for it.

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Legislative.*Statutory and Advisory Committees.*

* 638 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to place before the House a statement showing the names of the members of all the Statutory and Advisory Committees appointed by this Government and showing the dates on which they held meetings and the cost to Government on account of such meetings?

A.—A statement is laid on the table.^a

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—“Sir, may I know the reason why there is not even a single non-official medical man on the Health Committee?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“Sir, the Health Committee was formed some time back and I cannot give any special reason why a particular medical man is not there. I think the Surgeon-General is there.”

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—“I do not ask why a particular man is not there. What I ask is why non-official medical men are not there and whether it is not advantageous to have non-official medical men on the Health Committee?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“The request will be considered.”

Srimad SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—“May I ask the hon. the Minister for Development whether he would consider the advisability of appointing to the Advisory Committee for Industries and Fisheries industrialists from outside the Council also?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM FILLAI:—“The suggestion is noted, Sir.”

[Question 639 was called by the Secretary when the Raja of Ramnad rose to put supplemental questions on question 638. The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The hon. Member can put questions on 638 just after the question-time is over.”]

Members of the Legislative Council, holding paid and honorary appointments under Government.

* 639 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the number and the names of the Members of the Legislative Council who have been appointed to paid and honorary appointments under the Government since the last election?

A.—The appointments are notified in the Gazette. Information as far as is readily available is appended.^b

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—“Sir, may I ask the hon. the Law Member why a non-resident gentleman is appointed Honorary Presidency Magistrate for Madras? He is also the president of the union board of his place.”

^a Printed as Appendix I on pages 683-688 infra. ^b Printed as Appendix II on page 688 infra.

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The hon. Member, the Raja, a little while before we assembled to-day gave this information to me. I shall consider this question. It is undoubtedly inconvenient to have a non-resident gentleman as Honorary Presidency Magistrate."

Police.

Murders in Salem taluk firka.

* 640 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many murders had taken place in the Salem taluk firka during the past six months;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Adi-Dravidas of Veeranam village applied for police bandobust to the police officers during the time of Mariamman festival on or about the 15th January 1925;

(c) whether any police bandobust was given at once realizing the situation of the Adi-Dravidas; and

(d) if so, why murders or other atrocities took place in the village of Veeranam, three miles off Salem town?

A.—(a) Three between 3rd September 1924 and 3rd February 1925.

(b) No. The application was made to the Magistrate.

(c) The application reached the police after the festival, but policemen had been sent independently of the application.

(d) No murder or atrocity took place at that time.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"With reference to the clauses (b) and (c), may I know why there was so much delay on the part of the Magistrate in forwarding the application for bandobust to the police?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I think I should welcome this opportunity for making a statement on this matter. It is not a fact that the Adi-Dravidas applied for police bandobust on the 15th January. The application was made and forwarded so as to reach the police on the 16th. The application reached the police after the festival so that no action could be taken in the matter. The opponents of the Adi-Dravidas put in an application for police bandobust. The festival was timed to take place in the evening. The police were ordered by the sub-inspector to be there at 11 a.m. Actually the police arrived at 11 a.m. Both the factions unknown to each other and the police, intended to steal a march on each other by holding the festival in the morning, and on finding the other party present, proceeded to riot and during the riot some houses were burnt. The arrival of the police at 11 a.m. stopped any further trouble at the time. For this offence both the parties were charged under section 147, Indian Penal Code. The case is pending. No murder took place on that occasion. The murder took place on 11th February 1925, nearly a month after the occurrence referred to by the hon. Member. On that occasion no bandobust was asked for nor was any given. The murder took place on an ordinary day when no festival was on. Thirteen other accused of the murder have been charged by the police and the case is pending."

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Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Whose houses were burnt? Did they belong to the Adi-Dravidas?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I really cannot say."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"Sir, my supplemental question was why the application that was sent to the Magistrate was not immediately forwarded by him to the police so that they might give bandobust?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"If the suggestion is that there was some avoidable delay, I shall investigate the matter and see if there was any avoidable delay. If there was any delay in such a matter, it is regrettable. I think there was no such delay. I shall enquire."

Public Works.

Purchase of a bungalow for the residence of the District Judge, Coimbatore.

* 641 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member, the hon. the Member for Finance, the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government recently purchased a bungalow for the District Judge's residence at Coimbatore; if so, when and at what price;

(b) whether that bungalow had been purchased by the vendor only some time before for Rs. 55,000;

(c) whether he had sold seven acres of the compound and removed all furniture before the Government purchased the bungalow;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is a dispute about two acres of the compound;

(e) whether it is a fact that the purchase was made without taking into account the sale of a portion of the compound and the dispute about two acres;

(f) whether there was any regular valuation of the bungalow before the price was fixed; if there was one, who made it and to what effect; if not, who fixed the price and on what materials;

(g) the rent paid by the District Judge before the purchase by the Government and the rent paid now with a smaller compound and with no furniture;

(h) whether any doctor was consulted about the purchase and if so, his opinion;

(i) whether it is a fact that the doctor has now condemned the building and has expressed the opinion that the building is not fit for occupation;

(j) whether any estimates were prepared about the necessary repairs before the purchase; what is now estimated to be the cost of the repairs;

(k) whether it is a fact that the District Judge has been always complaining after the purchase that most of the rooms were unfit for occupation and that several servants have fallen sick;

(l) whether the Judge has now been permitted to occupy the bungalow recently built for the Collector; if so, who is to occupy the bungalow purchased for the Judge's use and who is to pay any rent for it; and

(m) whether the Government have any objection to make an inquiry into the matter and issue a press communiqué preventing, if possible, such waste of public money and hasty purchases in future?

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- A.—(a) Yes; in April 1924, for Rs. 51,000.
 (b) Yes, in October 1920.
 (c) Yes. (The 7 acres of land and the furniture were not included in the sale to Government.)
 (d) There was a dispute about 2 acres of land included in the original sale to the vendor, and for that reason this portion of the land was excluded from the conveyance to the Government.
 (e) No—vide answers to (c) and (d) above.
 (f) The Superintending Engineer valued the bungalow at Rs. 45,000 excluding the furniture, but the Collector, who was asked to purchase the property by private negotiation, considered that Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 60,000 could be paid. The actual price fixed was Rs. 55,000, out of which Rs. 4,000 was deducted for the two acres in dispute.
 (g) The rent before purchase by Government was Rs. 200 per mensem. The standard rent of the bungalow, according to rule 45 (b) of the Fundamental Rules, works out to Rs. 326 per mensem, and the rent which the present District Judge has to pay is limited to 10 per cent of his pay, viz., Rs. 265 per mensem, but he has been permitted as a concession to pay Rs. 200 only per mensem pending completion of certain repairs and improvements to the building.
 (h) No.
 (i) The doctor has only said that it is not a desirable residence owing to the proximity of the irrigation tank which breeds mosquitoes, but it has been the residence of the District Judge for the last 30 years.
 (j) The Superintending Engineer reported before the purchase that a sum of Rs. 3,000 would be sufficient for initial repairs and minor structural alterations. An estimate for Rs. 4,000 has however now been sanctioned for repairs and improvements to the building.
 (k) Yes.
 (l) No.
 (m) The Government have already inquired into the matter and consider that no press communiqué is called for.

General.

Expenditure on account of the Guindy races.

* 642 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Finance Member be pleased to state whether the Government incur directly or indirectly any expenses on account of the Guindy races, and if so, the amount?

A.—On an average the Government incur an expenditure of Rs. 34-12-0 per day on account of travelling allowance and railway warrants for extra constables posted for duty at Guindy on race days.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"Sir, may I know whether this expenditure is met by the Guindy Race Club? For we see when private men ask for police bandobust they are asked to pay."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I believe, not, Sir. The police are sent there for the benefit of the public and not for the sake of the Club."

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Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I think that the police go there to safeguard the public on behalf of the Guindy Race Club?"

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I am afraid I did not hear what the hon. Member said."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"When private men are made to pay for police bandobust I do not see any reason why Guindy Race Club must be exempted from payment."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"The police go there for the benefit of the public and not for the benefit of the Race Club."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"Has the Race Club ever asked for police protection?"

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"Not so far as I know."

Agriculture.

Removal of bulls from Chintaladevi farm.

* 643 Q.—MR. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of good bulls have been removed from Chintaladevi farm to Hosur;

(b) if so, how many; and

(c) whether it has been investigated and found out before removing to Hosur that Ongole bulls will thrive at Hosur?

A.—(a) & (b) One bull only has been transferred as an experimental measure.

(c) Ongole cattle are common in Bangalore, the climate of which is similar to that of Hosur. It is understood that Ongole cows were kept at Hosur while it was under the Military Department and thrive well.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Irrigation.

Inadequate supply of water, Vishnupuram.

644 Q.—MR. V. PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the daily reading of water in the Arasalar (Tanjore district) during September and October last at the several gauges from the river head down to the nearest one of the village of Vishnupuram in the taluk of Nannilam;

(b) whether the Government received any communication from the mirasidars of Vishnupuram complaining about the inadequate supply of water;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government on such representations;

(d) whether Government have launched any prosecution against any of the mirasidars of the village after the receipt of communications mentioned in (b); and

(e) if so, the reasons for the same?

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- A.—(a) Government have no information.
 (b) No.
 (c), (d) & (e) Do not arise.

Drainage arrangements in the Godavari delta.

645 Q.—MR. P. PEDDIRAJU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) if any programme for improving the drainage arrangements in the Godavari delta was ready; if so, whether he will place it on the table; and
 (b) what drains in the said delta are likely to be taken up in the next year?

- A.—(a) A list^a of drainage works for which programmes have been approved is placed on the table.
 (b) Improvements to items 3, 9, 10 and 24 (b) will be in progress during 1925–26.

Small Irrigation works, South Kanara, etc.

646 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 83 put at the last sitting of this session—

- (a) whether Government have projected in the past or contemplate in future the digging of tanks or constructing reservoirs of water by means of embankments across streams or gorges for irrigation purposes in the hilly districts of South Kanara, Malabar and Coimbatore;

- (b) if not, why; and

- (c) whether there are facilities for such small irrigation works in these districts at small cost and with great benefit to agriculture?

- A.—(a) & (b) No schemes are under investigation in the South Kanara district. In the Malabar district the following irrigation projects were considered but were abandoned on financial and other grounds:—

- (1) Kunduchera project.
- (2) Annakara irrigation scheme.
- (3) Vandithode scheme.
- (4) Kilakancheri project.

The projects now under consideration in Malabar are the Meengarai and the Malampuzha projects. Gaugings are being taken for the Meengarai project and it is proposed to continue it during the current year also. In respect of the Malampuzha project, the gaugings are complete; a preliminary report with estimated cost and forecast of revenue is awaited from the Superintending Engineer. In the Coimbatore district, besides the Cauvery Reservoir project (now sanctioned by the Secretary of State), the Upper and Lower Bhavani projects are under consideration. Certain irrigation schemes in the Kollegal taluk are also under investigation.

^a Printed as Appendix III on pages 689–690 infra.

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- (c) There is no scope for the construction of small minor irrigation works in the Malabar and South Kanara districts, except the schemes referred to above.

Irrigation tank of Pernamallur village, North Arcot district.

647 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR W. VIJAYARAGHAVA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the surplus water from the irrigation tank of Pernamallur village in Wandiwash taluk, North Arcot, is carried in a channel and let into the irrigation tank of Vinnamangalam village in Cheyyar taluk;

- (b) whether the above surplus channel passes through the village of Velleripattu in Cheyyar taluk, irrigating the lands in Velleripattu on its way to Vinnamangalam;

- (c) whether the ryots of Velleripattu have been putting up a mud kondam (dam) across the channel and baling water to their lands;

- (d) whether the said mud kondam is being washed away frequently by floods necessitating the periodical and frequent renewal of the dam;

- (e) whether, on repeated representations from the ryots of Velleripattu to the Revenue and Public Works Department authorities, an estimate was prepared to construct a masonry kondam a few years ago;

- (f) whether, in spite of the repeated requests of the ryots of Velleripattu, no further progress has been made towards the construction of the above dam;

- (g) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the delay in constructing the dam is causing considerable trouble, loss and damage to the ryots of Velleripattu; and

- (h) whether the Government will call for a report and take early steps to relieve the distress of the ryots of Velleripattu caused by the delay in constructing the dam?

- A.—The Government have no information; a report has been called for.

Landlords and tenants.

Fixity of tenure to tenancies under ryotwari landlords.

648 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether Government had ever in contemplation any action to settle the relations between landlord and tenant in ryotwari lands except those settled under the Mulgeni Rent Enhancement Act or Malabar Compensation for Tenants' Improvement Act or those to be affected by the Malabar Tenancy Bill;

- (b) whether Government called for opinions on the subject of giving fixity of tenure to tenancies under ryotwari landlords; if so, the result; and

- (c) whether Government contemplate any legislative action for giving such fixity of tenure to longstanding tenants in lands of ryotwari landlords?

- A.—(a) Yes.

- (b) Yes. It was decided that no legislation was called for.

- (c) No.

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Medical.*Opening of a Leper Asylum in Chingleput.*

649 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether in June 1913 Government decided to apply the provisions of the Indian Lepers Act, 1898, throughout the Madras Presidency and called upon the Surgeon-General to submit proposals for the establishment of a Leper Asylum in Chingleput;

(b) whether the Surgeon-General had then correspondence with Rev. Fr. Gionini, Director of the Father Muller's Leper Asylum at Mangalore, as to the management of the Chingleput Leper Asylum;

(c) whether the Franciscan Sisters, Missionaries of Mary, whose headquarters are at Ootacamund, and who had experience in managing such asylums in Burma and Ceylon, undertook to take up both the management and nursing of the projected asylum;

(d) whether the Madras Government in 1913 at first approved of the proposal to hand over the management as well as the nursing of the Leper Asylum in Chingleput to the Franciscan Sisters;

(e) whether Government at last decided to hand over to them only the nursing of the lepers with the supervision of the wardrobe, linen, stores and kitchen;

(f) whether the details as to the accommodation and board of the Sisters were settled in 1915 and 1916;

(g) the annual average cost to the Government as then estimated;

(h) why the negotiations were suspended between 1916 and 1923;

(i) whether negotiations were revived thereafter by Government with the Franciscan Sisters, and, if not, why not;

(j) whether negotiations were started with any other body and with whom; when and why without reference to the said Franciscan Sisters;

(k) whether the Mother Superior, Acting Provincial of the Franciscan Sisters in December 1923, wrote offering to Government to take up not only the nursing and the supervision of the wardrobe, linen, stores and kitchen, but the running and management of the Leper Settlement in Chingleput, if Government were not prepared to run it themselves, and this on a strictly non-caste and non-sectarian basis;

(l) the original estimated cost of the Leper Asylum in view of the proposed agreement with the Franciscan Sisters;

(m) what alterations have been made in the plans and estimates in order to suit the requirements of any other body with whom Government have been negotiating; and the justification for the alterations; and

(n) whether the Government will publish the correspondence on the subject between themselves, Fr. Gionini and the Franciscan Sisters and any other body from 1913 up to date or at least give the summary of it and the final settlement?

A.—A summary^a of the correspondence with the Franciscan Sisters regarding the management of the Leper Settlement, Chingleput, is laid on the table.

^a Printed as Appendix IV on pages 690-693 infra.

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II

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1925-1926.**DEMAND XI—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—MINISTERS AND CIVIL SECRETARIATS—TRANSFERRED—cont.**

The hon. the President called upon Mr. Peddiraju to move his motion No. 421 on the agenda.

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I have given notice of motion No. 420, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I did not understand from the terms of the motion that the pay of the Ministers was going to be discussed. If this is the sole object of the hon. Member, I shall call upon him to speak after Mr. Peddiraju."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"As a matter of fact I had specified my object and I don't know why that is omitted here. I had expressly stated that my object was to cut down the salaries of Ministers to Rs. 3,000 or so."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I shall call upon the hon. Member next."

Motion No. 74.

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU:—"Sir, I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 1,74,000 for pay of officers be reduced by Rs. 36,000.'

"My object in moving this reduction is this. The Ministers are Members elected by the electorate and they are the representatives of the people. These gentlemen must set an example for retrenchment in public expenditure by themselves accepting a reduced salary. It was argued yesterday that the salaries of the hon. Members of the Executive Council also should be reduced to the extent of two-thirds. As the House is aware Rs. 3,000 a month is an enormous amount for an Indian Minister to carry on the duties, especially as he is an elected Member. No doubt the hon. Ministers are elected Members of the Council and they show a good deal of self-sacrifice in coming to the Council and doing service to the country. I am not bringing forward this motion with any spirit of no-confidence in the Ministers. But I do this simply to have some retrenchment in public expenditure and show to the world that the hon. Ministers are willing to serve at a reduced salary in this land."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I have given notice of a similar motion and my idea is that the pay of the Ministers should be reduced. That portion of my motion was not a token motion, was not intended to be a token motion and as such it ought not to be regarded as a token motion. It was never intended to proceed upon personal, sectional or sentimental considerations. I tabled my motion on considerations based entirely on the resources of the country, upon principles of economy. It seems to me that the time has come when we should inaugurate a system which would serve to fix the pay of an Indian, however

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highly placed he may be, at Rs. 3,000. This motion has nothing to do with this or that Minister, but it deals with this aspect of the question, namely, that an Indian, however highly placed he may be, may fairly claim from the public exchequer only this sum of Rs. 3,000 having regard to certain considerations of the office which he occupies. This House may perhaps remember, and at any rate some of the old members may perhaps be well aware of the fact that three years ago a similar motion was brought forward by the ex-Advocate-General Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, to the effect that the pay of the Ministers should be fixed at Rs. 3,000, and it was lost for reasons with which we are familiar, namely, that the party which then came to power viewed this question in a communal spirit and did not view it with that care and sympathy which the importance of the motion demanded. I do feel that we are in a better position to-day, and having regard to certain considerations which I shall presently lay before the House, I hope that this motion of mine will be carried, though not unanimously, at least by an overwhelming majority and that the pay of the Ministers will be fixed at Rs. 3,000. Sir, the question of dignity does not arise. The office carries a dignity of its own and there is no use of the argument that if the pay of the Ministers is reduced it is likely to impair or interfere with the prestige of the office. The office has a glamour about it. The Ministers have a certain amount of dignity and large influence to wield and an equally large amount of patronage to exercise. After all who are Ministers? They are not nominated Members of the Council; they are not bureaucrats; they are one of us, they are of us and they come from the people; they are naturally looked upon as the representatives of the people. Oftentimes complaint is heard that the administration is top-heavy. How are you going to reduce or do away with that top-heaviness unless the Ministers and the party they represent come up before the country and take a lead and set an example of sacrifice by saying 'we are prepared to work for Rs. 3,000!' So far as the Ministers are concerned, it may be that they have a power of their own, at any rate the office is likely to carry it, and I, for one, cannot understand why an Indian, however eminent he may be, need not be satisfied with a sum of Rs. 3,000 especially when it is remembered that he comes here as the chosen representative of the people. Dignity has nothing to do with emoluments and I do appeal to the hon. the Ministers to consent to this reduction and when I make this appeal, I am not unmindful of the fact that they last year agreed to forego Rs. 1,000 of their pay. It is not all and we are not satisfied with it. It is therefore up to the Ministers to give a lead and take the country into their confidence and stand up for economy. In conclusion, I would say that it is the vote that is recorded by this House that will determine whether the Ministers are for real economy and service or whether they are for emoluments. With these few words, I beg to support the motion."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—"This is the first time in the history of this Council that it was able to propose a reduction in the pay of the Executive Councillors by passing a motion yesterday to that effect. That means the Council is willing to reduce the pay of highly-paid officers. Such being the case, I think the Ministers must come forward and offer to accept the office at a much lower salary than they are now getting. In some provinces, the Ministers have accepted a pay of Rs. 3,000, and in this province where

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the work is not heavy, it is unreasonable to expect anything more than Rs. 3,000. So there is no question of prestige being interfered with, if the pay is reduced. On the other hand, if they accept a lower pay, they will go high in the estimation of the public. If I had the chance of getting the Minister's post, I would accept the office for nothing and do the work of the Ministers very honourably. After all we are in the same boat as Ministers and they come to the Council just as we do, and both of us live in this city and go on with our work. Under these circumstances, I do not see why the Ministers cannot go on without any pay. If they were to do that, they will rise very high in the estimation of the public. After all, it is not a permanent appointment. No doubt they have come from very far off distances, leaving their native places. But still I think Rs. 4,000 is too much. A salary of Rs. 1,000 is quite sufficient for any man to live in the city of Madras. In conclusion, I appeal to the Ministers to consent to this reduction."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am very glad that my hon. Friends have brought forward this motion solely on the ground of economy and not upon any other considerations. With reference to this argument of economy it seems to me that after all the reduction which is suggested will not bring any noticeable economy and there is also this further thing that there is no agreement amongst my several friends who have moved this motion with regard to the amount of reduction. One suggests a reduction of Rs. 24,000, another suggests a reduction of Rs. 48,000, a third friend of mine suggests a reduction of Rs. 36,000, and lastly one gentleman suggests a total reduction, so that the House is divided on that point, with the usual result that if the question were to be put to vote it will fall to the ground. I do not agree with my hon. Friends who say that the status and dignity of the office do not depend upon the salary that is attached to it. After all, say what we may, certainly status and dignity have got something to do with the remuneration. Otherwise Ministers may be asked to receive Rs. 500 or Rs. 200. I am sure my hon. Friend who moved this motion will not go to the extent of asking for a reduction of that kind. We have also this circumstance, viz., that the Ministers like the Executive Councillors form part of the Government and have got something to do with the subordinate officers of the Government. Now the pay of the Chief Secretary is Rs. 3,750 and the pay of the First Member of the Board of Revenue is also Rs. 3,750. Is it seriously suggested that the Ministers who are really superior in office to these officers should receive a salary which is something less than Rs. 3,750? I think therefore that argument is not altogether sound. I think in the major provinces except Bengal, where the conditions are different—from a telegram received to-day, I understand, that the Bengal Council vetoed all the salaries of Ministers—the pay of the Ministers is not below Rs. 4,000."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya:—"The Bihar Ministers get only Rs. 1,000."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I said 'in all the major provinces', and Bihar is certainly a minor province. I took particular care to say that. In fact when this question was mooted in the Council some three years ago, somewhere in the year 1921, it was discussed threadbare and all the arguments that could be brought forward on the one side or the other

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were put forth and after a full dress debate, this House came to the conclusion that the pay of the Ministers should not be reduced; but subsequently the Ministers themselves relinquished a portion of their salary and accepted to take Rs. 4,000 and odd. Taking all these circumstances into consideration, I think my friends have not made out a case for any diminution in the salaries of Ministers."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I should like to say a few words on this motion. In the first place, as my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar said, there is no doubt that status and dignity are connected to a very great extent with pay. And I do not think that any one can seriously controvert that statement. In the second, it is within my own knowledge that the Ministers have a great deal of work to do and that they perform it with the greatest industry and conscientiousness. For that reason and because I think the remuneration of Ministers should be very much the same as that of the Executive Councillors, I deprecate motions of this kind and particularly deprecate the continual raising of this question year after year. If it is intended to move a reduction by way of a vote of no-confidence, it is a perfectly permissible course of action, but even such motions, if repeated too often and without any likelihood of success, become futile. What I am objecting to are motions based ostensibly on economy and retrenchment or the duty of the Ministers to the country. The possible economy by reduction is exceedingly small. Such motions, if continually repeated, are really bad form and I appeal to the Council not to go on repeating such motions year after year in the interests of the dignity of the Council."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I am very sorry, indeed, Sir, for what the hon. the Finance Member has stated. He deprecated the question being raised again and again and he did so in the interests of the dignity of this Council. Sir, we are in a pitiable position indeed. There are the rules framed by the Secretary of State under which certain salaries are fixed for certain appointments which cannot be touched by this Council. We are trying in respect of the salaries so fixed to express our wishes and views in this Council and when once we find they are not heeded, the only course left open to us is to repeat the views. If such repetitions of our view are deprecated, if any attempt in pressing the views on the hon. Members on the other side and also on this side of the Council for such action as may be necessary is to be considered as lowering the dignity of this Council, I fail to see, Sir, what alternative course is open to us. I believe the only other course that is left open is to non-co-operate. Is the hon. the Finance Member desirous of turning every one of us who feel differently from him into non-co-operators? Or does he admit that we should constitutionally come here and express our views time after time on the very bare hope that this repetition may have some effect? That is the question I put to him. I am very sorry for the view he has taken of the matter and I do hope that this sort of advice will not be dangled before us any more."

"As regards the question of the salaries of Ministers, it has been made quite clear that it is not with any idea of disparagement of the present holders of the office nor with the idea that they do not deserve the pay they are getting that the motion is brought before the Council. It is with a different view altogether. I raised the question when I was on the other side

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of the House as a supporter of the Ministry. So far as I am concerned, it cannot be said of me that I now raise it simply because I am on this side of the House at the present moment. My view of the question has always been that the pay allowed to the higher officers is far too high in a very poor country like ours. Taking an eastern country like Japan which has got full freedom, we find that the scales of pay that are given to the highest officers of the Government who are certainly doing as hard and as important work as any Minister here or any Executive Councillor are very much less than those for our Councillors or Ministers. If ever we want to take any analogy from any country, we should go to a country like Japan more than to one like England, for England is decidedly a very rich country, probably the richest country in the world. But there are people who think that even with reference to what is being paid in England, our officers are getting more. The question has to be raised, are we to continue this high rate of payment? I would not mind if I am to repeat this question even day after day, if it comes to that, in this House till it is decided, for it is a matter which has to be gone into and settled once for all in favour of the poor rate-payer of the country. It is not a matter which once this House has decided it should not again consider but should keep quiet. It is a case that has to be tackled finally and ultimately in favour of the poor rate-payer who is already paying his life-blood for the maintenance of the Government in India. I will only appeal to the hon. Ministers there to set the example in the matter as they are in a position to do so. As I said yesterday, Sir, the position of the Executive Council Members is different from that of the hon. Ministers. The Ministers are the leaders of the people here in the Council. They are politicians; they are not come here to serve for the pay they get. Therefore, as I have said more than once, we are bound to give them just what they want for living in Madras and no more. The case is different with the Executive Councillors who are there to save money for their after-life. The Ministers are not there counting upon the pension that they would earn or upon making provision for their children. They come here for the purpose of earning just enough for their maintenance in Madras at the present moment and nothing more and that is all that we are to give them. In my humble opinion a pay of Rs. 3,000 is quite sufficient."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"May I know whether the appointment of Ministers is intended only for men who have earned enough money?"

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"At any rate, Sir, it is intended for those who can make sacrifices. And getting Rs. 3,000 a month will not be considered too great a sacrifice on their part. For, take the income that we ordinarily earn. No doubt it may be that here and there a particular gentleman like the late Sir Srinivasa Ayyangar got very much, but that does not affect the average income which is nowhere more than Rs. 3,000. Just as in the matter of travelling allowances, it may be that the hon. the Raja of Ramnad may come with a big retinue and it may not be possible for us to pay for his actual expenses, even so we may not be able to pay the hon. the Raja of Panagal what he is spending in Madras. We are expected to pay only for the ordinary expenditure of an average gentleman whom we expect to occupy the office and no more. For that reason, I beg to submit Rs. 3,000 would be quite ample. It is only if the Ministers

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set the example—all round the pay of officers is very high and ought to be reduced—that we can expect others to follow. The Executive Council Members will be forced to yield, at least inch by inch, to this demand so that we may have the pay reduced as we want. It is for these reasons that the Ministers are occupying the position of leaders of the people and are here as politicians, not as mere officials who have attained this position as the last in a grade of service and also because I want them to set the example for others so that ultimately the pay all-round may be diminished that I have been insisting upon this motion. And I do hope that if not to-day at least on some future day I will succeed in forcing the Ministers of the day to agree with me. It is with that hope that I repeat this motion year after year and as I said I am prepared to do it even day after day if necessary.

“With these words, I heartily associate myself with the motion now made.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“As one who had given notice of a similar motion, I rise now to make a few observations. I think, Sir, the House would have accepted the impossible if it had thought that the hon. the Finance Member would have spoken in support of the motion before the House. Because what do we find with regard to the Executive Councillors? Here are four gentlemen doing the work which less than two can do and yet they are not prepared to . . .”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“May I ask whether the hon. Member speaks from personal experience?”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“I speak from what I have seen, Sir, and, without prejudice, from what I have heard from his own colleagues here and elsewhere. I repeat, Sir, that the work that is now being done by these four Executive Council Members is work that could easily be done by two and yet they are not prepared to take less pay for the smaller work that they are now doing. And it is no wonder therefore that they will not do either directly or indirectly anything which ultimately may have the effect of reducing their own emoluments. One remark which fell from the lips of the hon. the Finance Member we must take strong exception to. And that is, he said that in this country people always gave respect to people with reference to their pay and not with reference to their character or quality of work.”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“I did not say ‘without reference to character,’ Sir.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“That does not matter, Sir. He said that pay formed the very important consideration in regard to the treatment that these people received at the hands of others. I must strongly object to that statement. Sir, your predecessor did not draw a thousand rupees of the pay that he was entitled to and I ask whether we thought any the less of him because he was drawing thereafter something less. Why, Sir, the hon. Ministers were good enough to follow his example. They themselves cut short their pay by Rs. 1,000. I ask, again, whatever party I or any other may belong to, whether the fact of their receiving less thereafter went any way at all to make us think any the less of them. We think high or low of people according to our own convictions and principles and not at all by reference to the pay they may draw at any time.

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“The hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government asked us whether we thought that the ranks of Ministers should be filled by those who had already earned enough money. It is not that. We say that they should be given such pay as would induce honest and efficient folk to discharge the duty satisfactorily and I firmly believe that a pay of Rs. 3,000 is a sum enough for any competent and honest man to discharge the duty efficiently and well.”

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“I have given notice of a motion that the allotment of Rs. 1,74,000 for pay of officers be reduced by Rs. 30,000 and I like to say a few words on this. First of all, I must add my voice also to the strong protest that has been raised against the way in which an attempt was made to silence us by the hon. the Finance Member. Certainly it does not come with a good grace from persons who draw more pay than the Ministers to advise others not to raise such questions at any time. We have known from our experience in this House that even the front benches become wiser some time after insisting once upon the wrongs that we had been doing. We have sometimes seen that even the Members on the front bench have agreed that even they have been in the wrong some times and we happen to be in the right. So far as this question is concerned, it is purely and solely one of economy. Before I go to the exact motion, I may point out that we have got just one fact granted in our favour and that is that the Ministers have conceded that after all their dignity does not consist in drawing a pay equal to that of the Executive Councillors and I do not think they will either collectively or individually feel that they are less in importance than the Council Members individually or collectively, because of their difference in pay. Such being the case, for the purpose of economy they have agreed to reduce their pay by Rs. 1,000. We would be glad to know how they arrived at the standard of Rs. 4,333 and odd. If for the purpose of economy they could reduce their pay by a thousand rupees, we appeal to them to reduce it further for the same reason. My hon. Friend Diwan Bahadur Krishnan Nayar probably wanted to have a joke at us by saying that various figures had been suggested by various Members.”

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—“On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I did not want to have any joke against anybody whatever.”

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“Sir, the hon. Member does not want us to believe what he very often actually does it though he may not intend it. But here is the fact. The hon. Member said that we ourselves were not decided as to the exact amount. It is so because we have no metre on which we can calculate these things. So far as I am concerned, Sir, I put it at Rs. 3,500 after consulting a large number of my friends. I may say, Sir, that a large number of hon. Members on this side would be willing to have it at that figure.

“There is also a principle involved in that, namely, that we calculated that if it is a question of pay and not a question of allowance, the Ministers’ pay should be a little higher than that of those who are subordinate to them, the various directors and others. It is therefore Sir, that this pay of Rs. 3,500 was suggested. As to whether the hon. the Ministers should be poor or rich, I do not think that any one of them wants

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to become rich by being a Minister, and speaking fairly, many of them are doing the work at considerable sacrifice. The pay that we fix now is to be probably the pay for some years to come. I am one of those who think that the hon. the Ministers may as well be satisfied with some allowance which may be fixed at say Rs. 1,000 or so. But if there is to be pay and if they are not satisfied with allowance, the sum of Rs. 3,500 may very well be fixed. I may as well say that this is not a motion for a vote of want of confidence, but we appeal to the hon. Ministers themselves to make some sacrifice, a little more than what they have already done, considering the fact that the finances of the country are getting worse every year. They will thus teach a lesson to other people by reducing their own salaries a little further, and we can have a strong argument for asking, in goodness and fairness, others also to curtail their pay. There can be no denying the fact that so far as the Government of this country is concerned, we are paying exceedingly high salaries to our public officers. Sir Charles Todhunter referred to Kautilya once, but Kautilya says that 25 per cent of the whole receipts should be the maximum expenditure to be spent on establishments of a Government. But I am afraid we are now reaching it not exceeding 75 per cent. Therefore, Sir, from every point of view, there is no doubt that the establishment charges of this Presidency should be curtailed considerably, and it is a healthy principle that the hon. the Ministers who are supposed to lead the other officials both here and outside should teach a lesson and set an example to others. So I appeal to the House and the hon. Ministers themselves to come to some conclusion, so that as we said yesterday, the Executive Councillors may be at least morally induced to receive the same pay and that they may agree to reduce their salaries a little further."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Would the hon. the Leader of the Opposition define the motion which is to be put to the vote, if there is any agreement on the point in his party ?"

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" There is a subsequent agreement in the party on the question that Rs. 3,500 should be fixed as the pay of Ministers."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" So it is Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar's motion that is to be put."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" If as I understand the Opposition has come to an agreement as regards the figure to be fixed upon, may I say a word, Sir? The hon. the Leader of the Opposition has now said that it was subsequently agreed that the figure should be Rs. 3,500. Well, Sir, my hon. Friend from Coimbatore said that the Treasury Bench might grow wiser. I am not the keeper of the conscience of the Treasury Bench, but I do feel that my hon. Friend over there has certainly afforded tangible evidence of not having grown wiser. My hon. Friend in 1922 gave notice of a motion to reduce the total amount of the salaries of Ministers then at Rs. 1,92,000 by Rs. 48,000, so that my hon. Friend in 1922 was of opinion that the salary of Rs. 4,000 a month would, according to his wisdom, satisfy the hon. the Ministers. (A voice :—" Who is it ?") My hon. Friend from Coimbatore asks me who it was."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" There are two Members from Coimbatore, Sir, and therefore I wanted him to be clear."

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* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" There is no question about me, Sir, because I have always been for fixing it at Rs. 3,000."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I know my hon. Friend is one of those perfections of consistencies that it is very difficult to attack him. But I am speaking of the hon. Member from Coimbatore who was then in opposition and who is now really in the Opposition. I am speaking of his motion in 1922 to reduce the salary of the Ministers by Rs. 48,000. My hon. Friend from Cuddalore, Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar—and there is no question of mistaking his views either—was for Rs. 4,000."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I was always for Rs. 3,000."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" My hon. Friend from Cuddalore in the year of grace 1923 made a very eloquent appeal on his motion to fix the pay of the Ministers at Rs. 4,000 a month. Wisdom again has come over my hon. Friend from Cuddalore. Now then, Sir, is it not absolutely justifiable on the part of the hon. the Finance Member to say that these gentlemen do not know their own minds ?"

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" We know it now." (Laughter.)

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" As a matter of personal explanation, I may say that certainly when the pay of the Ministers was put in the budget at Rs. 5,333 and odd we wanted it to be reduced to Rs. 4,000. Now it is at Rs. 4,000 and odd and we want to reduce it further. My motion to-day is a result of consultation with a large number of friends who are all satisfied, though a large number of friends on this side purposely put the figure at Rs. 3,000. My hon. Friend from Chingleput forgets the present history and always thinks of old times and of his childhood."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I only wish not to be so far away from childhood as my hon. Friend (laughter). I know the best and the most innocent years of my life, that time of the greatest pleasure and happiness when I did not know very much of politics as I unfortunately know to-day (hear, hear), the time when the Murtis ceased to trouble and the Reddis were at rest. Now my hon. Friend says that after consultation he has grown wiser, and my hon. Friend reminds me of the history of the present. May I remind him in turn about the history of the past when the hon. the Ministers were getting Rs. 5,333 and odd, and hon. Members came in with a motion that it should be reduced to Rs. 4,000. But when the hon. Ministers voluntarily reduced their pay to Rs. 4,000, you say again that it should be reduced to Rs. 3,500. Where will this end I want to know? Is not the hon. the Finance Member more than justified in saying that the dignity of the House requires a little more consistency on the part of many hon. Members of the House and that this question should not be so constantly raised over and over again? There is no question of personality, and there is no question of principle even. You talk of economy. Surely the veriest faddist in economy would smile with ridicule at the idea of this being considered economy. No, Sir, it is no argument; it is not consistency. You have been over and over again, repeatedly, time after time, making this motion, merely because you think that this is one way of detracting from the dignity of the Ministers. You speak of the pay of the Ministers not being consonant with their dignity; that pay has nothing to do with their position. I entirely agree. I am one of those who felt strongly and who feel equally strongly

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to-day that the hon. the Ministers made a bad move in having their salaries reduced (hear, hear). I make no secret of my ideas on the subject. Elsewhere as well as on the floor of this House I have given expression to that feeling strongly and very clearly. Now, Sir, I am also surprised that the budget contains this reduced salary of Rs. 4,000, and I should like the hon. the Finance Member to explain how it is that this reduced salary finds a place in the budget. I understood that in the year 1923 the hon. the Ministers made a voluntary reduction and fixed their salaries at Rs. 4,000 a month. Now, it is the Council which under the statute has to fix the salaries of the Ministers. The Council fixed the salary on previous occasions on the same scale as that of the Executive Councillors."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"May I explain, Sir, that the budget is not an order of Government? It is merely an estimate of expenditure."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I believe, Sir, that the provision was actually made with the consent of the Ministers."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"That is not the point. What I said was is that the budget is merely an estimate of expenditure. It does not lay down that anybody shall receive so much pay. It is merely an estimate made by the Finance Department of what is likely to be spent in the course of the coming year."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I say that it was said that the Ministers gave certain figures in pursuance of which probably the figures are put in the budget?"

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"But I may say, Sir, that in regard to that fact also, the voluntary giving up of a part of their pay applies, because I take it from the hon. the Finance Member's utterance, that the Ministers had a similar idea this year and mentioned that to the Finance Member when he prepared the budget this year. Now, I do venture to think that the Leader of the Opposition who, I know, is for keeping up the dignity of the House and is not detracted by those ephemeral considerations which sometimes make us exchange hot words across the floor of the House would think over the matter. I do appeal to him as a constitutionalist. I do appeal to him as a responsible leader of a political party. The fate of this motion to-day is well known. It has always been well known. My hon. Friend says that he will repeat that motion time after time, year after year (A voice:—"Even day after day") and day after day. I venture to think that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition with his fine instinct for political warfare will take a different view of the matter. I appeal to him not because I have any hesitation as regards the fate of this or any other motion that may be brought forward either this year or in subsequent years but I appeal to him to consider this matter carefully and if he has any real influence on his party, to see to-day that these motions are not pressed."

* Mr. CHAVADI K. SOBRAHMANYA PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I wish to say that equity and justice require that the Ministers who occupy the same rank and prestige as the Executive Council Members should receive a salary which is equal to that of their co-Members. They have already agreed to have their pay diminished by Rs. 1,000 and I see no reason why their pay should be further reduced when they have similar functions to perform as the Executive Councillors."

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* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Mr. President, Sir, when my hon. Friend the Finance Member lectured to us on our duties and severely reprimanded us for tabling motions of this kind and told us that such motions were inconsistent with the dignity of the Council, I was not surprised. He is a bureaucrat, to the manner born. All his life, he has been engaged in drafting budgets fixing high salaries and his very training naturally makes him keep up the same high salaries, and he cannot do otherwise. But I am very glad, Mr. President, that he told us very frankly that we were absolutely impotent in this matter, and I am glad that my hon. Friend to the left, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, has drawn the natural inference from that, namely, that if we are really serious about political advance we have no business to be here. We are doing practically nothing. We are doing nothing, while we are trying to do something. But I was surprised, Sir, at my hon. Friend from Chingleput who readily agreed with the hon. the Finance Member that such proceedings impaired the dignity of the Council. I should like to know what his idea of dignity is. I suppose it is somewhat like this, namely, that the budget should be produced here and presented for our vote and on the very first day it should be passed; no motions of an adverse character are to be moved; the salaries, etc., put in there are to be accepted, and we would all then be happy. Is that the position? We here as the Constitutional Opposition are trying to put our point of view before the House; we are trying to convert the other hon. Members who we recognise cannot be converted. But we are trying to appeal to the larger electorate which is represented by us on this side, as much as by my hon. Friends on the other side. If really the Opposition in this Council or any other Council are to be in a majority they can carry motions of this kind and there will be no need for an Opposition at all. Any tyro in Parliamentary practice knows that we are in the Opposition because we are in a minority. If we are not in a minority, we would have been where my hon. Friend now is. It is because we are in a minority, we have to bring forward motions of this kind. I do not see how else we can carry on our work as the Opposition here. Moreover, we have to face the electorates at least once in three years (laughter), and when we go to the electorates, we want to and we have to tell them exactly what we have stood here for. And, Sir, this policy of retrenchment has been referred to, and my hon. Friend said that they were ill-advised, when they (Ministers) in a fit of patriotism agreed to a cut in their salaries by about a thousand rupees a month. Now, Sir, this motion asks for fixing the salary of the Ministers at Rs. 3,500 each a month. On that matter, I think, Sir, the 12 noon. a sponsors of this motion have been more generous than even the Muddiman Committee, or Lord Lytton, the Governor of Bengal. The Muddiman Committee states, Sir, that the Government of India Act should be so amended as to provide that the salary of the Ministers may be reduced to three-fifths of the salary of the Executive Councillors, namely. . . ."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I just try to correct the impression which is left over in the mind of my hon. Friend regarding the recommendations of the Muddiman Committee. The Muddiman Committee says that in case the salary of the Ministers is to be reduced, it shall not be less than three-fifths of the salary of the Executive Councillors."

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*Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I have no faith in reiterating other people's arguments; I simply wanted to use it as an argument. I say, Mr. President, that this is the position which the Muddiman Committee contemplate with equanimity, viz., that a motion for the reduction of the salary of the Ministers made and carried in a House may provide for three-fifths of the salary of the Executive Councillors, and that that is quite consistent with the purpose of the Act. Therefore, this is a motion merely for retrenchment. Moreover, Lord Lytton in his ill-fated message to the Bengal Council has said that he could possibly agree if they were to reduce the salary of the Ministers to Rs. 3,000. Therefore I suggest that we in this side of the House are entitled to bring forward before this House, again and again, these proposals for retrenchment. My hon. Friend at all events will remember that when we made proposals for increased expenditure the hon. Ministers turned round and asked us, how we could help them to find the money. When we propose retrenchment they turn against us. Sir, it is a very difficult position. Take all our proposals for retrenchment and total them up and you will find that the total retrenchment would come up to some lakhs and that money could be spent on the nation-building departments. Therefore it seems to me to say that because we know the fate of this motion, we ought not to make it here, is a position to which no constitutional Opposition can commit itself. My hon. Friend gave plenty of advice to my esteemed friend the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. My friend and leader, Desabandhu Das, once said in a public speech that from his very long experience at the Bar he has learnt one thing, that is, never to take advice from his adversaries. I do hope that my hon. Friend will tell the hon. the Member for Chingleput "you keep your advice to your party men. We know how to take care of our party without the necessity of our going to your party for advice." One word more, Mr. President. My hon. Friend said that we who are in the Opposition are fighting a losing battle and therefore we ought not to fight. But may I suggest seriously to my hon. Friend that that is the way in which a brave warrior fights his battles, and that it is only the way of a coward to fight a battle the result of which he is certain about. A brave warrior fights his battles when he is quite uncertain about the results. And I want to tell my hon. Friend that, as will be seen from this morning's newspapers, in Bengal, my leader Desabandhu Das has defeated Lord Lytton's tactics. We in Madras are quite different from what they are in Bengal. But even in Madras, when the elections are coming, thank God that they are coming at least once in three years, the Member for Chingleput may rue the day that he made these irresponsible statements, ridiculing the humble efforts of people who are trying to drive some sense into the minds of the otherwise incorrigible Ministers."

*Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I had no intention of joining in the debate. But I am called upon to answer certain questions put by my hon. Friend, the Member for Chingleput. I do not want to reply in any such manner as my hon. Friend the Member for University has done. I am always willing enough to exchange courtesies. But we have to explain the position we are now taking on this question. We stand for retrenchment and we believe that there is ample scope for retrenchment, whatever view the hon. the Minister for Education may have in the matter of the retrenchment, and we believe that really the Ministers will

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give the lead in the matter of retrenchment, even if it be with some self-sacrifice. We know that under the existing constitution, the salaries of many Government servants cannot be cut down. But there are various ways in which it is possible to improve the condition of the country. Unless we know the capacity of the people, we know the growing needs of the country and unless we apply the axe of retrenchment, there is no scope for the development of the country. These are the views we advocate and we wish that the Ministers would be helped by the sound advice which the Opposition now offers and give lead to the country. The second consideration is that, so far as the selection of Council Secretaries are considered, the Ministers will see their way to secure the object that the hon. Member Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar has in view."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Hon. Members who intend to proceed with this debate will please bear in mind that we have to conclude exactly at 1 p.m. the discussion on this particular demand. I shall therefore put this question to vote. Hon. Members will kindly remember that they have to vote on the question of the reduction of the salaries of Ministers, i.e., on Mr Venkataramana Ayyangar's motion, namely, motion No. 423 on the agenda."

*Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI:—"I have given a motion, Mr. President, for the reduction of expenses in general of the Secretariat as a whole. I shall reserve discussion on it for the next head."

*Mr Peddiraju's motion was by leave withdrawn. The motion of Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar was then put to the vote and lost.

Motion No. 75.

*Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 1,74,000 for pay of officers be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"My main object in tabling this motion was to discuss the ministerial policy. Sir, we have had experience of the present ministry for the past 4½ years. I would like to ask, Sir, what it has done and what still remains to be done. This is an occasion, Sir, at which we have to pause and take stock of the situation, especially in view of the fact that in the next few days we will have 126 lakhs of our present contribution remitted to us. Sir, this is not an occasion when I wish to make any political capital for this or that party, but I want to impress both on the Ministers and the House as to what has been left undone to a very large extent and to rectify the delay. Some of us, Sir, put questions on the Excise policy which the Minister was following. But it was a bit unfortunate that the discussion closed so suddenly that we could not get any reply or that sort of assurance from the hon. the Minister which some of us at least required from him. There are people on this side of the House, who really feel that very little progress has been made during the last 4½ years, during which the hon. the Minister for Excise has been in charge of it. Well, he himself admitted during the general discussion on the budget that the progress that had been made was very little and he stated that the reason for this slow progress lay in the necessity for finding funds to make up what would be reduced in the provincial revenue, if he were to follow the Excise policy suggested by hon. Members of

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this House. Now, we have got for the first time a chance to meet this difficulty, in the reduction in the contribution that will be announced. We have got this 126 lakhs and in the course of the next few years probably the balance of 348 lakhs which we are paying as contribution will be also remitted. We are by far better than other provinces. For we have got at least this remission of 126 lakhs. In other provinces, whenever the question of Excise policy is raised, they do not find means for making up the revenue that will be lost by giving effect to any policy of reform. In our province, Sir, on account of this contribution which is likely to be remitted, we have got the means to meet that deficit and so the reform ought not to involve the same difficulty as in other provinces. It is very unfortunate that while in spite of this fact some progress has been made in other provinces, no such progress has been made in our province. Now we have got this remission amounting to 126 lakhs. I should like to know from the hon. Member for Excise what he is going to do hereafter. That question of funds, which he was putting forth as being an obstacle in the way, cannot now be considered as an obstacle. I want from him an enunciation of the future policy with reference to this matter and how he is going to tackle with it. I am sure, if he is really going to accept or adopt a policy of reform, or a policy of progress, hon. Members on both sides of the House could be found to support the policy of reform. Well, Sir, I am one of those who were glad when he was appointed the Member in charge of Excise when he was first appointed Minister. But now it is a great disappointment to me that even after 4½ years he has not been able to do anything in regard to this matter. I hope that he will not let slip this opportunity and that he will come forward with a policy which will ultimately end in prohibition, so that real nation-building may be effected. For nation-building there is nothing so good or so important as this, namely, the stopping of the drink evil. It is this evil which affects the economic position, the social happiness and everything else of the unfortunate labourers and the depressed classes. So, Sir, if nation-building activity means anything, it means first and foremost, the attacking of this excise question and finding a solution by which you can put down the evil, so that in a few years we can at least gradually effect prohibition. So, Sir, I should like to know firstly what the hon. Ministers are going to do with reference to this question of excise reform, and if they get the contribution, how much of it is going to be spent for the purpose of meeting this question.

"Well, Sir, secondly, the local bodies have been left in a position of great difficulty during the last few years. Before the Reforms we used to get a lot of grants from the Imperial Government for elementary education and for drinking-water wells. What has been the position after the Reforms? These doles have been stopped and we no longer get any doles. For instance, in the matter of rural public health in the old days large grants used to be given for digging wells for supply of drinking water. That has been stopped. It is an unfortunate matter to which I have to refer again, viz, the question of the proposals made by the Financial Relations Committee. I have spoken about it for several years and I do not think the hon. the Finance Member will object to my doing so again in the present year. Well, Sir, the Financial Relations Committee wanted to place these local bodies on a stable basis and they did not want that these bodies should be

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always knocking at the door of the local Government asking for doles. They wanted that some sort of understanding ought to be come to as regards the several items of expenditure that are being incurred by them and how they are to be met. The Government took advantage of those proposals in which it was recommended that the Government need not bear any portion of the expenditure, and when it came to a matter of their meeting the expenditure, they were asked to meet them themselves and the Government would not pay it. The result was that not only new grants were not given, but the grants that had been given were resumed. We have in the country some wells which are half-dug and some which are three-fourths dug and as one of my friends in my district said 'we have beautiful wells if you see from outside, but if you go near and see there is no water'. That is the state of things we have in the country. And I need not say that this question of drinking-water supply ought to be specially tackled if we are to move forward on progressive lines in the matter of public health. In fact, nothing has been done in this field.

"I will only say one other word with regard to the Minister for Local Self-Government. It was only the other day that an article appeared over the signature of the Raja of Ramnad referring to the fact that some political tinge was perceived in the reviews of administration reports of certain local bodies."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—"I never said that any political tinge appeared in such reviews. I only said that any political consideration ought not to be allowed to appear."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"That implies that there was a suspicion that there was a political tinge in the reviews of these reports. It is very unfortunate that such sort of suspicion should be allowed to arise from these reviews. With reference to nominations and with reference to some other matters, the complaints made in this House are within the recollection of hon. Members. There is a fear lurking in the minds of several people that when funds are available the Ministers may, at least it is so feared, give grants only to those local bodies presided over by their friends and not to those presided over by others. I am only informing the House of the fear that is lurking in the mind of the country and I hope that the Minister will not give room for such a suspicion and he will take particular care that in distributing the grants he does that on some well-settled principles of policy. He being at the head of a party, it is absolutely necessary that he does it on some fixed principles so that there may not be room for suspicion. He should, therefore, if possible, associate himself with a committee of Members of both sides of the House to fix the principles under which these distributions should be made. Unless that is done, I fear the distribution may give room for heart-burning. As I said, this question of giving relief where it is needed is one for careful consideration. In the departments of Land Revenue and Police, the expenditure is growing like anything. People ask, what is the progress made?"

"Again, Sir, I have raised the question of elementary education in the general discussion. I showed that during the last three and half years there has been only an additional grant of 10 lakhs and that is a very sad commentary on this tall talk about nation-building departments being attended to;

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that is a very hopeless position. As I said also, in Bombay we find that an additional sum of Rs. 25 lakhs have been given for elementary education in one year. In Madras we have a very sad spectacle. Again, if this question of elementary education is really going to be tackled, it can be done only by Government undertaking larger responsibilities than now. It has been shown more than once that the yield from education tax will not go very far unless we alter the Act and we get the Government to pay more than what they have undertaken to pay now. In Bombay the Government bear two-thirds of the cost in rural areas. That is in contrast to what is obtaining in this province. If there are any two ways in which the position of the country can be improved and the reforms can be said to have beneficially worked, and if amelioration in some way to the condition of the labour population could be effected, it can only be, in my humble opinion, by putting down this drink evil and improving the position of education. These are the only two ways by which people and their status can be raised and by which we can be doing justice to the position we occupy here. It is therefore, Sir, with a view to ascertain from the hon. the Ministers what they are going to do in these matters that I have made this motion. I do not want any hazy sort of answer which may or may not be a promise, but I want a promise, a definite statement of what they are going to do in the directions that I have pointed out."

*Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, the policy of the Ministers has certainly not satisfied us. At the time of their appointment and during the tenure of their office, we expected honestly and sincerely that the Ministers would be the doughty champions of the public. But to our disappointment we find them only the faithful friends and allies of the bureaucracy. That has been the bitter experience. The hon. the Mover of the resolution has covered a very wide ground and I do not want to mar the effect of eloquence of all that he has given expression to by any statement that I may make. I am in entire agreement with all that he said when he attacked the excise policy, but the Minister for Excise seems to be more inclined to get his revenue than to looking for the comforts and well-being of the people. In spite of strenuous efforts with which he should tackle the problem of excise policy, nothing has been done. As for education, I admit that something has been done: but enough progress cannot be said to have been made. Now, let me take leave of my hon. Friend the Education Minister and let me for a moment concentrate my attention on the Local Self-Government department.

"The impression has gone abroad, and I must say with some justification, that these self-governing institutions have been manipulated for electioneering and party purposes. (Hear, hear.) If you only look to the nominations not only made by the Government but also by the presidents of the district boards to the taluk boards and by the Taluk Board presidents with respect to the local bodies, if you only have a glance at them, you will notice that the figures reveal a melancholy tale. And again whenever questions are asked in this House on those matters, we have the reply that the Government have no information. That is again the treatment accorded to us in this House. When this scandalous state of things is sought to be brought to the notice of the Government and interpellations are asked, we

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are merely referred to clause (2) of section 9 of the Local Boards Act with respect to nominations made by the presidents of district boards. We are fully aware of these sections and when we ask why a particular action has been done which is not in accordance with the section, we are treated as mere babies. So far as these sections and Acts are concerned, we decline to take any lessons from the Ministers. Our complaint is that, notwithstanding the existence of the statutory provisions, things are allowed to go on in this deplorable manner. I may say, Sir, that I have noticed with wonderment how nominations have been made from communities which are already over-represented by elections and there is really no justification for such a state of affairs. In my own district, and, I believe, in other districts also, such a thing happens. When questions are asked they are held up for six or seven months without a reply and then it is said that the Government have no information. The Government take about six months to say that they have no information with regard to a particular matter about, say, Cuddalore which information they could possibly have got within two hours. On such things the Government in their magnificent and supreme wisdom come forward only to say that they have no information and that too after eight months. Then again, the Members of this House may remember the rebuke or the reprimand that was given last year by His Excellency Lord Willingdon in regard to the working of these local bodies. If hon. Members of the House will peruse the audit notes that were placed on the Editors' Table, they can see nothing, so far as the finances of some of these local bodies are concerned, really encouraging. The whole thing seems to be in a state of chaos. So far as this department is concerned, it reminds me of the big Augean stable that is past cleansing.

"Now let me take leave of the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and make one or two observations in respect of the hon. the Minister for Development. It is true that he is here for the purpose of developing industry. In this direction so far as one matter is concerned, it pains me to learn and to find out that he has done absolutely nothing to move his little finger with a view to remove a great evil. There is one provision in the Local Boards Act which compels the co-operative societies for the purpose of that Act to be treated as companies and made liable to pay a certain amount of tax when their share capital or when their capital is 'one lakh or less'. Beyond that there is no other scale. Beyond that there is nothing to show, if it is Rs. 50,000 or less, so many rupees; if it is Rs. 20,000 or less, so many rupees; or, if it is Rs. 10,000 or less, so many rupees. The minimum is one lakh of rupees or less. Even though the share capital may be Rs. 500, Rs. 30 is sought to be levied. In my own district of South Arcot, there are about 600 co-operative societies. So far as the Local Boards Act is concerned, that portion of the Act empowering the Local Boards to levy this tax has been introduced only recently. In spite of this fact, certain local boards which have within their area about 250 co-operative societies of which not less than 150 have a share capital not exceeding Rs. 1,000 have called upon the latter class of societies to pay a company's tax of Rs. 30. Nor is this all; though the Act came into operation in 1921, the presidents of these local boards went to long sleep, woke up one fine morning two months ago and they are issuing notices covering the three years' arrears which in the case of

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the smaller societies come to about Rs. 90. There were many complaints against this and in answer to an interpellation made here the hon. the Minister for Development as well as the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government said that the question of amending the Act with a view to remove this awkward feature was under consideration. That answer was made on the floor of this House three or four months ago and since then numerous representations have been made. When it is a question of giving relief to the people by reducing taxation, the Ministers are very slow to move. They do not appear to be sympathetic. Therefore it seems to be, Sir, that the Ministers have no right to be regarded as the doughty champions of the public though they got into the Council and were appointed as the real representatives of the people."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, for want of time, I shall confine my attention only to my hon. Friend the Minister for Development. Although this House cannot know what it is that he is developing, the House certainly knows that he is not developing anything worth mentioning. He has done nothing for which the ryot should feel thankful. If for nothing else, at least for one thing he deserves the condemnation of this House, and that is this: on numberless occasions in connexion with a number of interpellations, when he was asked persistently and insistently whether he has consulted public opinion in doing such and such a thing, he has stated 'there is no need to consult public opinion'. I think on one occasion he said, and I hope it will be within the memory of this House, that somebody told him somewhere about a certain thing and that he did not even keep a note of that. The hon. Minister in his famous Guntur speech which may be taken to be almost the first exposition of his policy—made for the edification of the world—said as regards the Co-operative department that he did not believe in the devolution of the present powers which rested in the hands of Government to non-official individuals but only to co-operative institutions such as local unions, etc. That is what he professes to do. But what has he actually done? He has increased the number of honorary assistant registrars and their present number is 86 or 87. Thus, the hon. the Minister has shown not only want of aptitude for the work which has been entrusted to him, but he has also got utter disregard to informed public opinion and has left the whole policy in the hands of probably the subordinates of the department. To speak the truth, Sir, to-day the Co-operative department is run neither by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies nor by the hon. the Minister in whose salary no reduction is conceivable in the minds of some of my Friends in the Opposite Benches. The Co-operative department is practically run by a gentleman who is called Personal Assistant to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. I have got a copy of a circular sent by a very important gentleman in Southern India, a big landholder, in his capacity as Honorary Assistant Registrar to the co-operators of his district saying that the Personal Assistant to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies was of opinion that the institution of honorary assistant registrars should be supported by all unions and they might therefore send up a number of resolutions to that effect. I have got a copy of the circular. It is in this way that public opinion on co-operative policy is sought to be manufactured. This I mention as an example of how co-operative public opinion is manufactured in this Presidency in the benign reign of the hon. the Minister for Development.

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"On the undesirability of the institution of these honorary assistant registrars, I do not dwell much; because hon. Members of this House have been furnished, unofficially of course, with a memorandum on the subject by the Provincial Co-operative Union. Sir, the presidents of district banks, etc., numbering about thirty or forty, have said that the increase in the number of honorary assistant registrars is really retarding the growth of the movement. The Provincial Co-operative Conference and several District Conferences have spoken against this institution. Not only this. The hon. the Minister has, on a recent occasion, threatened to launch new branches of co-operation. He said he was going to experiment with insurance co-operative societies. Sir, when the existing societies are so badly managed, it is rather dangerous to depend on the opinion of casual visitors and embark on new branches of co-operation. He could well have taken the opinion of the Central Urban Bank, which is the premier co-operative banking concern in this Presidency, and of the Provincial Co-operative Union, which is the premier unofficial educative body in the province recently, though tardily, recognized by Government.

"The other day the hon. the Minister boasted about the reorganization scheme of the department. If you examine it, you will find that at the most the cost of the department might have been reduced a trifle. But at what cost to efficiency? How much heart-burning it might have caused to the men already in the department, the people who have been working in the department for nearly eighteen or twenty years as Inspectors and Chief Inspectors? They have been practically neglected in the reorganization scheme, I am told. Now the claims of senior men in the service have been overlooked obviously for party considerations. Soon the appointments are to be announced. People are already gloating over the fact that so and so has seen the hon. Minister and that he would surely get an appointment. Sir, for the sake of party patronage and for no other apparent reason and certainly not in the interests of efficiency, such things seem to be done. It was said on one occasion that this House cannot afford to pay for the services of expensive deputy collectors to run this department. But, Sir, I may say that a deputy collector when he has reached a certain stage carries with him wide experience and knowledge of the conditions of the world which a 'patronage-man' selected from an inferior cadre cannot boast of. It might perhaps be urged that this very House on a former occasion urged the replacing of expensive deputy collectors by 'cheaper' men. But cheapness at the cost of efficiency is not worth anything. The proper remedy was to have retained the deputy collectors and to have given them more work to do and a larger area to supervise. For instance, the MacLagan Committee, the Bihar and Orissa Committee, in fact every expert committee in the world has fixed over 1,000 societies as the charge for an Assistant Registrar, whereas in Madras, in actual practice, it is only 400 or 500 societies.

"As regards the Agricultural department, Sir, I am afraid the hon. Minister has shown no more individuality than he has shown in the sister branch of co-operation. I would ask him in all seriousness what is the use of the Agricultural College, an expensive and even luxurious institution? The number of unemployed graduates of that College would be sufficient argument for its discontinuance and yet the equipment charges for that College is

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going ahead. The very large amount of money spent on research side can well be spared, as research is a subject in which the whole country is interested, and it need not be a charge on provincial finance. It is work better fitted for Pusa than for Coimbatore. Sir, the hon. the Minister when I heckled him the other day with questions about not providing sufficient money for the travelling expenses of the agricultural demonstrators to enable them to go to the villages and carry agricultural knowledge to the villagers, he did not vouchsafe a satisfactory reply to that. He said he was going to appoint a number of maistris. Even the subordinates of the department are not evidently respecting him as they ought to. I am explaining myself. It may be within the memory of this House that sanction for the new Hosur Cattle Farm was applied for. But before this House sanctioned the supplementary grant, I am told cattle had actually been removed from the Coimbatore farm to Hosur—at least six or eight weeks before that. Once the hon. the Minister said that they were going to give up the Chintaladevi farm and that farm would not cost the tax-payer more thereafter. But very soon after that he said that it would not be closed and that he was in favour of cattle-breeding farms in almost every district. This shows how inefficiently and in what utter disregard of public opinion, not to speak of the utter absence of any settled policy, the department is managed.

“As regards the other industrial concerns such as jams and jellies as also as regards the rotten fish of over four or five years’ standing for which a sale is piously hoped for in the near future, I have no time to deal with these stinking subjects. I think I have said enough to show that the management of this department under the present hon. Minister has been anything but satisfactory and deserves condemnation by this House.”

Mr. P. L. MOORE:—“I shall not occupy the time of the House for more than a few minutes. The hon. Member Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar said that the finances of the local bodies were generally in a state of chaos and he relied for that statement on the report of the Local Self-Government department. He quoted the strictures made by Lord Willingdon, but did not mention the rest. I think I ought to give the House one or two instances to show that we have been taking every step necessary to bring to the notice of the various local boards concerned the state of their finances and helping them to get their finances in order. We have made considerable progress in this direction in the course of the year instead of waiting for the close of the year and have already granted them relief. As the House knows, we had to give them a large compassionate grant.

12-45 p.m.

About 17 lakhs of rupees were granted as subsidies to the local bodies. They got also nearly 6 lakhs of recurring grant. They have got about 11 lakhs down to put them straight; and they also got two useful recurring grants of 2½ lakhs. One grant of 2½ lakhs went for District Board Engineers and the other, to the Medical officers in the taluk head-quarter institutions. Those two things have helped their finances considerably; and the result is that while in January 1924 there was a deficit of 19 lakhs, there was not a single taluk board which had a deficit on 1st January 1925. The deficit of the union boards has been reduced and at the end of the financial year there will not be any deficit at all. I am perfectly confident that their finances will be in a sound condition. The opening

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balance of municipalities in the year 1922-23 was 21.96 lakhs and the same in the year 1923-24 was 30½ lakhs. I do not want to bother the House with more figures. I only want the House to bear in mind that the financial position of the municipalities in these two years has increased by 40 per cent. I think that is a tangible result. I should ask Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar that instead of repeating the statement he did, he made a study of the facts. The hon. the Minister has been doing his best to improve the straitened finances of these local bodies. We have been careful of the financial principles and in the management of money as the Finance department itself. I hope that the Finance department will bear me out in this matter. These financial principles are only high-sounding words; they are merely rules of common sense which everybody applies in his own affairs. The grants that are given to the local bodies will not be in the form of doles or compassionate grants. That has a demoralizing effect. I hope I have convinced the House that the strictures of Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar are not quite deserving.”

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—“I rise to oppose this motion. In doing so, I wish to take this opportunity of answering the question why the Muhammadan Members who were against the hon. the Ministers in the ‘No-confidence’ motion changed their angle of vision and voted for the hon. the Ministers. The Opposition always look upon any question of the reduction of the Ministers’ salaries with the same feeling as Napoleon Bonaparte did on the 18th of Brumaire. Sir, it is a fact that the Opposition began to die. The death of the Opposition may be said to date from the day on which it came into existence. It is very strange that this brilliant constellation of Satyamurti and Reddi had so little influence and the reason is this. The difficulty is this: the Opposition have no supporters. The Opposition consists of all generals and no followers to follow them. We find that Mr. Ramalinga Reddi has one foot here, another in the Punjab with the Akali martyrs.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR:—“May I rise to a point of order and ask whether these are relevant remarks when we are discussing the question of the Ministers’ salaries?”

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—“I am sorry my remarks are misunderstood. More interesting remarks are made in the Houses of Parliament.” (Loud laughter.)

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—“If these remarks apply to the Muhammadan Members of the Opposition, I have no objection.”

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—“What I have to say is that Mr. Ramalinga Reddi would not begin and Mr. Satyamurti would not end. In this connexion, a historical couplet comes to my mind and it is this. The Earl of Chatham stood waiting for Richard. Richard stood waiting for the Earl of Chatham. So both were waiting. As regards my hon. Friend the Member from Coimbatore, he emits forth lava, coal, etc., over the Forest officers. The hon. Member from Nellore with his hand on the table is a reservoir of rhetoric. . . .”

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“Is the description of the physical appearance of an hon. Member in order?”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“I hope that the hon. Member will be very discreet in the matter.”

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Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—"And the Member from the land of slabs, Cuddapah. . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"We have nearly touched the end of this discussion. The hon. Member is not in order in making personal remarks."

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—"To continue to keep on this alliance was found very difficult. I support the Ministry."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am indeed grateful to my hon. Friend from Coimbatore for his friendly criticisms regarding the administration of the Local Self-Government Department. He has complained against the results of the labours of the Financial Relations Committee, and he has taken the Government to task for not acceding to all the requests made by that Committee. Sir, it should not be forgotten that the Government have accepted many of the recommendations of that Committee. They have accepted the recommendations with regard to the provincialization of the district board engineers and health officers. They have also accepted the liability to pay grants for the maintenance of trunk roads. They are also bound to pay the general contribution towards the resources of the local bodies and so forth. If the Government would not go further, it is due to the fact that the financial position of the province is not as satisfactory as it should be. When we get a reduction in the provincial contribution, it is likely that we may give help to these local bodies (hear, hear). The hon. Member regretted the abolition of the minor sanitary grants. I share in his regret; the Government are considering the desirability of restoring this grant in another form. The question whether it will not be possible to help the schemes of rural water-supply is under consideration. Again, Sir, the Government are examining the possibilities of giving some sort of help to local bodies in the matter of village communications. My Friend from Coimbatore said that there was not much improvement in the Local Self-Government administration. I am afraid that he has not paid any attention to the improvements that were effected during the last 4½ years, both in the Public Health and Medical departments. During the last two years there has been a retrenchment to the value of nearly 12 lakhs of rupees in the Medical department alone and the money so saved has been utilized to extend medical relief to rural areas. We have given rural areas medical relief. We have given all the local bodies public health staff.

"My Friend from South Arcot took us to task for having formed an unholy alliance with the bureaucracy. I am not ashamed to own that we are the allies of the bureaucracy. But it is not an unholy alliance. Unholy alliance has to be traced elsewhere. As the result of our alliance, the bureaucracy has become less bureaucratic." (Hear, hear.)

"Sir, the same Member again has complained against the way in which nominations are made by the presidents of district boards and by the Government. So far as the nominations to the taluk boards are concerned, they are left to the discretion of the presidents themselves."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"A matter of personal explanation, Sir. My complaint was that sufficient check was not exercised."

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* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I should like to know what sort of check my hon. Friend expects."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Whenever his attention is drawn to any complaints with regard to nominations to these local bodies, he may see that such things do not recur in future."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The local bodies have been exercising their discretion properly in the matter of nomination."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"May I know whether the Act empowers the Government to interfere in the matter of nominations by the district boards?"

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, they can interfere by way of advice."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know whether the hon. the Minister has no direct influence over the district board and taluk board presidents with reference to nominations?"

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I said the Government 1 p.m. have been issuing instructions to them by way of advice."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR:—"My suggestion is that the dissatisfaction is due to the advice given."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Hear, hear."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I do not think there has been any dissatisfaction expressed."

"I have no doubt that there would be complaints from those who have been disappointed in the matter of nomination. Thereby I do not mean that there have not been mistakes made by the presidents of the boards or by the Government. There might have been mistakes; but certainly there was no intention to make mistakes. They must have crept in in the general course of administration."

"My hon. Friend the Member for North Arcot has confused his remarks to the Development Department. I am sure my hon. Colleague the Minister in charge of the Development Department will take care of himself. I am glad that the hon. Member for Coimbatore has appreciated the small advance that has been made and asked for more. I am sure I will not be wanting in trying to give more help to the local bodies."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Does the hon. the Minister for Development wish to speak?"

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, it is now 1 o'clock but still you have given me permission to speak for a few minutes. If I wish to indulge in a complete attack on all the statements made by my hon. Friends, Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar and Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar, it would take me more time than what has been given me a present. I shall be very brief in answering the allegations made by the hon. Members."

"The hon. Member, Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, raised an objection regarding the co-operative societies, and said that I had done nothing so far as the payment of profession tax and companies tax by co-operative societies was

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concerned. If only he had looked into the machinery of the Government Secretariat he would have found out for himself how hard I had been fighting on that point. The subject is under dispute between myself and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government. We are now discussing how far it would be possible so to amend the Act as to give satisfaction both to us and also to the several local boards who are suffering from want of funds. When the Act is brought before the Legislative Council the hon. Member will know exactly what I have done, and what help I expect from him when the subject is taken up in the Legislative Council. My hon. Friend Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar put so much matter into his statement that I was not able to see where the beginning was and where the end was, and what facts and figures he had adduced to make it a concrete whole. The hon. Member says that I have not developed anything. If only he would look into the several administration reports they will speak for themselves as to the improvements that I have made. Sir, I have to be very brief as I said in the beginning. With regard to the question of not taking the public into confidence I can only say that I have got two advisory committees, one to deal with the subjects of Agriculture and Co-operation and the other with Industries and Fisheries."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"May I ask whether they are nominated or elected, and if elected, on what basis?"

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"They are nominated from among the hon. Members of this House on both sides of the House leaving out of account such hon. Members as refused to co-operate."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"How many of them are Members of the Opposition?"

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"The hon. Member, Dr. Subbarayan, will bear me out in what I am going to say. I asked him whether he would be willing to serve on one of these Committees and his reply was that so long as he was on the Opposition he would not take up office or do duties in any Committee belonging to the Transferred department. It is for him to contradict it if it is not a fact."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Does the Committee consist of the hon. Members of the Legislative Council only?"

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"As regards the honorary assistant registrars of co-operative societies, I do not know when this new idea dawned upon my hon. Friend. These honorary assistant registrars had been in office from 1917, and nothing but praise had been given to them all these years. It is only suddenly in the last Co-operative Conference held in December 1924 that this idea appears to have sprung up to my hon. Friend along with so many other people at the same time on the same day."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"On a matter of personal explanation. Sir, this wave of madness not only caught me but so many people in all the 25 districts. We wanted the honorary assistant registrars when there were no unions working. But now as there are more than 200 unions working in the different parts of the presidency, there is no use of reduplicating the machinery at much cost."

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* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"The hon. Member read out a long list of names to show that the subject in which he is interested is also a matter of interest to so many people. On the other hand there are even greater number of people who have protested against the abolition of the system of appointing honorary assistant registrars."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I have already pointed out how this Opposition has been manufactured."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"Mr. President, I never interrupted my hon. Friend when he was on his feet. It would be cruel on his part to interrupt me (Laughter.) Then the hon. Member told me, or told the House, that the subordinates have been left to themselves, and as an illustration of it he referred to the case of the Personal Assistant to the Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies. This is a new matter, Sir, that has been sprung upon me. If the hon. Member has got any evidence on that point—he said he had a circular—if he would pass it on to me, I shall take the necessary action. Merely making a statement on the floor of the House without giving me time to consider, is not very proper on his part."

"The hon. Member wanted to criticize my action in regard to the Insurance societies. That is a matter which has not yet been started, and when it is started it will receive due consideration. The subject of reorganization was placed before the Advisory Committee, and it was unanimously approved by the Finance Committee, and therefore there is no point in saying that it had not been sufficiently considered. And as regards the hard suffering I do not know whether the hon. Member is talking upon facts or upon his own imagination. We have not yet introduced the system. The Government Order has been issued. It will be time enough to see whether any persons have been harshly dealt with."

"As regards agriculture he says that no improvement has been made. If I had time enough I can give facts and figures to show the great improvements that have been made in the matter. We have raised the number of demonstrators by 26 or so. As regards travelling allowances if the demonstrators complain, it will be taken up for consideration. As regards the cattle that had been removed to Hosur I wish to know whether the hon. Member is aware of the dates when the Government Order was issued and when the animals were removed."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"On a matter of personal explanation, Sir. I have heard that the animals were removed before the hon. Minister came forward to this House with the demand for supplementary grants regarding them."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I do not press my motion, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The motion is by leave withdrawn. No reduction has been made in the grant."

Then the motion that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 3.64 lakhs under Demand XI—General Administration—Ministers and Civil Secretariats—Transferred was put and carried and the grant was made.

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DEMAND XII—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I move
‘ that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 54.91 lakhs under Demand
XII—Administration of Justice.’ ”

“ Sir, with your permission and if the hon. Members of this House will allow me to take a line somewhat different from that taken on this occasion, may I, Sir, in view of the series of motions which have been tabled for discussion, make a few remarks which I think will help to elucidate the position and may conceivably shorten the proceedings? (After a pause) I take it that I have your permission and the leave of this House. I find that there is one series of motions designed to omit the allotment of Rs. 14,400 for Pay of officers—Official Referee. I shall listen with interest to the remarks that will fall from hon. Members of this House and shall in any case consider the matter in conjunction with the hon. Judges of the High Court. But the only request that I shall permit myself to make would be that instead of moving for the omission of Rs. 14,400, the whole allotment, it will be convenient to move it as a token motion. It will make no difference with regard to the consideration of the whole question by the Government. I know, and I can anticipate the course of the discussion. I know the arguments that are likely to be advanced. But it is natural that in a matter of this kind, the abolition of an office which was started in 1908 at the earnest request of the members of the bar, we cannot arrive at a conclusion without having a conference with the hon. the Chief Justice and the other Judges of the High Court and getting their opinion. It is bound to take some time. Therefore I suggest that instead of moving a motion for the total omission and leaving no allotment for the post on the 1st of April, the House may discuss it as a token motion, considering that the attention that Government will bring to bear upon this subject, viz., the existence or the non-existence of the post of Official Referee, will not depend upon this being a token motion. I want to know whether the House generally favours this course and if so I want to say nothing more on the subject.”

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“ May I submit that the hon. the Law Member will be well advised to omit the allotment from the budget and if he feels the necessity, he may later on come forward with a demand for supplemental grant.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Then, that would mean that so far as the Government is concerned they have come to the conclusion that the Official Referee is not a useful or desirable institution and that they have decided to omit it.”

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ That may be the view of the House. But it does not commit the Government to any such view at all. Their view is different.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Assuming that the House comes to that conclusion and that Government accept the conclusion, then from the 1st April there will be no Official Referee. There will be a number of pending cases, and number of cases to be completed. We cannot

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send away the establishment pertaining to the Official Referee like that. That is a matter upon which if the hon. Members of this House come to such a conclusion, it is not easy to abide by it at all.

“ Then with regard to the High Court, I shall explain some matters and I think my explanation may clear the ground.

“ In the first place, I want the House to understand that the policy of the Government in regard to the increase of Judges was not inaugurated or initiated without a very careful investigation of not only the existing amount of work but of certain additional work which in the opinion of the Government they thought ought to be attached to the High Court. The Government's view is very strong that the High Court Judges ought to keep themselves in touch with the mufassal courts, and it is not desirable that complaints regarding the judicial quality of their work and method of disposal by the district munsifs, subordinate judges and District Judges should be forwarded to the Government and checked by them. If only for the purpose of keeping the question of judicial independence they look forward to the time when the question of patronage and appointments stand on a different footing, they also look forward to the time when the Executive Government will not be officers who will charge themselves with the duty of finding whether a particular Judge works properly, whether he attends the court regularly or not, and, as was pointed out more than once on the floor of this House, whether certain Judges usually attend the court at 4 o'clock or whether they sit until the early hours of the morning of the next day and dispose of all their work. This kind of investigation, the Government thinks, seems to be the legitimate duty of the High Court and the latter will have to keep in touch with the mufassal courts. Not only that the Government, also feel that the High Court, the highest judiciary of the land, ought to be kept in touch with the mufassal bar more than they are at present. I know of complaints often heard on the floor of this House that the High Court is in touch with the metropolis bar and pass their orders according to the policy and ideas of the metropolis bar. It has been the idea that this is not sufficient and that they should keep themselves in touch with the mufassal bar also. Therefore it has been the idea of Government that it is not sufficient that one Judge or two should be entrusted with the duty of visiting the various courts in the mufassal. It will be remembered that each one of the High Court Judges has two or three districts under his administration for the checking of statistics of cases disposed of and cases pending and for other purposes. The idea of the Government is that each Judge should be made responsible for the districts which he has under his charge and that he must be made responsible for what may be called the scrutiny of judicial administration in regard to those districts. Each Judge should look to the work of two or three districts and must keep himself in touch with the bar of that district, so that the High Court may make it a live and functioning body. It is with reference to this work that the High Court makes arrangements for inspection by a High Court Judge. I shall place before the Council certain figures showing the pendency of suits and I am sure the House will find that it would be quite impossible for the High Court to undertake this work. It is in that view that these additional Judges have become necessary.

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"Sir, let me go at once into the subject. So far as the statistics are concerned, in December 1923 the High Court came up with proposals for increasing the strength of the Bench in view of the state of arrears in the High Court. The Government declined to accept them. In May last they again pressed for the appointment of two temporary additional Judges in order to clear off the arrears. The High Court's proposals were again examined and two temporary additional Judges were sanctioned in October last up to the commencement of the summer recess in May next. One of the considerations which urged the Government in sanctioning the appointments was the need for the inspection of mufassal courts and this was emphasised in a correspondence between the Government and the High Court.

"I may say that the following statistics is the result of the pendency of suits. First appeals on the 31st July 1924 were 1,244. The institutions have been very heavy and on the 31st December 1924 the number of first appeals pending was 1,256. Now, Sir, I may mention that one of the reasons for this large pendency is that the Tanjore case, as hon. Members are aware, was an appeal which lasted for two months in actual hearing and the judgment in that case took about three days in actual delivering. That case was largely responsible for the present pendency, whatever may be other causes. To-day the position is this with regard to appeals from the subordinate and district courts. There are 1,250 appeals pending. Even if two Benches were to sit continuously day in and day out, even then it would take at least a couple of years to clear off these arrears, not taking into account the appeals that will be filed hereafter. It is very distressing to look at the figure, but there it is. It is not possible to expect that first appeals relating to suits less than Rs. 5,000 and above Rs. 20,000 would be large in number. The following are the figures. Original Side appeals on 31st July 1924 were 178. On the 31st December when the strength of the Judges was increased to 14, the Original Side appeals were 148, City Civil Court Appeals 175, Letters Patent Appeals 128, Second Appeals 3,381, Appeals against orders 723, Miscellaneous Second Appeals 236, Civil Revision Petitions 1,529 and Civil Miscellaneous Petitions 1,130.

"Now summarising this matter, what do we find? We find there is a pendency of 1,256 first appeals and 3,381 second appeals and 1,529 civil revision petitions. There is a slight decrease in the case of first appeals. As regards Original Side there were 875 institutions last year as against 851 disposed of. It will therefore be seen that the Court cannot keep pace with the institution of suits. The present average of pendency of first appeals is very serious, and hon. Members will see that, whatever may be the extenuating circumstances or explanation, it is not right to say that the first appeals from Subordinate Courts and District Courts should be pending for three years. I do not think it is a right state of things and we must find some means of getting rid of that state of things. Now we have before us the Report of the Civil Justice Committee. It is expected that if that report is translated into action and legislation as it is now contemplated is initiated with reference to the Civil Justice Committee's recommendations, many of these matters will be solved. It is expected that the number of second appeals and civil revision petitions will considerably decrease. Hon. Members who have paid some attention to the volume of the Civil Justice

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Committee's Report which has just now been published will bear me out in what I say. But the possibilities of diminution in the case of second appeals and civil revision petitions by virtue of the recommendations of the Civil Justice Committee being translated into effect will not affect the actual pendency of second appeals and miscellaneous petitions that are actually pending, because no legislation will be retrospective in effect. It will be remembered that at present a single Judge tries second appeals. That is not a satisfactory state of affairs. I submit hon. Members who have had experience of the High Court will know that the expedient of having one Judge to try second appeals in order to cope with the existing arrears is not satisfactory. What has it led to? He disposes of the appeal in one way or another. I cannot give the exact figures of pendency of Letters Patent Appeals—and there are a large number of Letters Patent Appeals over these second appeals. This is the reason for the increase in the number of Letters Patent Appeals. The Government are most anxious not to increase the number of Judges. We cannot possibly say that it is a proper state of affairs that an appeal should be pending for about three years. In this matter we have arrived at the conclusion that there is no way of dealing with this matter except by increasing the number of Judges, such increase being limited in period. Personally speaking, I am of opinion that the High Court Judges ought to be permanently appointed and not temporarily. The system prevailing in England is that whenever extra Judges are appointed the way in which that strength is again brought back to normality is by not filling up vacancies when they arise. It is because we are not able to foresee in what time the arrears can be disposed of that this expedient, viz, the creation of temporary posts, is attempted. In view of the large number of motions which have been tabled on this question with this explanation I move that this grant be passed."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I rise to a point of order. The speech that fell from the hon. the Law Member is not in accordance with the ordinary procedure. I submit that, as myself and my hon. Friend Mr. Satyamurti pointed out at the time of the discussion of the general budget, it behoves the Government to take this House into their confidence by propounding the policy as well as by elucidating the figures beforehand so that we might not make a discussion in the dark or at random. Any way we are thankful to the hon. the Law Member, at least I am thankful, for having given us the explanation at the right time though it takes the wind out of our sails."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Why should it?"

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"We do not want to waste the time of the Council. With these few words I only thank the hon. the Law Member for having given us this explanation."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member would do well to raise the point of order not on an occasion in which he agrees with the course of action taken by the hon. the Law Member, but on some occasion when he does not approve it."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Various hon. Members had given notice of a certain motion which was of very great importance and I thought it should be useful if they had all the figures before them before they attacked the Government."

[24th March 1925]

Motion No. 76.

1-30 p.m.

Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—" Sir,
I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 14,400 for Pay of officers—Official Referee, be omitted.'

"From what I have heard from the hon. the Law Member, I think that he is one with us in thinking that the office of the Official Referee is unnecessary and superfluous."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I did not say that. I have certain views on the subject. Myself being a lawyer, I am perfectly aware of what arguments are going to be urged against the office. I must say, Sir, that I was one of those largely responsible for the creation of the office as I headed the deputation to the hon. the Chief Justice for the appointment of an Official Referee. I know exactly what arguments could be raised against it. I shall be greatly obliged to hon. Members of the House if they will put forward their arguments so that we may consider them. I shall at once arrange for a conference between the hon. Judges of the High Court and the Government. In the meantime I do not want to be understood to have expressed one view or the other in the matter."

Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—" I will then proceed with what I have to say, Sir. I am informed, and I believe, that this office was originally created to spare the time and effort that were necessary in the case of long and detailed enquiries in such kinds of suits as for partnership, partition and agency where questions occupy the Courts much time to the detriment of more important matters. The creation of the office was intended to effect speedy disposal of such suits. Both these considerations doubtless justified the creation of the office, but I submit from experience that it has not secured the object desired but is becoming a costly machinery to the litigants. I do not desire to discuss in full the procedure adopted by the Official Referee, but I shall content myself with mentioning a few points in support of my motion which bear out the view that I have expressed that it is a costly machinery and does not serve any purpose. It is not possible for a single officer, however capable he may be, to push through the work of inspection of accounts and submit a report with much expedition. The result is that courts are compelled to spend as much time as the Official Referee to enquire into objections. Thus, the time of the Court is not saved nor has it led to speedy disposal of cases as was intended originally. In addition to it, it is a costly machinery. For, besides the expenses incurred in the original trial, the litigant is called upon to pay a fee of Rs. 30 a day for the Official Referee. This is another item that is added to the litigant's cost. In order to avoid this heavy expenditure and obtain a speedy disposal appointed with the consent of Court. The remunerations to the commissioners would work considerably cheaper than what the party is called upon to pay for the Official Referee. A body of commissioners will be able to conduct enquiries speedily and they will be at the disposal of the parties. I desire to emphasize this suggestion in view of the fact that there is a considerable number of legal practitioners who can be provided with some work. It is just and equitable that these lawyers who have gained experience in the profession

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may be utilized for the execution of the duties that now fall to the lot of a single officer. Apart from affording them encouragement in the profession, we would be giving these lawyers some judicial training also. For these reasons, I commend the motion for the abolition of Official Referee at the earliest possible opportunity and I hope the hon. the Law Member will do his best in the matter."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Before the House rises for lunch I have to invite the kind attention of hon. Members to the notice which, I think, they have received of two "functions which His Excellency the Governor intends to perform in the presence of hon. Members this evening at the Council Chamber. I have to apologize for the shortness of the notice, but I may say at once that these are functions of His Excellency the Governor and not functions which have been arranged for by me in any sense. I received intimation yesterday afternoon that His Excellency wished to perform both these functions at 4-45 p.m. to-day. I was aware it meant a curtailment of our usual day by a quarter of an hour. In ordinary circumstances and certainly if the curtailment had been longer I should have intimated it to the House beforehand. But seeing that the curtailment was only by a quarter of an hour I presumed that the House would not be unwilling to accede to the proposal of His Excellency the Governor. I must say that when the proposal was forwarded to me it was said to be 'subject to my consent,' which was an expression of the ordinary consideration due to the House and its President from His Excellency the Governor. I did not think that in a matter like this the House would refuse its consent. I had, however, to exercise a certain amount of discretion and I did consent to the ceremony being performed at a quarter to five. I hope hon. Members will find it convenient to be present. I should not have interfered in the matter at all but for the fact that both the friends to be honoured this evening are persons whom the House desires very much to honour, namely, its first President, Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar, and our Deputy President. And I thought it was due to their friends outside the House as much as to those inside it that I should give some notice of these functions as it appeared to me that no other notice had been given. That was the reason of my action. I apologize for the shortness of notice and for the abridgment of time which is necessarily being inflicted upon the House. I am aware there are other engagements this afternoon, but these functions will not take up, I believe, more than a very few minutes of the time of hon. Members."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am only asking, Sir, if this grant would be over by 4-30."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I should have asked the House to finish at 4-30, but inasmuch as objection seems to be taken in certain quarters of the House to the curtailment of time by quarter of an hour I do not wish to make any such suggestion. I should go on till quarter to five."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" On a point of order, Sir. I am sure the House has listened with great respect and attention to your courteous statement. I do not think that the Act contemplates His Excellency in any manner interfering with the time or arrangements of this House, except when he

[Mr. S. Satyamurti]

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summons us to listen to an address from him. I am not raising any personal matter. I am simply concerned with the future development of the House. It may be, I am afraid, Sir, as King Charles once did in the case of the House of Commons, that, if His Excellency chooses to lecture to us on our duties, he may send a chit to you, Mr President . . ."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have mentioned to the House that it was sent to me 'subject to my consent'. I had to use my discretion in that case and I thought that considering the very short time by which it was proposed to curtail our sitting, the House would assent to it. If the House is not inclined to consent, I am very sorry. But the matter was not done arbitrarily to suit His Excellency the Governor. As I have already said, a letter was sent to me from him, asking for my consent."

*Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I thought I heard you say, if I am wrong I stand corrected, that the words 'subject to consent' were a mere formality."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Surely the words were there and I regarded them coming from the quarter whence they came as more than a formality. I do think that it would have been proper on my part to have told the House about it, to have said that I meant to do so and so in deference to the wish of His Excellency the Governor. Considering the very small curtailment I assumed that it was a formal matter."

*Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am not at all bothering about the curtailment of time. That is a small matter so far as I am concerned and I cordially agree with you. I am thinking of the way the consent has been taken for the Governor coming and performing any function in connexion with the House, without not only the formal and substantive consent of the President acting in the name of the House, but I venture to suggest in all humility, without also the consent of the House. Certainly, Sir, you can presume the consent of the House in a matter of that kind, especially where it concerns our own officers. But whether to take our consent or not should be within your discretion, and your consent should have been a pre-requisite in substance, not so much to the curtailment of the time as to the right of His Excellency coming and performing any function in connexion with this House. That is the matter that I am raising and not the question of the abridgment of our time"

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I am much obliged to the hon. Member for raising this point of order. I am quite willing to consider it. But as a matter of fact, as I have said, the consent was asked for and was given on the assumption that the House would have no objection. Whether the consent should have been given by me with the assent of the House or not is a point on which I am not able to give a ruling at the present moment. I rather think that in the matter of adjournments of the House if the business of the day has been gone through, in the opinion of the President, an adjournment may take place. In this particular instance so far as I could see the two and a half hours' limit for the particular matter under debate would come to an end at quarter to five in the afternoon and if I had gone on with the next demand it would have been for a quarter of an hour. I quite admit that the House is entitled to have every minute of the time allowed to it. But in this matter of adjourning the House at quarter to five to-day I took upon myself to exercise my discretion. I was asked by His Excellency

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whether he had my consent. I gave him the consent. I am very sorry if I presumed to do so assuming that the House too would give its consent. I am sure that a substantial portion of the House agrees with me. I did act in the best exercise of my discretion. My permission was asked for and obtained."

*Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am not at all saying anything about the time, Sir. I am sorry that I have not made myself clear. What I am objecting to is that any functions should have been allowed to be performed in the House or in connexion with the House by His Excellency without your consent or the consent of the House being taken. I wish to know whether your permission was taken with reference to the time which is unimportant, or for performing the function in connexion with the House."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Independently of time, I may inform hon. Members that we are meeting in this chamber only by sufferance of the Government. The building belongs to the Government and we are allowed to occupy it for our purposes during certain hours and at certain times and it is always understood that any arrangements in regard to the construction of the chamber as well as structural arrangements have to be consented to not only by the President but by the Chief Secretary on behalf of the Government. And therefore if it were not a question of time, the consent of the President would not be necessary for anything that the Government might want to do in this chamber."

The House adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.).

DEMAND XII—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE—cont.

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I wanted to see before I began to speak, whether there would be some speeches in support of the motion, and then to say a few words. But as I find that there is nobody who desires to speak I shall not allow this motion to be dealt with one way or the other without my saying something on the subject. I am familiar with the institution known as the official referee. It was established about the year 1913 or 1914 and has gone on for eleven or twelve years. At that time the file on the Original Side of the High Court did not exceed 500 suits a year. As late as 1922—I am not able to speak as to 1923 or 1924—the file came up to 1,100 and odd suits. Even in those ways when the institution of official referee was established the number referred to the commissioners of partnership suits, partition suits or other suits for the purpose of taking accounts was very large, though the number of commissioners was limited. The selection of commissioners had to be made from persons of a certain amount of standing enjoying a certain amount of practice who were thoroughly familiar with the proceedings. And the charges which these commissioners made had to be paid at the end of their labours and were pretty heavy. Sometimes it came to Rs. 1,000, frequently to Rs. 500, and I do believe that not one commissioner was content with or his work considered worth less than Rs. 200. Having regard to the large sums involved by way of remuneration, it was thought that a separate officer might be appointed

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for the purpose of looking into accounts. The mere advantage of having a separate officer was that he was a full-time officer, working from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., whereas if private practitioners were appointed commissioners, they could only find time out of office hours or during Saturdays, Sundays or other holidays. In that way delays occurred, but by having a full-time worker it was thought that the work could go on concurrently with that of the Judges. There is a great advantage also to the junior practitioners by this fact, that while the official referee is working, the senior practitioners are engaged in the courts, and the juniors have a chance of appearing before the official referee and enlarging their experience and also their income; whereas if that appointment is taken away there would be much inconvenience and loss to the litigants owing to the delay as also a dislocation of work of the seniors. Moreover, in those days only one Judge was sitting on the Original Side, and occasionally two Judges were sitting. Those were the days when the strength of the High Court Bench was ten, and it was only in 1922 that two more were added and for the last six or eight months we have still two more. So, in those days there were fewer Judges and the number of cases referred to the official referee was very much smaller than the number now being referred to him. I am aware of the fact that the file on the Original Side has fallen considerably now, but still the number of suits is between 900 and 1,000 a year; and so the number of suits that will still have to be referred to commissioners or official referee is very large. It is well known that if the work is entrusted to the commissioners, they will do it at a time when they are not engaged, and this will be unsatisfactory from the point of view of the litigants who will have to suffer. My fear is that if this appointment of official referee is abolished and the work given to Commissioners, the litigants who naturally like to have the services of senior lawyers appearing before the court cannot always get them as they are engaged in cases going on at the same time in another court and will have to be content with juniors. I know there is a good deal of hardship also in the working of the official referee. It comes about this way. For every day a man may have work before the official referee he has to pay Rs. 30, whether one full day has been taken for the work or not. Suppose in one case he comes to the office, gives some notices, and directs how the parties would have to file accounts, the vouchers and so forth; it does not even take ten minutes, and yet that is treated as a day and is charged at Rs. 30; whereas if a Judge sits on the Original Side, for the first day of hearing, only a fee of Rs. 10 is charged and for the succeeding days at the rate of Rs. 20 a day. So that the difference in the amount that is taken from the litigant in the case of a case before a Judge and that before the official referee is very much. The charge in the case of the official referee is therefore very enormous compared with that paid in any other court. Moreover, there is this other circumstance. One has to provide himself with copies of the evidence recorded by the official referee, and if there is a 15 days' sitting or a 20 days' sitting, the mass of evidence that has to be paid for will be very large, and the amount will come to a big amount. If these charges, whether they be for furnishing copies for the complete evidence or for copies for every sitting, are considerably reduced so as to relieve the hardship on the litigants, I consider the advantages of keeping the official referee are more than the money to be saved by doing away with that office; if it is retained, there will be no necessity of finding in place of the official referee a number of practitioners who would be willing to take up

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the work as commissioners and do the work which the official referee is doing now. Moreover, I think there is some advantage again in having an officer of a particular training and standard of education who would uniformly attend to cases instead of commissioners taken from among practitioners whose qualifications and experience must be of a varying character. So, therefore, from the point of view of the litigant, it is desirable that we have a certain uniform standard of qualification possessed by the officer who is to do the work of a commissioner rather than people with varying degrees of qualification. There is also, Sir, I cannot help remarking, a certain sense of responsibility on the part of a person who holds office, instead of the different kinds of responsibility felt by those who may be chosen at random for doing the work of commissioners. So, taking everything into consideration, I should like the institution to be retained, but the charges now levied for the services of the official referee should be considerably reduced, so that it may not entail a hardship on the litigants. With these words I beg to suggest to my hon. Friend Mr. Ethirajulu Nayudu—I think he would get an assurance from the hon. the Law Member that the matter would be looked into with a view to reducing the burden on the litigants in the matter of fees both in the court of the official referee and for copies of evidence—that the motion may be withdrawn on that assurance."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have a certain advantage in speaking on this matter because when I was at the bar my practice to a large extent consisted of cases on the original side. And I was also along with other colleagues of mine, responsible for the institution of the official referee. Let me, with your leave, Mr. President, take this House through the state of things as it existed before the year 1915, when Mr. Masilamani Pillai was appointed official referee. Before the time when Mr. Masilamani Pillai was appointed official referee, practically 80 per cent of the cases were referred to the commissioners. These cases were referred either to Mr. Masilamani Pillai whose acquaintance with intricate account and partnership affairs and business matters in Madras was a matter perfectly well known, or to the late lamented Mr. K. C. Desika Achariyar or the late lamented Mr. Doraswami Ayyangar. These persons were commissioners in 75 or 80 per cent of the suits of that kind. In other words about 75 to 80 per cent of partnership accounts, partition and such other suits were referred to one or other of these gentlemen invariably by the hon. the Judges. When these cases were referred to the practitioners themselves, they could not do justice to the work during working days and so they posted their cases on Sundays and other holidays, so that a number of cases had to be adjourned. I do not mean to say this happened on account of anybody's particular fault, and I hope the hon. House will not convict me of any discourtesy to the members of the bar to which I still belong. What really happened was that the members on both sides asked for adjournment to the Easter holidays or some other days. And so it happened that the delays became very great. Moreover, it happened also that the juniors at that time were complaining that in almost every case in which commissioners were appointed, the seniors went and argued the cases before them and the juniors had no chance. It was either wholly or partly owing to these complaints that some of us waited in deputation on the hon. the Chief Justice and the Judges of the High Court and asked them to institute the official referee whose duty it would be to investigate partnership accounts

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and partition suits. Hon. Members may be aware that in a commercial city like this—though I do not mean a commercial city in the sense in which Bombay, for instance, is—litigation consists largely of account matters which require some experience in regard to accounts which are kept in Marwadi, Tamil or Telugu, on the part of the commissioners. It is not everybody that can deal with these matters. Moreover, what really happened was that from time to time, the commissioners' remuneration had to be revised, and I think my hon. Friend, Mr. Tanikachalam Chettiyar, who in another line of the profession which he now adorns was also in receipt of very great practice, will bear me out when I say that cases were not unknown in which commissioners charged Rs. 2,500 and at times even Rs. 4,000 in account matters. I recall to my mind one case in which I appeared, and the commissioner therein was paid Rs. 3,500 for looking into the accounts. It was on account of the expense, the delay and the difficulty practically of getting people who have specialized in account matters that this office of official referee was instituted. Let me also invite the House to consider certain other matters. Prior to 1905 the work was done by one Judge in what is called chambers, and cases of taking accounts in partnership as well as partition suits and sale of properties were referred to commissioners. In 1914 the High Court represented that a major portion of one Judge's time was occupied in disposing of such cases. Reference of such cases to vakils and other practitioners resulted in increased cost, delay and inconvenience. With a view to reducing the accumulation of work and to a more expeditious disposal of cases the High Court wanted to appoint an official referee. The appointment was sanctioned by the Government for a period of two years in the first instance and the High Court was asked to report about the result after working the system for a year. The nature of the work of the official referee formed the subject of a series of questions by Mr. Marthandam Pillai, I think, and these questions were answered fully. After a year's working, I think the High Court reported that the system resulted in a financial loss to the extent of Rs. 3,000. I am aware of the arguments also that have been adduced on the

2-45 p.m. other side. I am in receipt of a full and fairly numerous signed memorial from the various junior practitioners in the High Court in which they have pointed out as a matter of fact the delay caused in the disposal of cases and have fully laid special stress upon the cost also involved to litigants. They conclude the memorial in this way:—

* The petitioners desire to emphasize that with the increase in the number of practitioners and the consequent struggle in the profession, it will be just and equitable if the courts can provide some work for the junior members of the bar and nothing better can be done than by distribution among them the work which is now too much for a single officer and too costly and cumbersome to the litigant. This course, apart from the pecuniary encouragement, will afford good training to the junior members of this profession.

“What I think is that they do not pay attention to the fact that a large number of junior members of the bar appear before the official referee. I am afraid that if the post of the official referee is abolished, the old state of things, namely, of the senior practitioners always appearing before the commissioners, would become the practice. At all events the matter is one which cannot be disposed of so easily. And in fact the House may see that there are arguments both for the retention of the office and also against the retention. I for one speaking personally am of opinion that the official referee must be a leading member of the bar and he must be quite a fitting

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person for the same. If I may say so the appointment was created in view of the possibility of taking a person like Mr. Masilamani Pillai, who after long business experience, was able to deal with that facility and acquaintance which were his, all the intricate details of accounts. Of course a man of that character would be a very great acquisition. But in any case to revert to the old system or to the old state of things is likely to be attended with some inconvenience. But all I wish to say to this House, by way of a promise, is that in consultation with the hon. the Chief Justice and also the other Judges of the High Court, whom I will acquaint with the opinion of this House, the whole matter will be considered and we shall arrive at a satisfactory conclusion, whether that will be in the direction of the retention of that office or not. Now I cannot possibly and ought not to be expected to make a pronouncement if any; but the whole question will be considered by me along with the hon. the Chief Justice and the other hon. Judges of the High Court, and I trust with this assurance the hon. Members will be satisfied. Of course, I will welcome the opinions of the hon. Members and also the arguments one way or the other. I hope that hon. Members will not make it impossible to consider the question.”

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“Mr. President, Sir, my friend the hon. the Law Member is an exceedingly lucky person. I thought from the way in which the motion has been given notice of by the hon. Members of this House on the other side that he was going practically to have no support in the House for the retention of this office. I congratulate my hon. Friend the Law Member on the very valuable support which he had for the retention of the office from a member of the bar, I mean my hon. Friend, Mr. Thauikachalam Chettiyar. Before we rose for lunch, the hon. the Law Member was a little more conciliatory towards the abolition of the office. But after this speech which he has delivered now, I feel that my hon. Friend, the Law Member, is absolutely in favour of the retention of the office. His arguments are all in favour of the retention of the office.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“Mr. President, Sir, by way of personal explanation, it is my duty as one who is moving for this demand to put forward all the arguments for the retention of the office. I do not propose to mention the arguments for the non-retention of the office. It is not my function to do it here and now. As I said this is a matter in which I want to act in collaboration with the hon. the Chief Justice and the other Judges of the High Court and I do not think that it will be just both for me and for the hon. Judges of the High Court to give their opinions at once to what I may call a party freak.”

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“I am merely stating that the position, so far as we are concerned, is clearly in favour of the abolition of the office. The hon. the Law Member offers to examine the question, which I am sure will be done at the earliest opportunity. But we, who are in this House, feel strongly that this office ought to be abolished. The hon. the Law Member has spoken so much to persuade us to reject the motion altogether. It will be entirely in his discretion, if he so thinks, even to get it certified if the motion were to be carried.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“May I point out, Sir, that it is not with the desire of retaining this office that I may invite those outside

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powers like certification and so on. I have simply put forward the arguments. The House is perfectly at liberty to do what it likes. I thought that I could speak to this House freely on this point. Because at present we cannot move, I propose to consider this question and I have put it to you."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am very much obliged to the hon. the Law Member. But I am sure the House will give its opinion for the abolition of the office. I hope, Sir, that a very strong vote of this House in favour of this motion would be a strong ground in favour of abolition. My hon. Friend was at the bar, and a most distinguished member on the original side, and knows very well the question. But I believe he will not contradict me when I say that the office was created for a particular man, who in the judgment of the then Chief Justice, Sir John Wallis, was not only qualified for the place but quite the fittest person. I was informed that when the Government asked the Chief Justice as to whether there was any man fit to occupy that place, the Chief Justice said, 'Give me the office, I will give you the man.' I do not think that the hon. the Law Member will say that a man of Mr. Masilamani Pillai's experience, training and knowledge of business matters is very common in Madras. I do not want to discuss personalities. But I am sure that the hon. the Law Member will see that it is not always easy to get a man who will do ample justice to this office. There have been men who have not been competent enough to discharge the duties of this office. But, Sir, the real positive arguments in favour of the abolition of this office are these. We feel that the work which the official referee does is the work which a competent junior of the bar can always efficiently discharge. I am sure that my hon. Friend, Mr. Thanikachalam Chettiyar, will not contradict me in this matter. There are men in the Madras bar, who after 5 or 10 years of practice in the original side are competent to discharge the duties, comparatively the light duties, which they as commissioners are likely to be called upon to discharge. Moreover, I quite agree that it is a very difficult task to go through the account books and check them. But I see that they do not call in many cases for the exercise of highly judicial talents. Moreover, the hon. the Law Member will consider that when the office was created, the number of Judges in the High Court was 8. But the number of Judges in the High Court, if we do not succeed in our next motion, will be 14 next year. As such I do not see any reason why this office ought not to be abolished. There is also another consideration. The hon. the Law Member and my hon. Friend Mr. Tanikachalam Chettiyar have both stated that the cost is very heavy in some cases, and almost prohibitive under the old system. I do not know if we can, by retaining the office, reduce the cost and yet make the office paying. So far as the Government is concerned, I do not know whether the Government has paid from the general taxpayers' income, towards the retention of this judicial office. If they do not, I am afraid it is impossible to keep the office and yet to retain the same scale of fees. I do not know whether the hon. the Law Member has called for the latest figures. I am informed that cases in the official referee's court are delayed and especially in one instance for two or three years. I do not know if that is the case in the High Court on the original side. Moreover, Sir, after the official referee begins his work his report is only the beginning. Objections are filed and we are again to go before the High Court Judge in order to argue the whole matter. The result is that we have an increase of expenditure to private parties and

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clients. The only remedy, it seems to me, and I hope that the House will agree with me, is to abolish the post of the official referee and leave it to the High Court Judges to appoint junior members of the bar as commissioners in various cases. My hon. Friend the Law Member has said that if the office is abolished junior members of the bar may not get as many chances as they are getting now."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"What I said was this. If cases went before the commissioners, my experience while at the bar was that litigants used to pay for the seniors to appear before the commissioners, whereas if the official referee sat from morning to evening the junior practitioners would have better chance of appearing before him. At all events, I have never appeared before the official referee. I have constantly appeared before the commissioners."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I suggest therefore that a junior member of the bar will earn more by getting two engagements one as commissioner and the other as a lawyer."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I am afraid, Sir, I have to correct that statement. What I said was that juniors had no chance of appearing before the commissioners, which they have now of appearing before the official referee."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"That is because the clients insist upon the seniors appearing before the commissioners that the juniors had no chance of appearing before the commissioners. If clients insisted upon seniors appearing before the referee also, they would have done so. But since senior members of the bar cannot really spare time on account of their work in the Original Side, the juniors will have a share. But, Sir, apart from that, the feeling undoubtedly among the junior members of the bar is pretty strong that this office must be abolished. That is corroborated by a large number of persons having signed a petition, which has been sent to the hon. the Law Member, to which reference has been made. It seems to me therefore that we can avoid the inconvenience of parties and vakils by voting for this motion."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I desire to say a very few words in associating myself with the Mover of this resolution for omitting the grant. I feel, Sir, that that opinion is fairly unanimous and that this office should go for more than one reason. I am not here holding brief for the junior members of the bar so as to better their chances as commissioners and so on. The hon. the Law Member has said that the junior members of the bar are better off, because they have the chances of appearing before the official referee. Myself, at present, is a junior member of the bar. I certainly hope that the senior members of the bar were a little more considerate to them and little more conscious to what is due to their own sons of the district whenever they appear before the hon. Judges of the High Court. Apart from that, Sir, I think one objection that can legitimately be taken against the appointment of this official referee is the fact, I am informed about it, that there is a tendency on the part of the judges to refer matters which are legitimately within their portfolio to the official referee. It is very hard to make any reflection upon any judges, who are occupying the exalted position."

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“But I do not want to conceal the fact that among the litigant public and among some sections of the bar there is a feeling prevalent that matters which ought really to be adjudicated by the judge are being loosely shunted to the referee. I very much expected that the arguments that my hon. Friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar and the hon. the Law Member had advanced as to the position and status of the official referee were the most effective arguments which could be advanced in favour of the motion for the rejection of the grant. A man of that status, position and of that standing at the bar to which the hon. the Law Member made reference, I agree that something should be said about all those. All those requirements were fully satisfied in the person of Mr. Masilamani Pillai and he was the first and the last person to occupy the place. Subsequent appointments have been dismal failures from all points of view, and have provoked the unmitigated antagonism of the members of the bar. It is very difficult to go into personalities in a matter of this sort and that is the position where it stands. Now, Sir, I do not want to detain the House very long on a very small matter like this. This motion ought to be put to vote and carried. Moreover in the mufassal courts, may I ask if there is such a parallel and do we not need an official referee? I do not say that the institution of original suits in the mufassal is as large as in Madras. But there are many cases there in which accounts have to be checked and all those things that are sought to be made by the official referee here are done. Those cases are temporarily handed over to a commissioner appointed for the purpose and that is how it is got done. I therefore ask that this post be abolished.”

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—“As one who has not practised on the Original Side of the High Court, it is with considerable diffidence that I venture to speak on this matter. But having regard to the practice that obtains in the mufassal courts—of course, I recognize the differences referred to by the hon. the Law Member that exist between the conditions in the mufassal and in the city of Madras—I find it difficult to justify the continuance of this appointment. Now in the mufassal courts as well as in the High Court there are account suits, partnership suits and other suits which necessitate the examination of accounts and other matters. No doubt the amounts in suits that are instituted in the mufassal cities are smaller than in similar suits instituted here. But there are very big partition suits that are instituted in the mufassal and they involve the inspection and examination of the detailed accounts and there are also suits for accounts that are being instituted. The practice that obtains in the mufassal is that the vakils that appear on both sides, for the plaintiff and the defendant, are asked to suggest three or four names to the judge from among the pleaders of the bar and sometimes from pensioned officers of status from whom the judge selects one or two for the inspection of accounts and for the inspection of other matters. These gentlemen go into the accounts and examine certain persons whenever they think it necessary and then submit their report. The report is then considered by the judge and the parties then file objections and the judge then comes to a decision on the matters before him. No inconvenience is caused and the system is working satisfactorily. Speaking from my experience of Malabar, and I think the conditions in other places are more or less the same and probably the conditions in Madras are also more or less the same, and seeing that the system which I have referred to works more or less satisfactorily and that it is the best system we can have, and

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seeing that the person who was last appointed has not been giving satisfaction to the parties and vakils concerned, I see no reason why money should be wasted on the appointment of a person as a permanent official. It seems to me that instead of wasting money on the appointment of the official referee we can as well revert to the old system.”

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI:—“Sir, in supporting this motion, I have only to say a very few words after what has been said on both sides of the House. I thought that with his strong advocacy my hon. Friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar was going to make out a good case for the retention of this office. But I see that I looked for it in vain. It has been said that members who have had considerable training will be chosen as official referees and that there is the advantage of the same man as official referee with expert knowledge in the conduct of these cases attending to a number of cases. Reference has been made apart from the appointment of Mr. Masilamani Pillai to subsequent holders of that office who are not eminent members of the bar and have never attained that standard of efficiency. I certainly agree that to some extent the worst of us may attain to some degree of efficiency. But that is not the efficiency that either the hon. the Law Member or Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar had before their eyes. As the hon. Member Mr. Krishnan Nayar said, it is only a waste of public money to appoint third-rate men to such places. Other members of the bar are capable and anxious to discharge these duties to the entire satisfaction not only of the litigant public but also of the higher authorities, and I do not see why they should not be given these chances. I have therefore great pleasure in supporting the motion.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“Sir, there are just two observations that I desire to make before this matter is taken to vote. These observations have reference only to what fell from the hon. Member from Malabar. I grant that in the mufassal there are heavy and complicated account suits and that they are disposed of by means of commissioners or people who take accounts. But the hon. Member must be aware, as I am aware, that these things are now taking up a very long time. Take, for instance, the Nattukkottai Chetti Agency suits in the Ramnad district. It is very rarely that the suits come for final decision or for the passing of the final decree after a preliminary decree has been passed before the expiry of two or three years and it is very rarely that the High Court sees the final stages of such cases; and it takes on many occasions from eight to ten years from the time of the institution. That subject has formed the subject-matter of some caustic comment in the report of the Civil Justice Committee which has just now been issued to the public. Secondly, not only in Bombay but also in Calcutta there is a special officer who is charged with the duty of taking accounts and doing that duty properly. The other important point is that the expenses in connexion with the translation of these accounts for the judges will be saved. These are also matters that hon. Members will kindly bear in mind.

“Next there was the personal matter raised in the course of the discussion. As to the first appointment, it is agreed that it was first rate. As to the second appointment, it was not a very bad one though it can be said that he did not know the languages. So far as the present incumbent is concerned, it appears to be the view that he is a very businesslike man. As

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to his other capabilities, I have known him as a translator of the High Court and he was very good at that. But whether he is equally so in his present place it is for the public and the practitioners who have often gone to him to judge. But so far as the retention of the office is concerned, it should not be judged on the present incumbent of the post. Because the question is whether we are going to have the place or whether we are going to abolish it."

The motion was then put to the House and carried.

Motion No. 77.

* Mr S. SATYAMURTI:—"I move

'that the allotment of Rs. 5,60,700 for Judges and Registrar be reduced by Rs. 1,60,000.'

"Sir, as I have said. . ."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I ask the hon. Member whether he wishes to retain the figure one lakh or whether he intends to have this as a token motion? Because one lakh out of five lakhs may mean more than the reduction of two judges."

* Mr S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, I am unable to quite see the point. These judges, I believe, are paid at Rs. 4,000 a month. Twelve times Rs. 4,000 would be Rs. 48,000 a year and twice this figure would give Rs. 96,000. That is why I have put it as one lakh. But if the hon. Member would convince me that it is not so and my calculation is wrong, I am quite willing at any stage of the discussion to bring down the figure to the correct one.

"Sir, at present I move it as a substantial motion, to recommend the reduction of the strength of the High Court Bench from 3-15 p.m. 14 to 12. It will be open to you, Sir, and the House to allow any token motion that may be made in the course of the discussion. At present, I shall make out a case to convince the House that no case has been made out really for increasing the number of judges. My Friend the hon. the Law Member, I am glad, has at last redeemed the promise he made some months ago that he was going to issue a communiqué giving figures indicating the rise in the arrears of cases pending before the High Court, justifying the raising of the number of judges of the High Court from 12 to 14. I have not been able, Sir, to analyse those figures, because they were given just before the House rose for lunch. But I have taken some figures on which I shall base my arguments. Before doing so, I think the hon. the Law Member will not convict me of overstating or understating his case, when I say that the most substantial argument he advanced in favour of increasing the number of High Court Judges to 14 was that they ought to be in touch with the mufassal courts and the mufassal bar. If that is the strongest argument which the Law Member can advance, I am afraid he has got a very weak case indeed. Now, I should like to know how many judges, after the strength was raised from 12 to 14, visited how many courts in the mufassal, and what work they did. Moreover, Mr. Deputy President, I should like to join issue with my hon. Friend, the Law Member, as to whether it really conduces to that impartial, impersonal administration of justice, that High Court Judges should be brought into personal contact with the judges in subordinate courts. I should like to enter a caveat against it, as to whether it will not lead to intimate, personal contact

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between the judges of the highest court in the country and judges in the subordinate courts. After all, the work of the judges is writ large in the judgments which they pass and we know that very often appeals go up before the hon. the Judges of the High Court. I would rather leave them to keep that impersonal contact rather than get into personal contact with them. Moreover, Mr. Deputy President, may I also suggest that the remedy for the habits of some of the mufassal judges—I repeat that with a full sense of my responsibility from my place in this House, and you can corroborate me also, Sir—of not infrequently attending courts at most irregular hours and sitting late at nights, thus putting the public and the members of the bar to considerable inconvenience, lies in the hon. the Law Member's hands. If only he would use his powers impartially and strictly, and enforce his undoubted right of setting them right, I am sure they would do their duties properly. They will not improve by periodical visits. What would happen is this. They will attend the courts punctually at the time of the hon. Judges' visit and even sit late at night, but as soon as the judges go away, they will have their revenge by even going later than usual. That is what one finds with regard to the gubernatorial and Executive Councillor's visits. I do not want that to these visits should be added the visits of the High Court Judges. If those judges come to the mufassal, I am afraid there will be temptation on the part of the subordinate judiciary to try to earn their favour in ways which I need not describe. The question of supplies is already a scandal in the Revenue department, and it will come into the Judicial department also, if the hon. Judges are to visit the subordinate courts.

"Sir, in the old Council days, you were one of the stalwart fighters against this evil system. Yourself and your colleagues have fought against the system of supplies in vogue in the Revenue department. My hon. Friend suggested that they should keep themselves in touch with the mufassal bar. Now, I am a very indifferent member of the Madras bar; but even I know this, that judges do not get into touch with the members of the bar; it is the members who try to get into touch with them, trying to call on them on all sorts of days and on all sorts of business. Such men do travel from Tuticorin or Berhampur in order to get into personal touch. I do not think that by paying occasional visits the High Court Judges are going to get into touch with the real men at the bar; it may happen that they may be waited on by interested people either at the railway station or some other place. Moreover, Sir, I would ask my hon. Friend, the Law Member, very respectfully to tell us exactly what extra work is likely to be done in view of this mufassal inspection or how many judges are going to be deputed, how many of them will go and do this work and for what time; and should we have really 14 judges? Now, my hon. Friend, the Law Member, gave a very imposing array of figures with regard to the pendency of appeals. He himself very fairly stated that the figure with regard to first appeals was somewhat misleading, because of the long time the Tanjore Palace case took in hearing and pronouncement of judgment. There is no doubt that the figures are fairly large. I share with my hon. Friend from Chingleput the pain of having to refer to the judges of the highest court in the land in anything but the highest terms of praise. But after all, we have to do our duty, pleasant or painful. As I said in a supplementary question, arrears are not going to be cleared off simply by an increase in the number

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of High Court Judges There is a great deal in the way in which a judge disposes of a case. I have known, the hon. the Law Member knows it too, there have been distinguished judges of the High Court who have disposed of most complicated cases to the satisfaction of both parties, the vakils as well as the clients, in much less time than several judges can do nowadays. It is after all a question not of numbers so much, as of quality, and I am sure that I carry my hon. Friend the Law Member with me to this extent, that numbers do not always mean real and efficient disposal.

"Then, Sir, we are trying to effect retrenchment in various ways. I know the argument will be advanced 'this will not retrench, that will not retrench,' but it is as to whether all these will not retrench. The cumulative effect of all these retrenchments is so great that if the Government take our advice they will find some money which they can use for the purpose of those nation-building departments, over which they shed profuse tears on every occasion on which they are called upon to defend their policy or position.

"Now, I have got one or two suggestions to make to the hon. the Law Member. I am sure he is aware of the practice in England of retired distinguished judges coming back to the bench for a time and helping in the disposal of cases. Justice Darling, one of the finest men on the King's Bench, came back to the Bench after he retired and helped in the disposal of cases. I want to put it to my hon. Friend the Law Member as to whether he cannot explore this possibility of inducing some of the retired judges of the High Court—some of them are spared yet—to come back to the bench and assist in the disposal of cases. It is an experiment which is well worth trying. It has been tried in England with satisfactory results. Moreover, we in this Council have to go by statistics. I do not see why the Judges of the High Court should not be made to work on Saturdays. After all, they are highly paid officers. I hope my hon. Friend the Law Member works for seven days in the week when there are arrears. If my hon. Friend like any other man can work for seven days, and others can work six days in a week, I do not see why we cannot call upon the High Court Judges to work for six days until the arrears are cleared off. Then we can think of giving them an extra holiday. Till then, I do not see why they should not work for six days in a week. Moreover, Sir, the Civil Justice Committee's recommendations are before us, and it is possible we may be able to give effect to some of them at least in Madras. I hope, therefore, the hon. the Law Member will consider this possibility of reduction, will accept our vote, and try to work with 12 judges. In a poor province like Madras, we are trying very hard to make both ends meet, and any retrenchment will be welcome. I therefore beg to move the motion in the full confidence that while, on the one hand, there will be a retrenchment of expenditure, on the other, it will not affect the speedy and satisfactory administration of justice, provided the judges are properly recruited with a sole eye to efficiency to fill the very highest judicial offices in Madras; and if that is done, I am sure my hon. Friend the Law Member will find his position considerably strengthened, if he hereafter makes out a case for increasing the strength of the judges. I therefore beg to move the motion standing in my name."

*The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, let me in the first place congratulate my hon. Friend, the Member for the University, on the adroit turn he has given to the discussion by suggesting that

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perhaps the real source of the evil lies elsewhere and not where it is generally looked for. But the problem is not quite so simple. It may be that given ideal judges like Justice Innes or like Justice Subrahmanya Ayyar in the plenitude of his powers or Justice Bashyam Ayyangar, with six or seven of them we may be able to do the whole work. There is no doubt that we must take into account the kind of pleading that was in vogue in those days and the kind of argument in vogue now and the fact that cases take a much longer time to dispose of now than in those days. I remember when I was a junior member of the bar, one afternoon Sir Bashyam Ayyangar and Sir Subrahmanya Ayyar sitting together in the disposal of first appeals: Case after case was taken up, both of them were absolutely thorough with the facts—they heard for about half an hour and they forthwith pronounced judgment. Judges of that kind we do not get in India to-day. It cannot be said that there are people to equal Mukerjee, Telang, Gurudas Bannerjee or Bashyam Ayyangar. We must get on with the judges we have and the judiciary that are at our disposal. The eminent Judges of the High Court are making their most strenuous attempts to dispose of the appeals. Some of them, I know, are working very hard; it is no use asking them to sit on Saturdays. For let us remember what exactly the kind of work is which judges have to do. There is no use comparing it with the work which the hon. Members on the Treasury Bench do. Theirs is, I contend, much more strenuous, much more exacting than that of anybody on the Treasury Bench. I certainly say that the work of a leader of the bar is much more troublesome than the work of any on the Treasury Bench. The point is this. The judges have to hear arguments all day long on both sides; some actually raise complicated points of law. There are—I do not know how many, one does not really keep oneself in touch with them—about 25 non-official Law journals and hon. Members are aware that practitioners quote from every authorized journal, and for every decision there is a contrast from Allahabad, Sindh or Central Provinces report. These cases have to be weighed, considered and debated upon, and hon. Judges have to reserve judgment for looking into those matters and coming to a conclusion. I can say without fear of contradiction that the present judges and the present Chief Justice are as conscientious and thorough in the discharge of their duties as any of their predecessors in this High Court or any other High Court. That is a matter on which there are no two opinions. I do not think it can be said that the hon. Judges of the present High Court are shirking their duty and are not giving their utmost possible time to the discharge of their arduous and difficult duties. But let us also realize that the conditions of yesterday and the day before are not the conditions of to-day. Cases take a longer time, owing to the kind of advocacy and citation of authorities and the time has come to nip that evil in the bud; but so long as the citation of official and non-official authorities and the citation of cases at every turn goes on, so long will their talent be expended on this question of the analysis of those authorities and arrival at a decision.

"Then, my hon. Friend referred to the exploration of the possibility of detailing retired judges of the High Court. What will happen? In England, because of the tremendous increase in divorce and other cases during the time of war, certain specified judges were asked to come and help, by an order of the Royal Warrant, in the disposal of the work in the King's Bench. Now, here, I do not think it will conduce either to the satisfactory

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disposal of cases or to the satisfaction either of the litigants or this hon. House if retired judges, who are retired presumably because they are past work, are appointed to do this work. Most of them—though there are brilliant exceptions which I can name but do not wish to—are past work and it will be very difficult to know whom to choose and whom not to choose.

“If A were chosen to-day for the disposal of cases, the question would arise why B was not chosen and then this B would try to get a vote of censure passed for not choosing him. Sir, these are some of the difficulties in the way of accepting this suggestion.

“Sir, my hon. Friend referred to the work of the Civil Justice Committee. As I have said, no one would rejoice more than myself if as a result of the deliberations of the Civil Justice Committee we have a reduction in the category of cases that come up before the highest court in the country and in the amount of litigation. But none of their proposals would touch actual pending arrears. What we have got to do is to clear off arrears and then think of reducing the number of judges. I am free to confess that at one time I held the view that 8 or 9 judges ought to be sufficient for disposing of all the litigation in the Court. I may say that were it not for the fact that in these two or three years arrears have gone up amounting to 1,200 first appeals, we would not have this increase. We have to deal with facts. These 1,200 appeals are there and the litigants concerned are suffering. They are coming to us off and on and we are getting a number of petitions with regard to pendency of appeals in the High Court and in the mufassal courts. How are we to get through this work is the problem that faces the Government. If by any chance you can reduce the present arrears, by all means reduce the number of judges from 14 to 12, from 12 to 10, from 10 to 8. I do not mind. If hon. Members of this House would co-operate with the Government in devising some means of reducing the arrears, I shall be thankful. The figures speak for themselves and there is no use getting past them. Is it right, is it not something almost approaching scandal—I hope hon. Members would acquit me of any desire to disparage the work of the hon. Judges of the High Court, conscientious and intelligent men whose sole object is to do public work according to their lights—from the litigant's point of view that they should be made to wait for three years before their appeals are heard and disposed of? From a recent issue of a certain Law journal, I find that there is uproar in England because cases took more than nine months for their disposal. The Parliament is now engaged in the task of providing increase of pay to the judges on the ground that cases took more than ten months—And here we are with appeals taking on an average three years! We say and at the same time hon. Members here very frequently tell us that the court fees levied are heavy and that consequently litigation has fallen. What does it matter to the litigant whether we discuss these affairs or vote on this matter? He wants that his cases should be disposed of early. It is for this purpose that the Government want the co-operation of the House. They have arrived at a solution of this difficult problem and they have increased the number of judges. If hon. Members will suggest any other solution I shall welcome it. But the only two suggestions I have received are, one to get the co-operation of retired judges of the High Court—a most invidious proposal likely to bring us more trouble and inconvenience than we have now—and the

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other is to make the judges work on Saturdays. Working on Saturdays is a most controversial thing to do. I find in the list of motions a protest against the mufassal courts working on Saturdays.”

Mr. A. V. BHANUJI RAO:—“Third Saturday.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“As a matter of fact, the mufassal courts were working on all Saturdays in a month except one. As a measure of retrenchment, the Government have now added that Saturday to the list of working days. I find in the list a motion protesting against that act of the Government. I have every sympathy with that motion. It was not in a lighthearted manner the Government embarked on that step as a measure of retrenchment. Now, let us consider this suggestion for working on Saturdays. In the first place, the lawyer could not do it and in the second place the judges themselves reserve judgment in some cases and they have to consider it at home. My hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar who was the Chief Justice of the Travancore High Court would tell us whether the judges would welcome working on Saturdays and Sundays and whether writing judgments on holidays is not the only way of getting through the hardest portion of the work.

“My hon. Friend was indulging in some pungent criticism the implication of which was obvious. He said: merely increasing the number of judges will not do. Apparently he wants an increase in the quality of the judges. I affirm that the judges we have got in the Madras High Court are the best of the men that we could get in Madras. Each one of us may think that he is better”

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“I know the Law Member is better! (laughter).”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“If of one thing I am convinced, I am convinced that I would not have made a good Judge of the High Court. Because, the qualities of a Judge of the High Court are very different from that which is demanded either from my hon. Friend the Member for the University or the hon. the Law Member, because it is one thing to debate on the floor of the House and it is another thing to patiently listen to the reports collected from day to day and without any ruffling of temper to listen to the arguments advanced on both sides and finally come to a just conclusion. It is a very much more difficult task than the badinage which we are permitted to indulge in here and the interchange of compliments, and what are sometimes the reverse of compliments that takes place on the floor of this House. If a Judge of the High Court did a thing which my hon. Friend the Member for the University or I now and then permit ourselves to do, the newspapers will be full of complaints against the work of the High Court. Now, it seems to me that there is no use of merely complaining against the High Court and saying that the quality of the judges is not good. All that I affirm is that we have got the best men we can. In any case we have got the men there. (Laughter). Let us get on. Let us not minimise their abilities. It is not right. It is not expedient; it is not wise to traverse the question of the equipment of judges on the floor of this House. The High Court and the personal equipment of the Judges of the High Court must be matters beyond controversy on the floor of this House. All that I wish to say is that these judges with the best will in the world have been attempting to do their work but have still got arrears. Let us get over

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these longstanding arrears. By all means as soon as the arrears are reduced to manageable proportions, take up this question. When the arrears are cleared, does any hon. Member believe that I can dare to come forward and ask for more judges? I dare not. It is because there are more than 3,000 second appeals, 1,500 revision appeals and 1,200 first appeals that I come before this House for more judges. By all means as soon as the pending cases have been cleared off, get rid not only of these two judges, but go back to the old number 8 or 9. But let us first of all put our hands to the plough and see that the result is achieved, viz., that of getting rid of these arrears, and that the scandal of long pendency is not a feature of our judicial administration."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I am on this occasion reminded of the discussion which I believe we had on this subject for the first time before 1914 in this House. It was then that the question was raised on the motion of my hon. Friend Mr. V. K. Ramanujachariyar asking for reduction in the contemplated increase in the strength of the High Court. The arguments which were advanced on behalf of the Government on that occasion were similar to those which are being advanced to-day. It is true, Sir, that whenever the question affecting the increased strength of the High Court in the present case or of the mufassal judges is raised we are confronted with the spectacle of large arrears having been accumulated, and we are told that as soon as methods are devised for the purpose of reducing the arrears, the increased number would be done away with. But what has happened? Our experience during the last ten years is that notwithstanding the assurances given that the number would be reduced as soon as the object aimed at is attained, the result has however been quite the contrary. If we are to look for an explanation at this strange phenomenon, I think we will take considerable time before we arrive at a satisfactory conclusion. It is not merely a temporary increase in the number of Judges from time to time that will solve this problem to any extent. I quite agree with the hon. the Law Member that we need not on the floor of this House speculate about the efficiency or otherwise of the present judges of the High Court; but I wish that we look at it from a different standpoint altogether. About three years ago in 1922-23 at the time of the presentation of the revised financial estimates made by the hon. the then Finance Member, Sir Charles Todhunter, he told us especially with reference to the expenditure on the administration of Civil Justice that enquiries were being made by the then Law Member the late lamented Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar and that attempts would be made to reduce the expenditure under this head. This was what he stated at the time of budget discussion for 1923-24. But what do we find? Notwithstanding the assurance given that enquiries were being made by the hon. the Law Member and that there would be reduction in expenditure we find an increase."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I point out to my hon. Friend that whenever I have attempted in my regime to reduce one Court I have always been attacked by this House and by the local men for doing so? (A voice: 'We have not done so'). There are one or two exceptions. But, generally speaking, whenever a court was abolished I have been attacked for doing so, and have been bombarded with petitions and representations about that abolition."

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Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" I do not on this occasion wish to apportion the blame either on the hon. the Law Member or on the hon. Members on either side of the House. But I wish to point out that whoever is responsible for that state of affairs, there has been a substantial increase of expenditure and the assurances given by the then Finance Member and the then Law Member have not been fulfilled. I will therefore ask, Sir, that if for no other reason at least for the only reason that the assurances given should be fulfilled, it is our duty to vote for this motion. Again, Sir, I may point out that this question of disposal of arrears is the thing which has been before the public for a long time, and we have had under consideration various recommendations made. The hon. the Law Member told us about the report of the Civil Justice Committee which has been published just now. Pending consideration of the arrangements to be made consequent upon the report of that Committee, how shall we be justified in not accepting this motion which will result in reducing the strength of the High Court? I may also remind this House before I close that when interpellations were put in the course of last year as to what proposals were made for the increase in the number of Judges, the reply given was, in the first instance, that proposals were not received and then, the reply was that the matter was under consideration and so forth. Never did we dream that there will be a proposal for continuing the temporary judges for such a long time as 24 months. I therefore wish to request this House to support this motion because whatever arrangements might be made, it will be possible that with the existing judges there might be some attempt made to dispose of the arrears."

"The hon. the Law Member stated that the justification for increasing the strength of the Judges from 12 to 14 for one year was their being called upon to inspect mufassal courts and being in touch with the mufassal bar. May I point out that although ordinarily I, for one, would welcome the change, we must have a clear idea as to the time taken for the purpose of inspecting the mufassal courts before we can vote for the reduction of this extra number? Possibly the periodical visits made by the hon. the Judges of the High Court will be once in six months or in a year. There must be some idea about it. I do not think the work of inspecting some mufassal courts once a year will be of such a character as will necessarily lead to an increase in the strength of the High Court Judges. They must probably have a conference with all the Judges in the district and those occasions will be very few. Those occasions will not justify any increase in the number of the High Court Judges. For these reasons I support the motion."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" Sir, as a layman, I may be allowed to offer some observations on this motion. The hon. the Law Member referred to the large number of arrears that have been pending in the High Court. I have had several cases there and I got one case still the pending for more than three years. As a party I complain about the delay. What we want is speedy disposal and sound judgment. If we are assured of these two things I can have no objection to maintaining the present strength of the High Court or to vote for many more Judges, fifteen or even twenty. I may say also—it is not a disparagement to the Judges who adorn the Benches of the High Court—that the quality of the judgments that are delivered now-a-days is very much inferior. I shall give an

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instance. In a second appeal in which an important aspect of Malabar law was involved the distinguished Judges before whom the case was taken up for hearing, disposed of the case in two pithy sentences. The Judgment ran thus:—"The lower court was right in its findings. The appeal is dismissed with costs." It was the late Mr. J. L. Rosario than whom there was none more competent to advise, that advised me to prefer the appeal and that was the judgment, the satisfaction I got for the money spent and the time delayed."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"You are not in good form. The House should not discuss about the quality of the judgments delivered by High Court Judges."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"I am entirely in your hands. But there must be some place where these grievances have to be ventilated."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"You have got the Press. (A voice :—That will be contempt of court)."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"If you rule me out of order I shall certainly resume my seat."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"I rule you out of order."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I wish to say a few words in support of this motion. In 1921, when the question of filling up some vacancies was considered, strong feeling was expressed by the Council and by the bar and I was glad to see that the hon. the Law Member admitted, that it was a time rather to decrease the strength of the High Court rather than fixing the limit at 12. That was in July 1921 when the question of filling up one or two vacancies that were then existing, was under consideration. Very strong argument was urged against filling up those vacancies for the simple reason that the hon. the Judges then would be able to cope with the work effectively and cope with the arrears that had accumulated. Ten or eleven Judges were ample to do justice to the civil litigation in the Presidency. Later on, it was decided to appoint two more Judges. Now I have a complaint against the hon. the Law Member in this connexion. If the hon. Member thought that the strength of the High Court should be increased and that he could justify the appointment of two more Judges, I think it was open to this House to expect the hon. the Law Member to come forward with a resolution on the subject, place all the facts before us and get an affirmative vote from this House to increase the strength of the High Court and then to appoint two more Judges. On the contrary, he having taken his decision behind the back of the Council, we are in this unfortunate predicament that we have to discuss these matters a little more in detail. In 1920, the Original Side suits that were pending were 1,065. The hon. the Law Member himself admits that at present there are about 800 suits or so pending. If you take the total number of all the cases, Civil Miscellaneous petitions, Revision petitions, Second appeals and Original Side appeals, I do not think there will be very much difference between the pendency at the beginning of 1921 and the pendency that exists to-day. It would have been much more satisfactory if the hon. the Law Member had told this House how this large increase in arrears was arrived at and given the actual statistics, relating to the disposal of cases by individual Judges which, I do not think the hon. the Law Member will misunderstand me, would give reasons for this state of things."

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* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I do not think it is right to approach the problem from that point of view."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I think that other hon. Law Members had not the same compunction in that matter. Not by taking the disposal of particular Judges, but by taking the average disposal of cases by the Judges, it has been the practice to compile statistics from that point of view and try to find out whether there is any particular reason why arrears should have increased. Now, we are in this unfortunate position. So far as the institutions are concerned, there has been a certain amount of rise. But that is not the whole truth of the case. We are not aware how the disposal has gone on from year to year, and how the pendency had been at the end of 1921, of 1922 and at the end of 1923. Time after time we are asked to give blank tickets and we believe that the arrears are great. Naturally, one feels very much disinclined to see that these arrears should continue. I should venture to think that merely on the figures of arrears there should not be a further bill for a larger number of Judges. The hon. the Law Member said that in those days—those happy days have passed—members of the bar were not so persistent in their advocacy and were not troubling the Judges with such long arguments as they are now doing. I would controvert that statement in two ways. It is not before every Judge that a member of the bar has to make long arguments. The hon. the Law Member is aware of that fact better than I am. In the second place—I do not venture to make a statement of any kind—we have to take into consideration the very manner in which the Judges of the High Court manage their business. The hon. the Law Member was himself able to point out from his place in the House that there was a certain way in which Second Appeals were disposed of, which did not conduce to the speedy transaction of business, and that the practice of having these second appeals heard by a single Judge was not one which was to the best advantage. Things like that have to be considered before the Government come to the House with larger demands."

"On these grounds I venture to think that we can safely revert to the old number of 12. The suggestion made by the hon. the Law Member regarding the inspection of mufassal courts is a very good suggestion. I part company with my hon. and learned Friend, the Member for the University, when he says that the hon. the Judges should not visit mufassal courts. I do think that the mufassal courts require a great deal of toning, and that they have been left too long to do their business smoothly in their own way. There are vagaries in the disposal of work which should be checked by the High Court Judges; I do not say by personal visits, but there are a number of other ways in which it can be done. The hon. the Law Member is also in charge of Criminal Judicial Administration. There are ways that are resorted to on that side of the Judicial Administration by which the work of the First-class Magistrates is more effectively checked. We are for independent judiciary, but it seems to me that there is a limit to that independence. I do not wish to go into the particular instances of the vagaries of the mufassal courts. But I do think that, where they do not possess jurisdiction, they decide a case rightly or wrongly, doubtful as to whether it is right or wrong, and they always have the feeling that after all there is an appeal. That sort of feeling ought not to exist, and I am glad to say it exists only in a very small proportion in the judicial branch; but

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it ought not to exist at all. But even for toning up the administration and promoting greater sense of responsibility among the judicial officers, I do not think that an addition to the High Court is necessary. On all these grounds I support the motion of the hon. and learned Member for the University."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I have just been looking through the latest statistics of Civil Courts. I find that this is not a difficult question to settle. As some of my hon. Friends said, the number of first appeals in the High Court has been increasing steadily.

"In 1919 the number of appeals was 627, in 1920 it rose to 637, in 1921 it was 684, in 1922 it was 783 and in 1923 it was 897. This shows an increase of nearly 20 per cent between 1919 and 1923. And then the second appeals also have been increasing though not so rapidly. In 1919 it was 2,139, in 1920 it was 2,316, in 1921 it was 1,599 and in 1923 it was 2,042. That shows that there has been a steady increase of appellate work in the High Court. I think there must have been a similar increase also on the Original Side. Therefore, the question before us is whether there is sufficient ground for the increase in the number of Judges. And it seems to me that a case has been made out for the increase in the number of Judges. I am not quite sure about the number of Judges by which the strength should be increased. I cannot say whether there has been a justification for increasing the strength to 14. One of the reasons given by the hon. the Law Member for increasing the strength was that two of the Judges are required to go and inspect the mufassal courts and bring the judges and the bar of the mufassal courts into touch with the High Court. No doubt great advantage would be derived by an intimate touch between the High Court and the mufassal courts. But I do not know if it is necessary to keep these two judges always year after year. This sort of inspection is done in the Bombay Presidency once in five or ten years."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I think I made myself clear. I did not mean that one judge should go round the whole Presidency. Each judge should be able to do some inspection in the course of the year."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Considering the necessity for strict economy, I think this luxury of judges visiting courts might be dispensed with for the present. One way of getting in touch with the work of the lower courts is for the High Court to appoint one of its officers, viz., the Registrar or the Deputy Registrar or if necessary an extra officer to inspect the records of the mufassal courts month after month and find out how they have been progressing and what the causes of delays are and then suggest remedies for the guidance of the mufassal courts."

(At this stage the hon. the President took the chair.)

"The officers who are thus appointed to inspect the records of the mufassal courts must also detect the defects in the procedure or in the methods of working and on the basis of what they find during their inspection frame rules or regulations for the guidance of the judiciary in the mufassal. But at present such rules are not framed and the judges in the mufassal cannot mend themselves. In this way personal inspection of the courts might be avoided and after all I do not see what great advantage might be gained by one judge of the High Court getting into touch with

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the mufassal bar and the mufassal bench. It is hardly necessary. To some extent an impersonal detachment from the mufassal bar and the Bench might be advantageous. So having regard to all these things, I am not quite sure how to decide." (Laughter and cries of 'Oh').

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, I have a very few words to say, not mainly by way of reply, but to show why I am pressing my motion in spite of the very strong speech of the hon. the Law Member. My hon. Friend referred in very glowing terms to the constitutional impropriety of the question. But there is one matter on which we should like the hon. the Law Member to keep a watchful eye, and that is the number of working hours of the High Court Bench. Till recently the High Court has been famous for the judges coming at 11 o'clock, sitting till lunch, and then coming back half an hour afterwards and rising up at 4-45. But I am afraid that there is a tendency—I won't say that this is a fact—to fall off from the ideal. This is a direction in which the hon. the Law Member may look into with profit for himself and to the Government.

"My hon. Friend referred to the bar quoting innumerable cases which are very often irrelevant. My hon. Friend, the Member for Chingleput, answered that charge in part. When a specific case is cited, it is possible for the judge who knows it to say whether it is irrelevant or not at once. But when the judge has to wait till the case is read through and then find out that it is irrelevant, it means waste of time and delay in the disposal of cases. Therefore the fault seems to be the other way. The real difficulty is that your Bench is not up-to-date with case law. That is why members of the bar who are naturally anxious to make the worst case appear good, quote all kinds of cases till the judge finds out that they are irrelevant and calls them to order. My hon. Friend the Law Member has come from the bar and I am sure very often he has tried to make a worse case appear better by quoting cases which may not after all be germane to the point. Therefore what I say will be obvious to him. I am only saying this because I am not sure when the hon. the Law Member lays down his office and comes back to the bar he will not quote cases which may, to a hypercritical judgment, appear to be irrelevant.

"Then, surely, Sir, I am particularly against this increase in the number of temporary judges. I do not think, Sir, that it conduces to the prestige of the High Court, that you should have these men who are trying day after day, and week after week to get these places. I would ask the hon. the Law Member to apply his own dictum here that such high offices ought not to be given to those who try for them."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I think, Sir, it is my duty at this stage to intervene and say that the most fastidious standard might well be applied to the applicants, the persons who occupy the positions at present and they would not fall short of those standards."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I cordially agree with the hon. the Law Member. I do not suggest that those who have been appointed are not so. I am not concerned with that. But what I do say is that for one place there are 200 applicants. I desire to make it clear that I am not suggesting for one moment that the men whom Government appoint are not the very best. But to make temporary appointments to the Bench of the High

[Mr. S. Satyamurti]

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Court once in six months or one year and have these applicants wait in the ante-chambers of the hon. Member's house or his Council Chamber is not consistent with the high position and the dignity of the bar and the Bench.

"Then, Sir, my hon. Friend gave some figures regarding the arrears. I wish also the hon. Member had given the number of suits instituted, and the first and second appeals from year to year so that we may see whether with the increase in the number of judges, these have grown larger or smaller in number. I have a shrewd suspicion that the number of arrears also has increased proportionate to the number of judges. I do not know how that mathematical jugglery has happened. However that shows that the remedy is not in increasing the number of judges. I therefore suggest that by carrying this resolution we shall be strengthening the hands of the hon. Law Member. I know he is a very able advocate, but he was able to make out a very poor case for the number of judges to be 14. That shows he has no case. But sitting in that place (Treasury Bench) he cannot really say that these 14 judges are not necessary. Let us therefore try to help him by voting for this motion and strengthen his hands." (Laughter).

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, the psychological analysis demands an answer. I do not propose to wander in the regions through which my hon. Friend roamed with his accustomed ease. But as the hon. Member wanted some information regarding the disposal of cases with twelve and fourteen judges respectively I shall give a few figures—

First appeals—institutions in 1924	..	..	469
Average disposal with the Bench at 12	..	..	394
Average disposal with the Bench at 14	..	..	680
Second appeals—institutions in 1924	..	..	1,462
Average disposal with the Bench at 12	..	..	1,588
Average disposal with the Bench at 14	..	..	1,845

"I have given these figures to show that it is not a fact that the Bench with 14 judges has not done more than the Bench with twelve judges. However all that I am now anxious for is that we must get rid of the arrears and then take up the question of the permanent strength of the High Court Bench. Till then we will not be satisfied, the litigant public will not be satisfied, and I am sure this House also will not be satisfied."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Does the House wish to vote on this? Does the hon. Member wish to press for the whole of that reduction?"

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Yes, Sir."

The question that the allotment of Rs. 5,60,700 for Judges and Registrar be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000 was put to the House and declared carried. On a poll being demanded by the hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar the House divided as follows:—

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar. | 5. Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu. |
| 2. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 6. " C. Ponnuswami Nayudu. |
| 3. Mr. J. Kuppuswami. | 7. " K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai. |
| 4. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 8. Rao Bahadur K. Krishnaswami Nayudu. |

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Ayes—cont.

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|--|---|
| 9. Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi. | 21. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 10. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 22. Mr. C. Gopala Menon. |
| 11. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 23. " C. Maruthavanam Pillai. |
| 12. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 24. " P. Peddiraju. |
| 13. " C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 25. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 14. " T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 26. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 15. Mr. K. Uppi Sahib. | 27. Mr. M. Seetayya. |
| 16. " P. C. Venkatapati Raju. | 28. " M. R. Saturatnam Ayyar. |
| 17. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | 29. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 18. " S. Satyamurti. | 30. Diwan Bahadur W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 19. " T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. | 31. Mr. Chavadi K. Subramanya Pillai. |
| 20. " P. Anjaneyulu. | |

Noes.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 15. Mr. N. Devendrudu. |
| 2. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 16. Rao Sahib P. V. Gopaln. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 17. Mr. T. Mallesappa. |
| 4. " Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 18. Honorary Lieut. Madurai. |
| 5. " Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 19. Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan. |
| 6. " Mr. R. A. Graham. | 20. " B. Obalesappa. |
| 7. " Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks. | 21. Rao Bahadur P. Ramam. |
| 8. Mr. R. W. Davies. | 22. Mr. J. D. Samuel. |
| 9. " E. W. Legh. | 23. " K. Sarabha Reddi. |
| 10. " Abdulla Ghatala Sahib. | 24. " M. Ratnaswami. |
| 11. " S. Arpudaswami Udayar. | 25. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 12. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavela Pillai. | 26. Mr. R. Veerian. |
| 13. Mr. H. B. Ari Gowder. | 27. " R. Srinivasan. |
| 14. " P. K. S. A. Aromuga Nadar. | 28. Rao Sahib P. V. S. Sundaramurti. |

Neutral.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. P. Sagaram. | 7. Khan Bahadur Haji Abdulla Haji Qasim Sahib. |
| 2. " J. A. Saldanha. | 8. Mr. Muhammad Ghonse Mian Sahib. |
| 3. " V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. | 9. " T. M. Moidu Sahib. |
| 4. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | 10. " Wahab Sahib. |
| 5. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | 11. Quadir Mohideen Sahib. |
| 6. Mr. Abbas Ali Khan Sahib. | |

Ayes 31; Noes 28; Neutral 11.

The motion was carried.

Motion No. 78.

4-15 p.m. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"The motion which stands in my name runs as follows:—

'That the allotment of Rs. 5,60,700 for Judges and Registrar be reduced by Rs. 1,111.'

"I have indicated my object in moving this motion in the motion itself. I think it would simplify matters if I tell the House that the same question was mooted last year in this House when the hon. the Law Member gave a reply which I consider satisfactory and I shall consider it satisfactory if he is prepared to give the same answer. These are the words which he uttered on the last occasion:

'I am glad that an opportunity has been given to me to make a statement on the subject. I think the hon. the Chief Justice and myself, subject to the decision of the Governor, are agreed on this matter, viz., that we should make a beginning in the matter of recruiting for the post of Registrar of the High Court by appointing men belonging to any class of judicial services or to the bar provided they have got the ability to fill such posts. The hon. the Chief Justice and myself are willing to make an experiment and give advice to the Government that if possible a member practising at the bar should be appointed to that place whenever it becomes vacant. As matters stand at present, the post of Registrar is one of the scheduled posts. It is in the

[Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar] [24th March 1925]

scheduled; but it is open to us to vary the number given in the schedule with certain restrictions. As I said already the head of the judiciary in this Presidency is perfectly willing to have a member of the bar to fill that post. When that will happen I cannot say, but it will not be very long."

"Sir, if words mean anything, what he meant was that a vacancy was expected very soon, and the hon. the Law Member was prepared to appoint some officer either from the Provincial Judicial Service or direct from the bar to that place. It is more than a year, and I do not think anything has been done, and if rumours are to be credited it seems they have appointed an I.C.S. officer to that place, and in this budget the pay of that officer is to be found on the non-voted side instead of on the voted side."

*The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Hon. Members of this House are aware that the Registrar has usually been a member of the Indian Civil Service. It is also known to them that the right of appointment to the Registrarship is vested in the High Court Judges and ultimately with the Chief Justice. In the amended Letters Patent it lies with the Chief Justice to choose either a member of the Indian Civil Service or a member from the bar. The function of any Member who holds the portfolio of Administration of Justice is advisory in character. I mentioned certain matters last year, and so far as I am concerned, I have not made any departure, and I have every reason to think that the Chief Justice would not depart, but until a vacancy arises the matter cannot be determined. A vacancy will not arise for some little time. When it arises this question will be examined, and hon. Members may rest perfectly assured that if my opinion is asked, it will be exactly what I said to this House on the last occasion. Let me conclude, as I began, that in the amended Letters Patent the patronage in regard to this appointment is solely and wholly vested in the learned Chief Justice."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Hon. Members who have followed the extract from the speeches of the hon. the Law Member will realize the difference between the speech which he was pleased to deliver last year and the speech which he has just now delivered. This shows that although the Government may be willing to make promises, they will be very loath to carry out their promises."

*The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I take strong objection to that statement. What I said last year represented the result of an interview between myself and the learned Chief Justice. I can only say that I adhere to that opinion. In the amended Letters Patent the Government is nowhere, and they can only advise. I have no reason to think that their advice will not be taken."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"The present reply which was given by the hon. the Law Member does not take us any further, because he was pleased to inform the House that he himself in consultation with the hon. the Chief Justice came to one conclusion, and that conclusion was that they would have no objection either to appoint an official of the subordinate judicial service or recruit a gentleman from the bar. But the reply he has been pleased to give us just now leads us no further. We have reason to believe that the present Registrar of the High Court is going on furlough. If this is so, I would request the hon. the Law Member to give us a considered reply as to whether they think of appointing an Indian Civil Service officer to fill up the vacancy or they would stick up to their promise."

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*The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I should like to have the definition of the word 'they'."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"Since we have not got a definite reply, I would request my hon. Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, to press his motion."

*Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I perfectly agree with my hon. Friend, the Law Member, that the final choice undoubtedly rests with the Chief Justice. Since the Law Member promised to convey his opinion, I am sure that we would like that the opinion of this House should be conveyed. We are not so great as the hon. the Law Member, and yet we should like him to go and tell the hon. the Chief Justice that in his (Law Member's) opinion he is supported by this House. We are not omitting any large sum, and if the hon. the Law Member wants that a nominal reduction of Re. 1 should be made, I am sure there will be no objection to that course as we want merely to request those with whom the power of making appointment to this post lies, to reconsider the question and see whether it ought not to be given to an Indian. So far as the considered opinion of the hon. the Law Member is concerned, I do not think he has changed his opinion, and I believe from what the hon. the Law Member said in his speech last year and which has been quoted just now, that both the hon. the Chief Justice and himself are agreed on this matter. Therefore it is not because we feel that he has rejected or is going to reject our advice in the matter that we want to press this motion—on the other hand we can fairly expect him to advise the hon. the Chief Justice in the way in which he has already done—but because we feel that the vacancy may happen shortly, and that we want to know by whom the vacancy will be filled up. There may not be any other opportunity for us to press this matter upon the attention of the Government, and we therefore want to press the motion, and I do hope the House will pass this motion in order to impress upon the hon. the Chief Justice our strong desire that this appointment should go to an Indian."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I wish to move an amendment in my motion to the effect that the allotment of Rs. 5,60,700 may be reduced by Re. 1."

The House gave its assent for the amendment.

*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"We have almost come to the end of the demand. I would request the hon. the Law Member to say whether the Registrar's appointment is included in the schedule of the appointments for Indian Civil Service officers. Now, what has become of the scheme for appointing more Provincial Service district judges so as to make the number of appointments in the scheduled list less and less? I understood the hon. the Law Member to say a few days ago that the matter was pending consideration and that the Government were awaiting the publication of the Lee Commission Report. The Lee Commission Report has come and gone, and we shall be glad to know whether any more judicial appointments are to be taken away from the scheduled list of appointments for the Indian Civil Service officers."

*The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Apparently my hon. Friend has got a copy of the Lee Report. I have yet to know something about it. The Government have not received as yet, till this minute, any final orders of the Secretary of State on the question of the Indianization of the services."

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The motion (as amended), viz., that the allotment of Rs. 5,60,700 for Judges and Registrar be reduced by Re. 1 was put and carried.

Then the main Demand, No. XII, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 54.91 lakhs minus reductions made amounting to Rs. 1,14,401, was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XIII—JAILS

4-30 p.m.

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move

'that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 30.14 lakhs under Demand XIII—Jails.'"

Motion No. 79.

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 39,900 for pay of establishments be reduced by Rs. 1,001.'

"As will be seen from the agenda, my motion deals with three classes of people attached to the jails, namely, teachers, sub-assistant surgeons and clerks. These people have to do work at various periods of the day, and we know that the central jails are generally remote from the inhabited portions of the towns. This is especially hard on the poor teachers who have been called in many places to do work on Sundays also. They have besides to translate to the prisoners the new journal, I believe the "Jail Chronicle."

(At this stage Khan Bahadur Haji Abdulla Haji Qasim Sahib Bahadur, one of the panel of Chairmen, took the chair.)

"So far as the clerks are concerned, they were given free quarters till very recently. The teachers and sub-assistant surgeons who were more or less in the same position as the clerks also, agitated for free quarters. The result was that not only they were not given what they asked for but those who had been enjoying the privilege were deprived of it. That is the present state of things. So far as the higher officers attached to the jails are concerned, they are given free and commodious quarters, because of the necessity of their living in the jail compound to attend to any emergencies that may arise. It is with a view to raise the question of free quarters being supplied to the teachers, sub-assistant surgeons and clerks that I move this motion; and I hope the Government will be a little more solicitous towards their subordinate staff than they have been till now at least so far as this department is concerned where they have to do work at various periods of the day at places removed from the town and also have to be very careful about their safety."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, it is perfectly true that the allowances in the case of the teachers, sub-assistant surgeons and clerks in the Jail department who had the privilege of free quarters formerly were withdrawn. I have to remind my hon. Friend that the withdrawal was the direct result of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee which considered the question of allowances as a whole and insisted on their being scrutinized very carefully and reduced to some kind of order. I quite

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[Sir Arthur Knapp]

appreciate the arguments advanced by my hon. Friend. It is a fact, that the employees connected with the jails very often live at a distance and are entitled to the consideration to which clerks who are attending the headquarter offices and who find it easier to find accommodation in the neighbourhood are not necessarily entitled. But their grievance arises from the fact that the Retrenchment Committee insisted on having some kind of uniformity. That, I am afraid, is the only answer I can give. When a rigidly uniform policy in the matter of allowances was decided upon, the Jail department had naturally to subscribe to it though I personally do consider that the jail officers deserve special consideration. I am afraid it is not possible for me now to suggest to my hon. Friend that anything can be done until and unless the Government are able to undertake some relaxation of this rigid uniformity which has been forced upon them by circumstances.

"My hon. Friend referred to the fact that superior officers are given free quarters. That, Sir, is a fact which arises mainly from the circumstance that we make use of I.M.S. officers for work connected with jails, and they are entitled to free quarters under the terms of their service. It is a privilege which we cannot take away. Other Superintendents who are doing similar work had the privilege extended to them as they deserved to be treated in the same way as the I.M.S. officers. But so long as the clerks, sub-assistant surgeons and teachers working in other branches of Government service are not allowed free quarters, I am afraid there is no probability of our succeeding in getting for the jail officers the concession which is not allowed to their confreres in other departments."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Sir, sub-assistant surgeons in departments other than the Jail department have got a lot of time to attend to private practice and in view of the fact that in jails they have not the time to do so, they should be allowed a house allowance. Moreover, if they are allowed to go out of the jail premises the discipline of the jail stands the risk of being interfered with. On that account they must be given free quarters in the neighbourhood and if that is not possible at least a house allowance must be given to them."

Sriman BISWANATH Das Mahasayo :—" I take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of the hon. the Home Member the necessity of appointing a better class of teachers for educating the convicts in the jails. To my knowledge, I am sorry to note, the teachers that have been recruited to educate the convicts in the jails at Berhampur are far from satisfactory. In the first place more care and attention should be paid to the character of the teacher recruited, for after all, the education given to the convict is not intended to make him a literate so much as to see that he improves in character. I therefore request that the hon. the Home Member would be pleased to issue instructions to the effect that better men should be recruited."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I am very glad to see that the hon. the Home Member agrees with me on one point, namely, that these poor people deserve consideration at the hands of the Government. The only objections that have been raised have been in regard to the policy insisted on by the Retrenchment Committee. Sir, recently we were put in possession

[Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar] [24th March 1925]

of a memorandum showing what action has been taken on the recommendations of the committee. We find that in several instances where large retrenchments were involved and higher officers were concerned, the report was not given effect to and to my surprise I see that the Government now say that in matters in which they entirely sympathised with the people, in a matter in which the hon. the Home Member himself conceded that the people did require some consideration from the Government, they felt their hands tied down by the report. I hope, Sir, that the Government will reconsider the whole matter and see that in spite of the report they do something for these people. The second reason urged was the uniformity of procedure. Because some people in some departments did not get any house allowance or free quarters, it is no reason, Sir, why the people who have been working in the jails in far off and remote parts of towns should not be given some concession. Where there are different people in different departments doing different kinds of work there can be no question of uniformity. Sir, the analogy was given that so far as the Superintendents were concerned, they were given free quarters like the Indian Medical Service officers who were entitled to the privilege under the terms of agreement. It is a fact that Superintendents other than Indian Medical Service officers are treated in the same way as Indian Medical Service men. I do not complain against that. But I only urge that on the same analogy the privilege could be extended to these men referred to in the motion and if the hon. the Home Member would only be pleased to say that the matter would be considered, I will certainly withdraw my motion."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I have only one remark to make. So far as the Jail administration is concerned, I am not in a position to give any assurance that would bind my successor. I may say that it is likely that my successor on his attention being called to it will take the matter up and see whether, in the improved financial circumstances which we are looking forward to, it would be possible to do what has not been done in the past. As regards the other point raised by the hon. Member, Dr. Rama Rao, I should like to mention that the difficulty which he alleges, namely, that the sub-assistant surgeons in jails are not allowed private practice, was noticed and after a good deal of consideration, it was decided to put them on a regular roster so that the possibility of having to serve for a period without private practice is fairly distributed among all the sub-assistant surgeons, and does not fall unfairly on some of them."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

At this stage (4-45 p.m.) the House adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 26th March 1925.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

[Appendix.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 638 asked by Mr. J. A. Saldanha at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th March 1925, page 615 supra.]

Statutory and Advisory Committees.

1. EXCISE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Names of members.	Date of meeting.	Cost. RS. A. P.
The hon. Sir A. P. Patro, <i>Kt. (President)</i> .	6th Feb. 1924.	Information called for.
M.R.Ry. A. V. Bhanaji Rao Garu, M.L.C.		
" C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar Avargal, M.L.C.	1st Mar. 1924.	
" Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu Garu, M.L.C.	3rd Mar. 1924.	
" H. B. Ari Gowder Avargal, M.L.C.		
" C. Ponnuswami Nayudu Garu, M.L.C.	4th April 1924.	
" J. D. Samuel Avargal, M.L.C.	15th May 1924.	
A. E. Rencontre, Esq., M.L.C.		
M.R.Ry. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar Avargal, M.L.C.	16th May 1924.	
" Rao Bahadur A. M. Murugappa Chettiyar Avargal, M.L.C.	26th May 1924.	
" V. N. Suryanarayanamurti Raju, Zamindar of Kurupam, M.L.C.	4th Nov. 1924.	
" R. Srinivasan Avargal, M.L.C.		
Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (ex officio), Secretary to the Committee.		

2. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Nominated by His Excellency the Governor.

The hon. Mr. R. A. Graham, C.S.I. (<i>Chairman</i>).	15th Aug. 1924.	487 14 0
R. W. Davies, Esq., I.C.S., M.L.C.		
Dr. John Mathai, M.L.C.		

Elected.

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo, M.L.C.	22nd Dec. 1924.	
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur O. Thanikachala Chettiyar Avargal, M.L.C.	23rd Dec. 1924.	
" Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan Avargal, M.L.C.		
Abbas Ali Khan Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C.	3rd Jan. 1925.	
M.R.Ry. A. Chidambara Nadar Avargal, M.L.C.	18th Mar. 1925.	
" V. Madhava Raja Avargal, M.L.C.		
L. C. Nicholson, Esq., M.L.C.		

[24th March 1925]

Names of members.	Date of meeting.	Cost.
RS.	A.	P.
3. FINANCE COMMITTEE.		
<i>Nominated by His Excellency the Governor.</i>		
The hon. Mr. R. A. Graham, C.S.I. (Chairman).	16th Aug. 1924.	1,645 2 0
R. W. Davies, Esq., I.C.S., M.L.C.	25th Aug. 1924.	
A. E. Rencontre, Esq., M.L.C.	8th Oct. 1924.	
<i>Elected.</i>		
Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu Garu, M.L.C.	13th Oct. 1924.	
M.R.Ry. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar	17th Oct. 1924.	
Avargal, M.L.C.	23rd Oct. 1924.	
" A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar	14th Nov. 1924.	
Avargal, M.L.C.		
" C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar	2nd Dec. 1924.	
Avargal, M.L.C.		
Janab Muhammad Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C. (till 28th October 1924).	6th Jan. 1925.	
	7th Jan. 1925.	
(Muhammad Moosa Sait elected in his place.)	8th Jan. 1925.	
M.R.Ry. P. N. Marthandam Pillai	6th Mar. 1925.	
Avargal, M.L.C.		
4. PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.		
The hon. Sir A. P. Patro, President	11th Nov. 1924.	15 0 0
M.R.Ry. K. Prabhakaran Tampan		
Avargal, M.L.C.		
" Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi Garu, M.L.C.		
Haji M. Abdullah Sahib Khan Bahadur, M.L.C.		
M.R.Ry. V. N. Suryanarayanamurti Raju, Zamindar of Kurupam, M.L.C.		
A. J. Leech, Esq., M.L.C. (Resigned).		
M.R.Ry. K. Sarvarayudu Garu, M.L.C.		
The Raja of Ramnad, M.L.C.		
M.R.Ry. R. Srinivasan Avargal, M.L.C.		
" Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimha-charlu Garu, M.L.C.		
5. FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE.		
The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.B.E., I.C.S., President.	4th Feb. 1924.	40 0 0
M.R.Ry. B. Muniswami Nayudu Garu, M.L.C.	17th Mar. 1924.	No cost.
" C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar Avargal, M.L.C.	16th Oct. 1924.	No cost.
" A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar	4th Feb. 1925.	
Avargal, M.L.C.		

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5. FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE—cont.

Names of members.	Date of meeting.	Cost.		
		RS.	A.	P.
M.R.Ry. K. Sarabha Reddi Garu, M.L.C.				
" Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar Avargal, M.L.C.				
" A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar Avargal, M.L.C.				
" Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimha-charlu Garu, M.L.C.				
" G. Premayya Garu, M.L.C.				
" Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar Avargal, M.L.C.				
Chief Conservator of Forests (ex officio).				
Secretary to Government, Development Department (ex officio), and Secretary to the Committee.				
6. ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE, CO-OPERATION AND VETERINARY.				
The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivaganam Pillai Avargal (President).	21st Mar. 1924.	No cost.		
C. R. T. Congreve, Esq., M.L.C. ...	19th Aug. 1924.			
M.R.Ry. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder	14th Oct. 1924.			
Avargal, M.L.C.				
" Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai	4th Dec. 1924.			
Avargal, M.L.C.				
" K. Prabhakaran Tampan				
Avargal, M.L.C.				
" B. Muniswami Nayudu Garu, M.L.C.				
Dr. John Mathai, M.L.C.				
M.R.Ry. G. Premayya Garu, M.L.C.				
" K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai				
Avargal, M.L.C.				
" Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu Garu, M.L.C.				
" K. Sarabha Reddi Garu, M.L.C.				
Secretary to Government, Development Department (ex officio), and Secretary to the Committee.				
Council Secretary to Development Minister (ex officio).				
7. ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIES AND FISHERIES.				
The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivaganam Pillai Avargal (President).	26th March 1924.	No expenditure was incurred as the Committee met on Council days.		
Abbas Ali Khan Bahadur, M.L.C. ...	20th August 1924.			
M.R.Ry. S. Arpudaswami Udayar				
Avargal, M.L.C.				
" Rao Bahadur Cruz Fernandez				
Avargal, M.L.C.				

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Names of members.	Date of meeting.	Cost.
		RS. A. P.
7. ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIES AND FISHERIES—cont.		
M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu Garu, M.L.C.		
„ Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan Avargal, M.L.C.		
„ Rao Bahadur A. M. Murugappa Chettiyar Avargal, M.L.C.		
„ B. Ramachandra Reddi Garu, M.L.C.		
„ C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar Avargal, M.L.C.		
„ Diwan Bahadur W. Vijiaraghava Mudaliyar Avargal, M.L.C.		
Sir James Simpson, Kt., M.L.C.		
Secretary to Government, Development Department (ex officio), and Secretary to the Committee.		
Council Secretary to the Development Minister (ex officio).		

8. LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

The hon. the Raja of Panagal (President)*	6th Feb. 1924.	
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chettiyar Avargal, M.L.C.	21st Mar. 1924.	
	26th May 1924.	
	13th Oct. 1924.	
	14th Oct. 1924.	
Janab Muhammad Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C. (since resigned).	17th Nov. 1924.	
M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur W. Vijiaraghava Mudaliyar Avargal, M.L.C.	2nd Dec. 1924.	
„ B. Muniswami Nayudu Garu, M.L.C.		
„ Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu Garu, M.L.C.		30 0 0
The Raja of Ramnad, M.L.C.		
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimha-charlu Garu, M.L.C.		
„ Rao Bahadur Cruz Fernandez Avargal, M.L.C.		
„ V. Madhava Raja Avargal, M.L.C.		93 4 0
„ R. Veerian Avargal, M.L.C.		
The Secretary to Government, Local Self-Government Department (ex officio) and Secretary to the Committee.		

* Information regarding amount paid as travelling allowance for his journey to Ootacamund is not available.

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Names of members.	Date of meeting.	Cost.
		RS. A. P.
9. PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.		
The hon. the Raja of Panagal (President).		
M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur M Krishnan Nayar Avargal, M.L.C.		
„ Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu Garu, M.L.C.		
„ Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu Garu, M.L.C.		
J. A. Davis, Esq., M.L.C.		
M.R.Ry. Mahabala Hegde Avargal, M.L.C.	20th November 1924.	22 8 0
M.R.Ry. K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai Avargal, M.L.C.		
The Secretary to Government, Local Self-Government Department.		
The Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.		
The Deputy Secretary to Government, Local Self-Government Department (ex officio) and Secretary to the Committee.		
10. EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.		
The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro, Kt. (President).	10th March 1924.	
M.R.Ry. S. Arpudaswami Udayar Avargal, M.L.C.		
„ Rao Bahadur Cruz Fernandez Avargal, M.L.C.		
„ B. Mahabala Hegde Avargal, M.L.C.	4th December 1924.	40 0 0
„ P. N. Marthandam Pillai Avargal, M.L.C.		
„ Rao Bahadur C. Thanikachala Chettiyar Avargal, M.L.C.		
„ K. V. Ramachari Avargal, M.L.C.		
„ M. Ratnaswami Avargal, M.L.C.		
„ R. Veerian Avargal, M.L.C.		
„ K. Sarvarayudu Garu, M.L.C.		
Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C.		

11. DEPRESSED CLASSES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.B.E., I.C.S. (President).	4th February 1924.	40 0 0
M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai Avargal, M.L.C.	19th March 1924.	

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Names of members.	Date of meeting.	Cost.
		RS. A. P.
11. DEPRESSED CLASSES ADVISORY COMMITTEE— <i>cont.</i>		
M.R.Ry. R. Srinivasan Avargal, M.L.C. ...	21st August 1924.	
„ Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan Avargal, M.L.C.		
„ Rao Sahib P. V. S. Sundaramurti Avargal, M.L.C.	2nd February 1925.	20 0 0
„ N. Devendrudu Garu, M.L.C.		
The Commissioner of Labour— <i>ex officio</i> .		
The Secretary to Government, Law Department— <i>ex officio</i> .		

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 639 asked by Mr. S. Satyamurti at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th March 1925, page 615 *supra*.]

Statement showing the number and the names of the members of Madras Legislative Council who have been appointed to paid and honorary appointments under the Government since the last elections.

Paid appointments.

- (1) Janab Muhammad Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur—Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor, Nellore.
- (2) M.R.Ry. B. Mahabala Hegde Avargal—Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor, South Kanara.
- „ Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi Garu—Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor, Kurnool.

Honorary appointments.

- (1) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur P. K. A. Ct. Virappa Chettiyar Avargal, M.B.E., Honorary Presidency Magistrate for Madras City.
 - (2) M.R.Ry. K. Sitarama Reddiyar Avargal.
 - (3) „ G. Premayya Garu.
 - (4) „ H. B. Ari Gowder Avargal.
 - (5) „ M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar Avargal.
 - (6) „ Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja Avargal.
- } Honorary Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies.

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APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 645 asked by Mr. P. Peddiraju at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th March 1925, page 620 *supra*.]

Name of drainage work.	Probable cost of the work.	Remarks.
<i>Gōdāvari Eastern and Central deltas.</i>		
	RS.	
1. Tuliyaabagha drain improvements to the mouth.	31,709	Completed.
2. Tuliyaabagha drain—complete to the mouth.	1,50,000	Effect of item 1 being watched.
3. Ainapur drain	1,97,500	In progress.
4. Nedunur drain	4,800	Completed.
5. Providing a flood bank along right side of Teki drain.	8,470	Do.
6. Constructing an additional undertunnel across Bhatuvilly channel, Venavaram drain.	7,200	Do.
7. Constructing inlets, Teki drain.	2,150	Do.
8. Constructing an undertunnel, Mamadikuduru channel.	2,250	Do.
9. Constructing an inlet on Sahapuram drain and raising the left bank of Tuliyaabagha drain.	7,700	In progress.
10. Excavating a short cut to Gorintada drain.	3,760	Will be put in hand during 1925-26.
11. Improvements to Teki drain ...	50,000	} Estimates awaited from the Superintending Engineer.
12. Do. to Biccavole drain	3,00,000	
13. Panchanadi drain	1,39,000	} Do.
14. Vasalatippa outfall	55,000	
15. Kowsika outfall	55,000	
16. Vasalatippa drain	70,000	
17. Amalapuram drain	60,000	} Preliminary proposals awaited from the Superintending Engineer. Estimates awaited from the Superintending Engineer.
18. Kunavaram drain	45,000	
19. Rangaraju Codu	10,000	} To be investigated.
20. Vridha Gowtmani	80,000	
21. Dontikurru drain	80,000	} Proposals awaited from the Superintending Engineer.
22. Palivela drain	30,000	
23. Karapa and Kurada drains ...		

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Name of drainage work.	Probable cost of the work.	Remarks.
<i>Gōdāvari Western delta.</i>		
	RS.	
24 (a) Yenamadurru drain, Lower portion.	3,73,500	Completed.
(b) Yenamadurru drain, Upper portion.	9,74,000	In progress.
25. Excavating a drainage channel to Korrapadu lands.	2,000	Completed.
26. Neelacodu drain ... }	13,450	Do.
27. Bondada drain ... }	5,000	Do.
28. Straight cut to Bhoggeswaram drain.	5,000	To be estimated for.
29. Other improvements to Bhoggeswaram drain.	10,000	To be investigated.
30. Palacodu drain ... }	14,000	
31. Improvements to Keza drain ... }	5,000	
32. " Gontern drain.	4,000	
33. " Mogulturru drain.	12,000	
34. " Gostanadi drain.	5,000	
35. " Nakkala drain.	5,000	
36. " Pandicodu drain.	47,000	Completed.
37. Constructing a lock and regulator at mile 7-2-460 of Kakara-parru canal.		

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to question No. 649 asked by Mr. J. A. Saldanha at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th March 1925 page 622 supra.]

Chingleput Leper Asylum—Management—Summary of correspondence with the Franciscan Sisters.

In January 1913 the Government decided to apply the provisions of the Indian Lepers Act, 1898, to this Presidency as soon as arrangements could be made for the reception of pauper lepers and called upon the Surgeon-General to submit proposals for the establishment of a leper asylum at Chingleput. When replying to this reference, the Surgeon-General forwarded a letter dated 3rd June 1913, from the Rev. D. Gioanini, S.J., Director of the St. Joseph's Leper Asylum at Mangalore, in which the latter communicated an informal offer from the Franciscan Sisters at Ootacamund to manage the asylum for Government. He stated that the sisters were in charge of the

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Mandalay and Kemmendine Leper Asylum in Burma and had accepted the management of two leper asylums offered to them by the Government of Ceylon. He added that the terms given by the Government of Ceylon could be taken into consideration and an agreement come to on similar terms. The Government generally approved the proposal and asked the Surgeon-General to ascertain from the Rev. D. Gioanini the terms upon which the Franciscan Sisters would be prepared to undertake the work.

2. Meanwhile, the Government communicated with the Government of Ceylon asking for information regarding the terms upon which the sisterhood undertook the management of their institutions and for the opinion of the Ceylon Government on the result of the arrangement. That Government stated in reply that all the Government hospitals and leper asylums in that colony were directly under control of the Medical Department and that no Government institution was managed by any religious sisterhood; that the nursing in the pauper section of the Government hospital, Colombo, was undertaken by the Franciscan Sisters and that it was proposed that the same order should be employed in the leper asylums, but that none were actually working in the latter institutions at the time; that the duties of these sisters were entirely confined to nursing and they had nothing to do with the management or control of the institutions; that they had all had a training in nursing before leaving Europe and their services were of great value. As the arrangement with the Ceylon Government appeared to be quite different from what was proposed in connexion with the asylum at Chingleput, the Surgeon-General was asked (on 13th September 1913) to interview the Lady Superior of the Nazareth Convent, Ootacamund, and to ascertain from her what duties the sisters would be prepared to undertake in and how far they would be responsible for the management of, the Chingleput Asylum and on what terms.

3. In reply, the Surgeon-General forwarded a letter, dated 20th September 1913, from the Mother Provincial of the Franciscan Sisters in which it was stated that the sisters were prepared to take up the nursing of the lepers in the asylum, and that a Mother Superior and eleven sisters would be required for an asylum accommodating 300 lepers. The Mother Superior would carry out the orders of the Government as regards management and discipline and those of the Medical Officer concerning the health of the inmates. She would regulate the work of the nursing staff and be responsible for the efficiency of the nursing arrangements, management of clothing, food, stores, etc. She would have control over the servants and report to the Superintendent any neglect of duty or other infraction on their part. In return for the sisters' services, the Government were to pay Rs. 80 per mensem for the Mother Superior and Rs. 45 each for the sisters, and in addition provide fully furnished quarters (including house linen and crockery), with garden, fuel and light and free medical attendance. Passages at Rs. 450 each from Europe to India were to be paid by the Government and also passages home, if applied for, at the same rate for a sister after three years' service. An allowance for servants at Rs. 50 per mensem, a washing allowance for each sister at Rs. 2-8-0 per mensem and a horse and conveyance including driver were also asked for. The Government were to make due provision for the hospital servants, cooks, ward-coolies, dhobies, etc., and special attendants to help the sisters in the service of the male wards. The Mother Provincial could not say definitely how many of the sisters would have had nurses' training, but gave an assurance that at least four of them would have undergone

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training. The total cost to the Government on account of the employment of the sisters was roughly estimated at Rs. 7,500 a year, exclusive of the cost of passages and the initial expenditure on quarters, furniture, etc. The Government were disposed to agree to the terms suggested, but as the construction of the asylum had not been begun and was likely to take time, they considered it premature to arrange terms binding on either party. The Surgeon-General was informed accordingly (on 17th January 1914) and was asked to bring the subject again to the notice of the Government before the buildings were completed.

4. Owing to the outbreak of the war and the consequent financial stringency, the construction of the asylum had unavoidably to be postponed. By the year 1920, the question of the proper segregation of lepers again began to attract serious public attention. An All-India Conference was held at Calcutta in February of that year and various measures were recommended for bringing the disease under control. The Government considered that the first step to be taken was to provide sufficient accommodation for lepers. The existing private asylums could be used for voluntary segregation, but a central Government institution was necessary to enforce segregation under the Act. As a large number of lepers would have to be accommodated in the Government institution, it was considered that the asylum type of buildings originally contemplated would not be suitable for the purpose, and that a settlement or colony for lepers would be preferable as being more economical and efficient. The institution was accordingly completely redesigned; works costing nearly five lakhs have been approved by the Government and are in course of construction. The settlement will provide accommodation for over 400 lepers and is capable of further extension, as required, up to a total accommodation of about 2,000.

5. The question whether the management of the settlement should be retained in the hands of the Government as proposed in 1913 or whether the entire management might be entrusted to some private organization was considered at the same time. The provisional arrangements made in 1913 with the Mother Provincial of the Franciscan Sisters in regard to the nursing, etc., were not lost sight of, but it was thought that it would be more advantageous if the whole management including nursing could be entrusted to a single body. As the extent to which the Franciscan Sisters would be prepared to assist in the management had already been considered and settled in 1913 (according to which their duties would be limited to nursing and the supervision of the linen, wardrobe, stores and kitchen), it was unnecessary to consult them further on the subject. The local mission working in Chingleput was therefore asked (on 22nd October 1923) if it would be prepared to take up the management under certain conditions.

6. On or about the 19th November 1923, the Franciscan Missionaries approached Her Excellency Lady Willingdon and claimed to have had the first offer of running the new settlement some years ago. The position was then fully explained to the Mother Provincial of the Franciscan Sisters in an official letter dated 6th December 1923. It was pointed out that while the arrangements contemplated in 1913 were confined to the nursing of the lepers, etc., the Government were then considering whether, in the interests of the lepers, the entire management could not be entrusted to some philanthropic organization such as the Mission to Lepers or some other Missionary body. The Mother Provincial was informed that if the Government finally

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decided to run the institution themselves they would be happy to avail themselves of the offer of the Franciscan Sisters. To this the Mother Provincial replied on 11th December 1923 saying that the Sisters were ready to take up not only the nursing of the lepers and the supervision of the wardrobe, linen, stores and kitchen, as stipulated in their letter of 20th September 1913, but that they were also prepared to run and manage the settlement, if the Government were not prepared to run it themselves. She was informed on 20th December 1923 that the Government had not yet arrived at a final decision on the point.

7. The negotiations started in October 1923 with the U.F.C.S. Mission, Chingleput, are still in progress and no final decision has yet been arrived at.

APPENDIX V.

(Vide page 653 supra.)

Unveiling the bust of Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar and investing the Deputy President with C.I.E.

At 4-50 p.m. the Members adjourned to the Committee room where His Excellency the Governor formally invested Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai, Deputy President, Legislative Council, with the badge of C.I.E.

2. The hon. the Raja of Panagal requested the hon. the President to accept a bust of the hon. Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar, the first President of the Reformed Council. In accepting the bust the hon. the PRESIDENT said—

“Your Excellency, on behalf of the Madras Legislative Council I accept with thanks the gift by the hon. the Raja of Panagal of a bust of its first President, Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar. It is an unwonted honour for any person who is not a royal personage to be commemorated by statue or bust during his lifetime and it will always be a source of gratification to the Members of the Madras Legislative Council that this signal honour has been conferred on its first President. I hope this valuable and durable gift will long remind future generations in this Presidency of the early history of the House which is so proud of it.”

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR in unveiling the bust spoke as follows.

“I feel it a great privilege to be invited to-day to unveil a bust of Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar in the precincts of the Chamber over which he once presided.

“It was not my good fortune to know him in those days. I only made his acquaintance at a later date when he had assumed the important duties of a Member of Council of the Secretary of State. But his reputation as President is a public one which those who run may read.

“He became the first President of the first Reformed Council. Upon him was cast the important and delicate duty of creating the traditions, of forming the usages by which this Council should be guided for years to come. His it was too to inspire that atmosphere of respect for the Chair and of mutual forbearance among members which should enhance the dignity of the House and give it a worthy place among elected Assemblies. To achieve

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this needed special qualifications in the character of the occupant of the Chair, dignity of manner, firmness of control, fairness as between member and member, a just maintenance of the rights of minorities, and a sense of humour to temper and avert sudden crises.

"I had the honour of being for four years a Member of a Legislative Assembly which had behind it generations of traditions and it has struck me greatly since I have been acquainted with this House how quickly it has become imbued with the true Parliamentary spirit. That this is so is largely due to the wisdom and character of Sir Rajagopala Achariyar whose tenure of office added lustre to the Council and secured for him the respect of the members of all parties.

"I am glad to think that his bust, severe in its outline though it may be, will still serve to remind members of the services he rendered to the Council and the kindly interest he took in their affairs."

Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar proposed a hearty vote of thanks to His Excellency and the gathering dispersed.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 26th March 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI Avargal, O.I.E., I.S.O.) in the chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Depressed Classes.

'Depressed' and 'backward' classes.

* 650 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government have differentiated the depressed classes from the backward classes; if not, why not?

A.—The answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"Sir, with reference to the question, may I know in what manner the Government have differentiated the depressed classes from the backward communities?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"We have differentiated, Sir, in a good many ways. For example we have appointed a Commissioner of Labour who has as a subsidiary duty to deal specially with the depressed classes."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have differentiated the depressed classes in connexion with the school fees?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I would suggest to my hon. Friend to refer the matter to the hon. the Minister for Education."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know from the hon. the Minister for Education whether any differentiation is made with reference to the school fees paid by the pupils of the depressed classes?"

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The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I think so. Because the depressed classes are as a rule entitled to pay less fees than other persons who are rich enough to pay."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I point out, Sir, that under the Educational rules it is stated

'that fees at half the rates prescribed above may be levied from Muhammadan boys and that pupils belonging to the depressed classes and to the classes and castes which have been declared to be backward may be admitted without payment of fees?'"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"There has been some mistake in regard to this question. The question was altered by me by the addition of the words 'in respect of concession rates of fees'. But by an oversight the alteration does not happen to have been communicated to the Government. Consequently the answer furnished by Government does not refer to that particular matter. Since the hon. Member asks for an answer in regard to the concession rates of fees and the hon. the Minister has had no notice of the question in that form, I shall ask him to put the same question separately."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"This is a general question. It relates to the school fees also."

Honorific Titles.

Use of the word 'Nadar' as caste title.

*651 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether there is any Government Order to the effect that the word 'Nadar' should be used as the caste title to the members of the community?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 785, Law (General), dated 7th July 1921, which was placed on the Editors' Table.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—"My question has appeared in a very mutilated form. In connexion with this question, I wanted to get some information with regard to something that appeared in the administration report of last year. The word 'Nadar' is used in the administration report. So I wanted to know whether it was properly used?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I had nothing to do with the form of the interpellation which was originally put. If the hon. Member now wants any further information as to the use of the word 'Nadar', I must ask him to give notice."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Was not the hon. Member informed of the reason why the alterations were made?"

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—"No, Sir. Perhaps I did not receive the communication."

Jails.

The question of release of Mr. Narayana Menon.

* 652 Q.—Mr. V. PANTULU AYYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government propose to release Mr. Narayana Menon as demanded by the Council; if so, when and if not, whether there are any fresh reasons for the same?

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A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 160 at the last meeting of the Council.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether the Government are prepared to consider the question of Mr. Narayana Menon's release, provided he gives an undertaking, to some such effect that he will not take part in any of the political activities or he will not attend any political meetings, or something like that?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I assume, Sir, that the hon. Member does not expect a categorical answer to that suggestion. All that I can say is that if Mr. Narayana Menon approaches the Government with a suggestion of that kind, it will no doubt be considered."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"The answer to this question refers us, Sir, to the answer to question No. 160 given at the last meeting of the Council. The answer there is that the reply is in the negative."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"What is that question?"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government have any intention of releasing Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon? 'The reply is in the negative.' The question here is quite different, 'whether there are any fresh reasons for the same.' I am asking the hon. the Home Member to say whether the Government have considered our resolution, practically unanimous, urging the release of Mr. Narayana Menon, and have resolved not to accept it."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I confess, Sir, that when I read this question I was puzzled as to the meaning of the enquiry regarding 'any fresh reasons'. The Government had on a previous occasion stated that after considering all the different points and circumstances, including the resolution passed by this Council they were not prepared to release Mr. Narayana Menon. Nothing has occurred so far as to bring the matter under fresh consideration."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I should like to know, Sir, whether after our resolution has been passed, the Government have given any reasons as to why he was not released, whether it was anything like danger to public safety and so on."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The reason has already been given in this House more than half a dozen times and if hon. Members want it to be repeated I am prepared to do that. The reason was briefly this, that the Government after carefully considering the appeal for mercy which was put forward on behalf of Mr. Narayana Menon, the special resolution passed in this House, and the budget debate of last year, came to the conclusion that he should not be released in the interest of the peace of Malabar."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"What about this year? Do you still hold that opinion?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I do not see that anything has occurred to change that view."

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MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—"When a prisoner is imprisoned for life, does not the lapse of time operate as a consideration for the Government to reconsider? After all the man has been sentenced and has suffered imprisonment for some months. Is it not a fresh consideration as to why he should not be released?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"May I know, Sir, if the hon. Member suggests that that consideration applies to all prisoners who have been transported for life? I am afraid that we shall find very considerable difficulty if in every case of transportation for life, we are to consider ourselves bound to renew the case every few months."

MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I thought that the hon. the Home Member would have paid a little more attention to the resolution of this Council. I am not asking Government to consider the lapse of time in all cases of transportation for life as a cause for release. I am asking whether in the case of this particular prisoner, who has suffered for some months, the lapse of time may not be taken into consideration for his release."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The reasons given by this House for recommending the release of this particular prisoner, at the time when they were put forward did not appear to be convincing. I do not see myself that lapse of time since then has made any difference."

MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sentences are always intended as attempts at reforming the prisoner and not as vindictive measures. If the Government want to punish a man with vengeance, then it does not form a corrective measure. May I not therefore claim that when a man has suffered for some time the Government may consider the desirability of releasing him?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"If it is said that some months of imprisonment have brought about a change in the attitude of this prisoner, my opinion is entirely to the contrary. In respect of the other question, I say that it is not intended to be vindictive, but there is nothing in what has so far been put forward to change the view we have taken. He has been convicted after regular trial by the courts and so far this Council has failed to put forward any special reason why we should take his release into consideration."

Migration of prisoners in Alipuram Jail to the Andamans.

* 6:53 Q.—MR. K. UPPI SAHIB: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government deputed the Special officer for the Andamans, Mr. Kunhi Raman Nayar, to go to Alipuram Jail and persuade the prisoners to migrate to the Andamans;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 800 prisoners consented to go to that place;

(c) whether it is a fact that they are being taken thither in batches;

(d) if so, how many of them were already taken up to date; and

(e) the amount the Government have spent for taking these prisoners to the Andamans?

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4.—(a) M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib M. Kunhi Raman Nayar Avargal was sent to the Alipuram Jail to interview the Mappilla prisoners and to explain to them conditions of life in the Andamans.

(b) One thousand and one hundred prisoners have volunteered to go to the Andamans and their request is still under the consideration of Government.

(c), (d) & (e) Do not arise.

MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, with reference to clause (a) of this question, it is evident that the Government wanted, if possible, to persuade these unfortunate prisoners to go to the Andamans. I am asking now whether the Government, in so doing, took into consideration the unanimous recommendation of the Jail Committee which was presided over by a distinguished predecessor of the hon. Member who was himself a Home Member. In paragraph 563, they say

"After taking due account of all the above considerations, we have come to the conclusion that the retention of transportation to the Andamans on the present scale, even if an increased and improved, and consequently vastly more expensive, staff were provided, is undesirable and should not be attempted. The *raison d'être* of a system of transportation to a great extent disappears if the idea of colonization, which we have dealt with above and rejected, is found impracticable. As deportation to the Andamans has lost its deterrent effect, as it involves increased cost, as it exposes the prisoner to depressing climatic conditions, and as in the case of the average prisoner it is not needed from the administrative point of view, we fail to see what necessity there is for its continuance in respect of the great majority of the prisoners who are now sent there."

"I am asking the Government whether in persuading these unfortunate Mappilla prisoners who have no freedom of judgment as they are at present situated, to go to the Andamans, they were not really over-ruled?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"With reference to the hon. Member's question, I may say that we have certainly taken into full consideration the rather depressing account of the Andamans made in the report of the Jail Committee. There are two or three points in which the remarks of the Jail Committee are really irrelevant to the position now taken up. In the first place, it is not a question of transportation but it is a question of giving the Mappilla prisoners under close confinement in Madras jails an opportunity of going to the Andamans and settling down as self-supporters. It means practically that their imprisonments suspended on condition that they live in the Andamans with their families. The hon. Member will realize that because they are to live with their families who accompany them that indicates a different state of affairs from that contemplated by the Jail Committee. As to the climate, I may say that this officer whom we have specially sent has investigated the conditions fully, including the climate, and his report is that if the climate of the Andamans could be described as depressing it is remarkably like the climate of Malabar itself. My hon. Friend asks whether we sent up this officer to the Alipuram Jail for the purpose of persuading them to go to the Andamans. He said that the prisoners have lost their freedom of choice. I may say at once that that is entirely incorrect. Mr. Kunhi Raman Nayar fully described to them the conditions in the Andamans and asked them to elect if they wished to go to the Andamans with their families. The prisoners are in fact given an absolutely free choice. If I may prolong this

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answer for a moment, I may call attention to a paragraph in the newspaper—in the *Madras Mail*—of Monday, March 16, which purports to report a communication from a correspondent who mentions:

‘On being told that some of their leaders had objected to their being taken to the island, they replied it was all very well for rich men to extend lip sympathy and to make speeches as they did before the rebellion; but they did not realize how their poor brethren eked out their existence. In conclusion, they expressed gratitude to the ‘Sirkar’ for all that the latter had done for them.’

“That is the answer I give for the question.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“I very heartily congratulate the hon. Member on this testimonial that he has received. But with regard to improvements in conditions there, that is to say, with regard to the women being allowed to go there, may I draw attention to the following two sentences only in the Jail Committee’s report:

‘No decent prisoner would wish to bring his wife to such a place, and accordingly any attempts which might have been made in recent years to induce released convicts to bring their wives and families to the settlements and so to relieve the social evils of the place could not be expected to succeed. On the contrary, every man who retains any sense of self-respect desires to get away and take his relatives with him.’

“With regard to giving them some means of settling down there, this is what they say:

‘We see no reason, as remarked below, why they should not serve their sentences in an Indian jail, and there can be hardly any doubt that, if it were desired to settle them on the land on the expiry of the term of imprisonment, it would be far better to do so in their own country where they would come under the influence of the social and religious restraints of their own communities.’

“What I want to know from the hon. the Home Member is why he wants to set aside these recommendations of the Committee and why he is so anxious to revive a system which is unanimously condemned by an expert Committee.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—“I must say that I am extremely surprised to notice the extraordinary reliance that my hon. Friend appears to put on the Jail Committee. The experience we have lately had of his attitude towards the Reports of Committees is in a different direction. He is entitled to his own view in the matter; but I must say that in my view the Jail Committee have made a mistake. As regards the suggestion that no decent Mappilla prisoner would like to bring his wife there, I place my faith on the judgment of the Mappilla prisoners in the Island who have asked for their wives to be sent. We have taken every possible step to examine the conditions in detail, rather more in detail than it was possible for the Jail Committee to do, and there is the further fact that the conditions between then and now have very much changed. We are now dealing with the state of affairs when there are already half a dozen villages entirely inhabited by Mappillas. We do not let them go there except with their wives and children.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—“How many Mappilla villages are there now, Sir?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—“They are increasing every day. But the last information that I had is that there are six or seven villages.”

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Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—“What extent do they occupy, Sir?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—“About 20 miles.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“May I ask why those opportunities have been made available only to prisoners in the Alipuram jail?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—“They will be given to the prisoners in all the jails. But the prisoners in the Alipuram jail are the first to whom we made a definite offer. There is no reason why the Mappilla rebellion prisoners in any jail should not elect to go to the Andamans with their wives and family.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“If these prisoners apply to be taken to any other place than Malabar, am I to understand that the Government have no objection to consider their application?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—“If my hon. Friend means to suggest that they would like to go to the Andamans nothing will please me better.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“I have known of applications from some prisoners.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—“There is a very large number of them whom I should prefer to keep under surveillance in towns outside Malabar instead of keeping them in jails but the question of supervision raises a good deal of difficulty. Now that Mappilla villages are established in the Andamans if these prisoners are willing to go there, I would be very pleased. At present it is not safe to let them go back to Malabar. If the hon. Member would persuade them to go to the Andamans if only as an experiment I would only be too glad.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“I have talked to them but not about any suggestion with regard to their going to the Andamans. They are quite prepared to go to any place other than Malabar.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—“I would request the hon. Member to talk to them. Not only that, he may tell them that having gone there if they do not like it they will be permitted to come back.”

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB:—“May I know if the Government will be pleased to permit gentlemen like the hon. Member from Coimbatore to go to the Andamans and see for themselves the conditions that exist there?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—“If my hon. Friend would like to go and see the Andamans, I have not the least doubt the authorities in the Andamans would only be too glad to comply with the request.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya:—“May I know why this colonization is not extended to the prisoners in other jails?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—“That is a much larger question. My view of the matter is that in regard to these Mappillas although many of them have been convicted of crimes of violence, I feel they are not all criminals in the ordinary sense. That is my opinion. Our main desire is to keep them at a distance from Malabar until it is safe

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for them to come back. And during that period, we have no desire to be more severe than is necessary. Therefore it is that I shall be glad if these men will choose the Andamans."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" May I know what the desire of the Government is : is it that these people may return to Malabar after their period or is it that the Mappillas should become extinct there ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" As regards the possibility of extinction of Mappilla population in Malabar, I do not suggest any such thing for a moment. "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" In view of the statement of the hon. the Home Member, may I call his attention to the sentence in the Jail Committee Report ? ' There are and must always exist in all Indian provinces . . . certain number of prisoners whose removal to a place of secure custody outside the continent of India is extremely desirable . . . ' An instance of the class of prisoners here referred to is the frontier men who have been guilty of outrage and have been sentenced to imprisonment. I want to know how my hon. Friend reconciles his statement that it is a matter of kindness that he sends these men to the Andamans. It is for the Committee to say that a dangerous criminal cannot be kept in India. "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I personally do not agree with the statement. As I said, it is necessary to remove them outside Malabar, and it is better and kinder to give them an opportunity to go to a more distant place and allow them to live there practically as free men. "

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" How long ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" That depends on the length of the sentence. All I can say is there is no question of telling a man that by reason of his going to the Andamans he is condemning himself to be away for a longer period than would otherwise have been the case. "

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" What about State prisoners ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" As I have said we do not want to keep them in jail if we can help it. Having heard a good deal about the Andamans, it struck me that it would be a very good thing if we could give them the choice of going there. With this view I went to the Rajahmundry jail. I took Mr. Hitchcock with me; he spoke to them but they refused to have anything to do with the idea. They asked many questions as to the conditions of living there. We therefore sent an officer to find out what the conditions were and if there was room for the settlement of these State prisoners together with their families I hoped that the State prisoners themselves would show some wisdom in their own interests and that to go there instead of remaining confined in jails. "

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Have any State prisoners gone to the Andamans ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" One State prisoner was actually asked to go and he has gone. I look forward to the time when more State prisoners will go and take their families with them. It is their misfortune that the circumstances are such that it is not safe to send

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them back to Malabar, and it would be more comfortable for them to accept this form of exile to the Andamans in the midst of their own people rather than remain in this Presidency in jail. "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I am sorry I have to interfere. But hon. Members will realise that we are only at page 2 of the questions and this particular question has nearly reached the limits of an adjournment debate. "

Malabar affairs.

Compensation to the Managing Agents of Pullangode Rubber estate.

* 654 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Managing Agents of the Pullangode Rubber estate requesting that compensation might be given to them for the damages caused in the Mappilla outbreak ;

(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay a copy of their application on the table ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government propose to grant about Rs. 41,000 by way of compensation in compliance with their representation ; if so, whether there are any special circumstances to justify such preferential treatment ?

A.—The Company made a formal claim to the Special Commissioner for Malabar Affairs and asked for compensation amounting to Rs. 1,33,197-4-1 for damage suffered. The claim was carefully investigated on the spot and found to be generally reasonable. The direct material loss was estimated at Rs. 71,260. It is proposed to pay about Rs. 41,000 to the estate by way of compensation in addition to the loan of Rs. 30,000 which it is proposed to write off. These proposals are in accordance with the principle decided upon by Government that in the case of individuals the recovery of the loans borrowed from them should be waived, while in the case of rubber companies claim to the extent of actual material damages only should be met.

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" May I take it that the Government have recognized the claims of all private people and private companies for damages suffered in the Mappilla rebellion ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" To the extent to which it appears in the answer. "

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether they have consulted the law adviser to Government before deciding to award compensation to the rubber estate ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" No, Sir. "

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether all claims including those of the owner of the Pandalur Club and the Kotakal W.C.M.T. Company were also considered and not found reasonable ? "

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The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" If I am not mistaken, I told my hon. Friend the other day that we have no information about the Kotakal Company. As regards the Pandalur Club, that was a matter which was discussed on a question the other day. I have nothing to add."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether he thinks that the Pullangode Estate where the damage occurred by the mere adventitious circumstance of being in the rebel area is more deserving of sympathy than the destruction of the club for which the Government themselves were partly responsible ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I may perhaps explain a little more in detail about this particular case. The Government have all along held that they are not legally bound to give what is properly called compensation. They did give loans to companies or individuals after satisfying themselves that the company or individual could not re-start their normal work without assistance. On that basis, loans were given to three or four companies all of whom at the time of rebellion represented to us that it was quite impossible for them to re-start their work unless there was some such assistance forthcoming. The Pullangode Company put in their claim for assistance, and gave us the total value of the buildings which they had to rebuild in due course which amounted to something like Rs. 71,000. But owing to the fact that the price of rubber was very low and if it fell lower most rubber companies were likely to go bankrupt and close down, they decided not to rebuild at once but to carry on with temporary repairs until it was seen whether prices recovered. They therefore took only Rs. 30,000 as a loan instead of Rs. 70,000. Other companies asked for the full amount required to restore their buildings. The result to the Pullangode Company was unfortunate, because in the case of other companies, the loan covered the whole of the losses. That is why we have now differentiated between Pullangode and the others."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" Do I understand that Pullangode Estate will now get Rs. 71,000 including the 30,000 advanced as loan ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Yes."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member what the capital of that estate is ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I cannot say offhand."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" Does the hon. Member think that the case of companies which are subscribed in small shares by a large number of people deserve more lenient treatment than those of the poor people who have suffered heavily in the Mappilla rebellion ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The test in the first place was whether the borrower, individual or company, was able to carry on without assistance."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" Has the hon. Home Member bestowed due consideration on all claims put forward ?"

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The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Yes ; all claims for loans which were put forward. The question of granting compensation in addition to the loans was taken up two years ago. I proposed to appoint a committee on the subject. Speaking for Malabar, the hon. Member said he did not want anything of the kind done . . ."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether the principle decided upon by Government whereby they have not recognized any legal claim was decided after consultation with the Finance Committee or any representative body."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" There is no question of consulting the Finance Committee about legal claims. We are under no legal liability to compensate any one. The outstanding fact is that Government have promised that the fines collected from the Mappillas would be utilized for the purpose of relieving sufferers."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" May I ask the hon. Member why without appointing a committee or without consulting anybody Government have taken on themselves the responsibility to write-off loans and give compensation to this particular estate ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I can only say that in not attempting to appoint a committee I have obeyed the wishes of the House."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" May I know whether there are any Indians among the share-holders of the Pullengode Estate ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I have no access to the company's registers. Some rubber companies in Malabar have a good many Indian share-holders."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I know why, having regard to the legal opinion that the Government are not liable to pay compensation for damages to any person, Government singled out this rubber company for payment of compensation ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I think, Sir, I have explained that all the estates got a grant. In the case of two of them it was possible to make that grant by remitting the loans, but in this case, it so happened that the loan was not anything like sufficient to cover the admitted loss."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" My point is this : why having regard to legal opinion already referred to, this company or these companies alone have been taken as bodies entitled to compensation and not other individuals or companies ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" My hon. Friend has entirely misunderstood the position. The whole of the money given to hundreds of people was given as a loan and not as legal compensation."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" My hon. Friend has thoroughly mistaken my point. My point is not with reference to the writing-off of Rs. 100 or 200 each granted as loan to about 17,000 persons. My point is about the payment of compensation as distinguished from writing-off of loans. May I ask why no other private individual other than the managing agents of

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this rubber company has been considered fit to receive compensation? Apart from the question of writing-off of the loans, I wish to know why with reference to compensation this company alone has been preferred?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"If my hon. Friend prefers it, I am quite prepared to alter the wording of the answer from 'It is proposed to pay about Rs. 41,000 to the estate *by way of compensation*' into 'It is proposed to pay about Rs. 41,000 to the estate *as an act of grace*'."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I do not want my hon. Friend to alter the wording of his answer just to enable him to escape from the difficulty in which he finds himself. I want an answer to my question."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"My answer is that the word 'compensation' in the answer does not strictly convey the meaning intended. From the first it has been understood and stated that this was not legal compensation which we are bound to pay but was given as an act of grace in furtherance of the promise made by the Government that all the money recovered from the Mappillas as fines would go to the relief of the sufferers."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I then know why as an act of grace this payment of money should not be made to other persons as it has been made in the case of this company?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"My answer is that several thousand other persons according to my hon. Friend himself have received likewise."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am afraid my hon. Friend has again missed my point. My point is why was a distinction made between this compensation and the grant of loans."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Is my hon. Friend referring to this Rs. 41,000?"

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am not referring to any amount in particular. I am putting it generally why no compensation for loss or damage is proposed to be given to hundreds and thousands of other people but only to one or two rubber companies."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"My final answer to that must be: if compensation is claimed by other people that is a different matter. They can make their claim. That is a different matter from the closing down of this loan account."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Were any of these 17,000 people who took loans given any additional amount just as in this case?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"The amount given covered the cost of repairs. In this particular instance, as I have already explained to the House, the Government thought that the amount applied for by the company was reasonably enough to enable them to re-start work."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Apart from the question of loans, let us take specific instances. Why was no compensation proposed to

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be given to persons whose houses have been destroyed and to the proprietors of Hindu temples which have been destroyed during this Mappilla rebellion as distinguished from this rubber company?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I am afraid we must again stop. We have still not gone beyond page 2 of the list of questions."

Re-arrest of certain persons of Ernad taluk

* 655 Q.—Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the charges for which Pottayil Kunhammad, Pottayil Aboobucker, Kallerakal Ahamed and Vellana Valappil Assanentty of Tirurangadi amsam, Ernad taluk, Malabar district, who were convicted for refusing to furnish security and were in Cannanore Jail when the rebellion broke out, were re-arrested at Cannanore many months after the rebellion and are now in jail;

(b) whether it is a fact that these persons were never in rebellion area after their release till their rearrest and were leading very peaceful lives in Cannanore;

(c) whether they have been prosecuted before any law court and convicted for any offence; and

(d) if so, for what offence and their terms of imprisonment?

A.—(a) The four men were Khilafat leaders before the rebellion broke out, and on their release from jail to which they were committed for failure to furnish security they were still considered to be Khilafat leaders; their near relatives were concerned in many rebellion cases. It was considered unsafe to allow them to be at large in Malabar.

(b) It is believed to be a fact that the four men remained in Cannanore after their release and lived at the Khilafat office.

(c) & (d) No.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I ask under what law or Ordinance—I do not think there is any Ordinance here yet or Regulation—these unfortunate people are still kept in jail?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Under the operation of the Mappilla Outrages Act combined with the State Prisoners' Regulation."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Is it Regulation III of 1818?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I think it is so."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am sure my hon. Friend remembers that Regulation III contemplates only action under two circumstances, either foreign invasion, or internal commotion. Now I am asking my hon. Friend what is the purpose for which these men are kept under this Regulation yet. There is no foreign invasion that I know of."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I do not think my hon. Friend is correct as regards the purpose of the Regulation."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"It is there in the preamble."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Action is taken under Regulation II of 1819 and not III. The Government have got power to take action under this Regulation."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know what the offence is which these people are believed by the Government to have been privy to? I put this question because the only offence stated in paragraph (a) of the answer is that 'they were still considered to be Khilafat leaders.' Khilafatist is a very vague word, especially as most of the Khilafat committees have ceased to exist."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The Government under this Regulation have the power to place under personal restraint individuals whom they think it in the public interests unsafe to leave at large. These powers have been exercised because in our opinion their release would not be consistent with the maintenance of peace in Malabar."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I know the Government have got some discretion in the matter even more than the judiciary. I wish to know what are the circumstances under which they have come to the conclusion that these men cannot be at large without danger to public peace."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The circumstances are that the opinion of our local officers was to that effect. I may mention that in the case of these four men special enquiries have been made and that the opinion is that it would not be safe to allow them to return to Malabar."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask the date when that opinion was received? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Quite recently, last month or so."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" What arrangements are made for their maintenance? Under Regulation III they are entitled to maintenance."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The arrangement made is the same as that made for the other prisoners under the same Regulation. They are given an allowance and are kept separately inside the jail. An allowance is given to their families when necessary."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am asking in the case of these four people whether they are given any allowance and whether their families are given any allowance, seeing that these people are kept forcibly out of touch with their families."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I cannot say whether in this particular case their families are receiving any allowance or not. If my hon. Friend wants information let him put a separate question."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, with reference to (b) which asks 'whether it is a fact that these persons were never in rebellion area after their release till their re-arrest and were leading very peaceful lives in Cannanore,' the answer is somewhat non-committal. It runs: 'It is believed to be a fact that the four men remained in Cannanore after their release and lived at the Khilafat office.' I am asking whether they went back after their release and whether they were not leading peaceful lives in Cannanore."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" As far as I know they did not go back to the rebellion area while the rebellion was on and, as regards the lives they were leading, they were ostensibly peaceful. But our information is that they were and are likely to exercise influence,

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calculated to disturb the peace of Malabar. The persons responsible for the peace in Malabar considered it not safe to allow them to go to Malabar."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask how long they are proposed to be kept in jail? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Until conditions improve."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Is there anything called a Khilafat organization now existing as a political body? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" My hon. Friend has always claimed to be well acquainted with matters on the West Coast. I am therefore surprised at his asking that question. My information is that there is a good deal of activity in that direction. I would refer my hon. Friend to a recent article in a Calicut paper which goes so far as to publish a leader headed 'The rebellion of 1926.' The substance of it goes to prove the existence of the Khilafat movement in Malabar? "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know the name of that paper? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" 'Mithavadi'." (Laughter.)

Administration Report.

Representation of the Podanur Railway Strike in "Administration Report".

* 656 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) who is responsible for the statements contained in Part 1 of the Administration Report of the Madras Presidency for the year 1924;

(b) who supplied the information for the statement in paragraph 3, Political, sub-paragraph (4) in that part of the Report to the effect that the Railway strike at Podanur was fanned by local agitators and whether any attempt was made to verify that information;

(c) who the local agitators referred to in the above were;

(d) whether it is a fact that several local leaders took steps to effect a compromise between the railway agent and the strikers and that on account of this, the strike came to a close much earlier than was expected;

(e) whether the Government have any reasons to think even now that the local agitators fanned the strike and whether they realize now that the remark was most unfounded; and

(f) whether the Government have issued any instruction that such statements should not find a place in the Administration Report; if not, whether they have any intention of doing so?

A.—(a) The statements are issued by the Government.

(b) & (c) The Government do not propose to disclose the source of their information or the reported names of local agitators.

(d) The Government have no information, but are aware that the Collector of Coimbatore had discussions with certain gentlemen of Coimbatore with a view to settling the strike.

(e) The Government do not consider that the remark was unfounded.

(f) The answer to both clauses is in the negative.

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know, with reference to (a), who made the report, the Government subordinates or the railway authorities ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" It was made by the Government officers."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" With reference to (c), was the information based on any further enquiry or on the original report of the subordinates of the Government ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not think any further enquiry was made. We looked up to our original reports."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Were not security proceedings based on such foundations set aside on appeal in this matter ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not think that the security proceedings enter into this question at all."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" The police filed security proceedings and the appellate court held that they were not sustainable."

" As regards (d) I do not know if the Government have no information at all that a committee of the leading citizens was formed and that the secretary of that committee wired to the Government and the Government asked the Agent of the Railway Company to go to Coimbatore and enter into negotiation ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" On a communication received from the secretary of that committee ? "

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Yes."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The answer is that the Government have no official information, though I happen to know that my hon. Friend and certain others did intervene and were instrumental in arriving at a settlement. The printed answer refers to the official information only."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I am referring to the official information. The secretary of that committee i.e., myself, wired to the Governor and in consequence of that, the Agent received a wire to go and negotiate a settlement at Coimbatore."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid I must point out to my hon. Friend that if he wired to the Governor that is not necessarily an official application. Unless he received his answer from a definite official channel it must be called private and not official."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" The telegram was sent to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor and action thereon was taken probably by the hon. the Home Member himself. May I ask if the Government have no information that the immediate result of that conference with the Agent was that the strike came to an end at once ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I may again tell my hon. Friend that whatever information Government may have, I certainly have information that the committee of which my hon. Friend is a member did intervene and were instrumental in bringing about a settlement."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I am sorry that the information is said to be personal. I am sorry the committee has not been given credit for having done an admittedly useful work. The hon. the Home Member must have known from the Collector that as the immediate result of that conference with the Agent at Coimbatore the strike came to an end. I am only desirous of knowing whether the Government still think that the local agitators fanned this strike and that the leaders were not useful in bringing it to an end."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not know whether my hon. Friend thinks that he was referred to as a political agitator. We did not say so."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I know that. Apart from that I would appeal to my hon. Friend to please see if it is fair that such a statement should be made in a Government annual report."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Do the Government include in the term 'local agitators' any member of the committee ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I have no official information of the committee, but I may say that I did not suggest for a moment that my hon. Friend opposite is one of the local agitators referred to. (laughter) "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The House will proceed 12 noon. to the next order of the day."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" We have done only four or five questions to-day. There are still some important starred questions. Seeing that we have been finishing questions for the last three or four days within 15 minutes, I request you to show us some grace and order that supplementary questions may be put on these questions to-morrow and we will co-operate with you to see that all the questions are finished in one hour. This is a very important matter and I would humbly suggest this matter for your careful consideration."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I understand that there are nine questions for to-morrow. I have no objection to supplementary questions on these questions being asked to-morrow provided the whole thing is finished within time. But I must draw the serious attention of hon. Members to the excessive length or, I may say, the irrelevancy of many of the supplementary questions asked to-day. I permitted them, so that they might furnish an object lesson to hon. Members and I hoped they would themselves see the consequence of such questions. But, as it is, the lesson is being nullified by the request made to me that to-morrow we should continue these questions. I have no objection, however, provided hon. Members get through both sets of questions within the allotted time."

" A much more serious matter is that they should not use this hour of questions for raising debates. I have again and again said that supplementary questions may be put for the purpose of supplying any obvious omission in an answer or of clearing up any point which was doubtful in the answer. I am certain that hon. Members will see that many questions asked to-day were not questions of that supplying kind. They were questions

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

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which went, I admit, possibly to the root of the matter. I can understand hon. Members being very particular about getting information on certain of those points, but that desire of information was not a legitimate subject of supplementary questions. I hope that these remarks will be borne in mind because we are really not conforming to the intentions of the rules and standing orders in fixing this hour for supplementary questions if we raise debates."

MR. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" May I ask whether the remaining questions put down for to-day or the questions that will be put for to-morrow will have priority to-morrow? Which will come first?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" We shall take first the questions left over to-day; but I do not undertake that in case to-morrow's questions are not finished, any separate hour will be set apart."

* MR. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I offer a suggestion, Sir? A great number of these supplementary questions can be saved if the Government Members are not evasive in their answers and if the answers given are more enlightening."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I point out that none of the answers I gave this morning was of that kind?"

* MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Only a very short time was taken for putting supplementary questions; but the hon. Member was on his feet for nearly half an hour giving answers."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" That is not my fault."

* MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—" That is not my fault either."

II

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The following motion made by the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp on 3rd February 1925 was then taken up for further consideration :—

"That, with a view to appoint a House Committee in pursuance of Standing Order No. 80, this Council do proceed to elect six members to be Members of the said Committee according to the principle of proportionate representation by means of the single transferable vote."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, I am not quite sure how it falls on me to raise discussion on this matter. The motion which appears on the paper was made by me on the 3rd February. The House desired that the discussion should be adjourned and that proposal was carried. It seems to me therefore the hon. Members should take up the motion which I have already moved at the stage at which it was left."

* MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" We postponed the consideration of this motion to see if the Government would give some money for the House Committee. I do not know whether the Government intend to give anything at all."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Unless any hon. Member wishes to put any other question, I shall put the motion to the House."

* MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, I was not present here at the time when the motion was discussed. I find that every section of the House was practically agreed that there was no use of electing Members to the House Committee,

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so long as it was being starved by the Government and was subject to ill-treatment. A Member of the Government and the Leader of the House after some weeks asks us to proceed to the election of the members."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" A matter of personal explanation, Sir. My hon. Friend is quite right in referring to me as a Member of the Government and the Leader of the House. But I had nothing to do with the matter being put on to-day's agenda. It was by the desire of the House itself that the matter was postponed until after the presentation of the budget. That was on 2nd March. It is not due to any move on my part."

* MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—" The discussion was postponed in order to have some idea whether provision will be made for the House Committee. As it is, I believe the arrangements made by the House Committee are very inadequate for the convenience of hon. Members. I quite recognize that if we do not elect Members to the House Committee, the Committee will function with the official Members and nominated Members. But to the extent to which we have any power, I should think that we should stick up to our position unless the Government come forward with definite grants. We cannot co-operate in electing the Members of the Committee which is bankrupt and which cannot do anything. It has made scores of requests and they have all been turned down. I do think therefore that the House should stick to its original decision, and not proceed with the motion and leave it to the Government to have their own course, until we know how much money they will give us."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I have searched the whole budget and I have not been able to find even a single item for providing the House Committee with funds. On the last occasion when this question came up for discussion before this Council, my friend, the hon. the Law Member, said that Rs. 400 had been provided in the current year's budget. I find that no provision whatever, so far as I can gather, has been made for the House Committee in the budget for 1925-26. So, in the circumstances referred to at the time of the last discussion and referred to again by my hon. Friend, the Member for the University, I see no reason whatever for the constitution of that Committee which is, if I may use a strong word, only a farce if it is not provided with funds. Unless the Government provide some reasonable amount for this Committee, I shall not be a party to appointing this Committee."

MR. A. V. BHANOJI RAO :—" I think we have made our attitude regarding the House Committee quite clear. I think it is time that hon. Members of the Treasury Bench respect the feelings of the House by providing sufficient funds for the House Committee to go on. I think unless that assurance is given we should stick to our original decision. We do not wish to have a House Committee unless funds are provided."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" I am the permanent President of the House Committee which has no habitation and which has no funds to do anything; and I am sorry that I have become an object of ridicule and pity among the hon. Members. They say: 'you are the President of that Committee; you do nothing for us; you have yourself no habitation and what sort of a Committee it is. It is but a farce. That is the position in which I am—an unevident position. With the courtesy of the hon. the President, I rest in his room. But it is rather an awkward position for the

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Vice-President, an elected Vice-President, not to have a room for himself. I would urge on the Government to provide me with a decent room where we can meet and discuss our committee matters. The House Committee has to do whatever it can to make the life of hon. Members here more comfortable. I hope the Government will kindly take note of these things and give us a room first and then funds."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"I am on the House Committee. I have been serving on that Committee for the past two years. We have been crying for a decent sum to carry on the activities of the House Committee, but our words have become a cry in the wilderness. How is it possible to reform things without money? Money is very essential now-a-days. Without money, how are we to reform things? I think, Sir, that at least now the hon. Member in charge will realize our pitiable state and come to our rescue."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasaya:—"I am very glad, Sir, that hon. Members of this House have given the Government a bit of their mind. It is after all an example, worthy of itself, of what sort of responsive Government we have. The Government have not been able to do anything to look to the convenience of the hon. Members of this House. This shows, Sir, in what predicament hon. Members are and what they can expect to do for themselves and for their constituency. I refuse to appeal to any of the hon. Members of the Treasury Bench for any grant for this House Committee. It is a matter which concerns ourselves—I have taken a house for myself—and my worthy colleagues will look for themselves."

"I therefore refuse to appeal to the Government. At the same time
12-15 p.m. I feel sorry for the attitude taken by the hon. Members of Government. I also realize that after all this is the sort of responsible government that we are going to get."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I regret that the hon. Member who has just sat down took the line that he actually did. Hon. Members may recollect—perhaps they do not (A voice:—'No, No')—that at the meeting of the Council held on the 3rd February I stated:

"As to the question of placing Rs. 5,000 at the disposal of the House Committee for such use as they may think fit, Government will certainly place the sum at their disposal for carrying out the wishes of the Committee. But Government want the details for which the sum is required. Just as the Hon. House wants details with regard to the budget demands for grants by Government Members, Government also want some details as to the expenditure of the sum of Rs. 5,000."

"That was what I stated. I adhere to the position and if the House Committee can meet together and work out details of expenditure for the sum of Rs. 5,000, certainly the amount will be placed at their disposal."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"What about the room to the Deputy President?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"That question is connected with the general question of providing accommodation for various other purposes in this building. If plans can be made for the extension of the building, the Deputy President will have a claim for consideration. In the first place we have not yet been able to find any satisfactory plan for extending the building; and in the second place we have not hitherto felt justified in asking for money to do so. If it is the desire of the House that the building should be extended and that that should have priority over other objects upon which money can be spent, certainly the matter will be considered."

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* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"What are they doing in Delhi in the Legislative Assembly?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I am afraid, Sir, our resources are not the same as those of the Government of India. They have spent a great deal on various things at Delhi on which we could not possibly afford to spend money here."

"As for a room for the House Committee to meet I think any one of the committee rooms would serve the purpose."

"As regards the other matter regarding the sum of Rs. 5,000 Government stated on the last occasion that if details were given they would try to provide the money. At that time it was very doubtful whether it would be possible to do so. But now it is possible to provide the money if we get information as to the objects for which it is wanted."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I am the only Member of the House Committee who did not speak before and I am afraid I must engage the attention of the House for a minute or two. May I suggest that some of the offices, e.g., the office of the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts, may be shifted somewhere else inside the Fort and the rooms thereby left vacant may be placed at the disposal of the House Committee, mainly for the use of the hon. the Deputy President? That would be complying with the very mild and humble request made by the hon. the Deputy President. As regards the purpose for which the sum of Rs. 5,000 was required by the House Committee, I am afraid that the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Finance Member have forgotten the details given by the House Committee. At the last meeting of the House Committee several months back—because the Committee does not meet now-a-days seeing that there is no use in functioning—it was resolved to purchase some vessels and engage cooks so that they can prepare fresh food so that hon. Members may get some wholesome preparations in the premises itself."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I explained before that these things were asked for in addition to the Rs. 5,000."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Another request was that hon. Members should be provided with some shelves . . ."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"May I again point out, Sir, that all these things were asked for besides the Rs. 5,000?"

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Well, Sir. There was no response even for these modest requests. Therefore we did not give any particular attention to the other things. Otherwise we would have given details not only for Rs. 5,000 but even Rs. 10,000. Since there was no response, we grew disgusted and gave no particulars."

Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO:—"May I ask the hon. the Finance Member whether Rs. 5,000 has been provided for the House Committee?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"It has not, Sir. But there will be no difficulty in providing the money now if the House Committee will give us some information regarding the details of expenditure."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Has any amount been provided for in the budget at all?"

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* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I cannot say, Sir. There may be some small details in the allotment for General Administration and I am not acquainted with the exact details. But there is no difficulty in providing Rs. 5,000 if, as I said, the House Committee will give us some idea of what they wish to spend it on. We should object, for instance, if they wanted to spend it on building rooms or in making additions to the appurtenances of the House. We want to have some sort of idea of what they want to spend it on."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I should like to draw the attention of hon. Members to two points. The first is that we are within a very few days of the end of the session, which will probably be Wednesday next. The Standing Orders provide that a fresh Committee should be appointed for every session. If the House Committee should be appointed now it will take at least two days before the election is announced. The House had an assurance from the hon. the Law Member that if the Committee should send in an estimate, there will be no difficulty as to provision of funds. I would suggest that that estimate should be furnished now so that we may be ready to go forward at least at the beginning of the next session."

"The second point is this. The Standing Order provided that a fresh House Committee should be appointed every session. This is found by experience to be very inconvenient; and as it has happened this time much time is taken by the motion to appoint a Committee and there is hardly any left for it to function. It would seem that in our present circumstances it will probably be sufficient if the House Committee is appointed once a year during the first session of the calendar year. If hon. Members wish to take that line, it is open to them to suggest an amendment to the Standing Orders. For the present, unless hon. Members wish to continue the discussion at the expense of the budget discussion, I would like some hon. Member to move that we pass on to the next business on the agenda."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"Sir, I must say that the attitude taken by the Government with regard to the House Committee suggests that the Government, as in the bad old days, look upon the Legislative Council as a mere appendage to the Government and the Secretariat."

* Diwan Bahadur E. KESAVA PILLAI:—"Hear, hear."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"I should like the Government to deal with this matter as one of urgency, and provide accommodation and other facilities for all kinds of purposes connected with the Legislative Council. Our buildings and rooms occupy only one-third of the whole Secretariat. We have only to compare the poor accommodation given to us with the enormous space at the disposal of the City Corporation. This is the premier legislative assembly of this Presidency and this has not as much building facilities as the Corporation of Madras has. I should like the Government to deal with this matter as a matter of urgency. It would be idle for a private member to suggest ways and means for decent accommodation. But it seems to me that it is quite possible to remove some Government offices and ask them to look for accommodation elsewhere. For instance, the Accountant-General's office is an Imperial Department and I do not see any reason why the Madras Government should be forced to provide accommodation for them."

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* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"The Madras Government do not provide accommodation for them."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"Will it not be possible for the Accountant-General's office to find accommodation elsewhere and set free that huge building for our use?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Why should the Government of India give that building to us?"

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"Does the hon. the Finance Member say that all these buildings belong to the Government of India?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"All those which have not been placed in the hands of the Madras Government do."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"Then all that the Madras Government have to do is to ask the Government of India to release some more buildings for the use of the Madras Government. It seems to me that if only the Madras Government really wanted to increase the facilities at the disposal of the Legislative Council and make more comfortable the life of the hon. Members of the Legislative Council while they are here doing their business as legislators, I think they would take very strong and courageous attitude in regard to this matter. All that the Government of Madras have been doing or rather refrained from doing leads us to the conclusion that they will persist in looking upon the Legislative Council as a mere appendage to the Government."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:— } "Hear, hear."
Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:— }

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"It is time they turn away from that attitude and increase the facilities at the disposal of the Legislative Council. In view of the strong feeling that exists in this House regarding the step-motherly treatment of the Legislative Council by the Government in this matter, I should like to move that we pass on to the next business on the agenda."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I second it."

The motion was put to the House and carried.

III

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1925-1926.

DEMAND XIII—JAILS—cont.

Motion No. 80.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, I move

'that the allotment of Rs. 56,000 for dietary charges be reduced by Rs. 100'.

"I want to speak on three points and I shall be very brief. The first is this. I want to know on what principle difference is made between European, or rather non-Indian, and Indian prisoners in the matter of diet. I know, Sir, that the usual answer is that they must be given the diet to which they were accustomed in their lives before they were sent to prison. Unless it is suggested that the Indians, all of them, have one standard of life and

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the Europeans, all of them, have another standard of life, I do not think it is necessary to make a distinction on the ground of race. I can understand that distinction being abolished and a distinction having some relation to the diet to which the prisoners were accustomed before they were sent to jail introduced. That will satisfy all the necessary requirements. On the other hand, this distinction in the jail diet between European and Indian prisoners is a standing insult to our nation and to our race. I do not think Government ought to have it and the Council shall not countenance this racial discrimination.

"The second point is with regard to prisoners sentenced to hard labour. I understand that with those prisoners—I speak subject to correction—the kind of work given to each person varies with the medical certificate given to him after examination by the jail doctor.

12-30 p.m. "Some people are given very hard labour. Some people are given comparatively less hard labour. I want to know with reference to this whether their diet also varies. I am sure that physiologically also it is correct that a prisoner who is asked to do harder work should be given more diet. I want to know whether adequate provision is made, based upon the nature of the work which is given to prisoners.

"Thirdly, I want to know whether the jail authorities provide for proper diet being supplied to prisoners. I understand that usually the supply of articles of diet is entrusted to some contractor and the latter supplies some fresh vegetables to the jail subordinates who pass all the refuse of the market as fit to be taken by the prisoners, whereas as a matter of fact they do not get the moneys' worth.

"The three points which I want to bring to the notice of the Government are racial discrimination, discrimination with regard to the diet given to the prisoners, and the system of contractors deceiving the Government. These are the three points which I want to raise and I beg to move the motion."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"With regard to the first point, viz., racial discrimination, the answer is that the diet is supplied according to the kind of food which the prisoner was accustomed to before his incarceration. I may illustrate by pointing out that when we get prisoners in our jails from other parts of India such as the Punjab, they are given diet on a different scale and of a different nature to that which is supplied to our own prisoners. There is nothing racial about it. It is merely a question, as my hon. Friend anticipated, of supplying as nearly as the possible the kind of food to which the prisoner is accustomed."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask if there is no separate diet for European prisoners to take as European prisoners?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The diet is drawn upon the assumption that the European prisoners are accustomed to European food. If a case arises in which a European prisoner is not accustomed to European food, no doubt he will be put on the other scale."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"Is there any instance in which an Indian preferred to be put on the European scale of food?"

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* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"It seems likely, but I do not know any case has actually arisen. If the question was deliberately raised I think the Superintendent of Jail would probably make arrangements to put him on the European scale of food. The term 'European' is merely used for the purpose of representing the kind of food to which a person is accustomed and not for the purpose of making any racial discrimination.

(Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai rose to interrupt.)

"It would be very much easier if I were allowed to go on. I was going to say that the pronouncement of Government on the subject is contained in a Government Order which has been laid on the Editors' table—I do not know if my hon. Friend is aware of it—in which the whole question as to the kind of diet to be supplied to the prisoners was discussed. The particular point then in issue was 'whether ragi should continue to be given to all prisoners or whether rice should be given to rice eaters. The Government was of opinion that the diet supplied to convicts should not be essentially different from that to which he has been accustomed before admission to the prison. That, Sir, is the basis of the present rule and it is for the sake of convenience that the terms 'European prisoner' and 'Indian prisoner' have been used. There is no need to bring in any question of racial discrimination.

"The second question is whether extra diet is given to prisoners who are made to do hard labour. My hon. Friend's position is that those who are hard worked should be given diet accordingly. I think the position should be looked at the other way. The officer in charge of the jail first decides the kind and the quantity of food that is to be given to a prisoner and then fixes the work that he can be expected to do, while he is in receipt of that food. There is a light scale of diet which I think is not given to prisoners who are undergoing hard labour.

"Then with regard to the quality of food supplied to the prisoners, my hon. Friend suggested that we supply them with bad rice and bad vegetables."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I did not say that the hon. the Home Member did it. But I said that the jail staff did it."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I understood my hon. Friend to suggest that it is being done with the connivance of the jail staff. The Inspector-General himself inspects all jails. I have seen a good many and a number of non-official visitors have also visited many jails and while I do not suggest that there may not be cases which have escaped the eagle eye of supervision, I may say that on the whole the material supplied to the prisoners is good. If in any case there is reason to think that the contractor or anybody else is supplying bad vegetables and bad rice, I am quite sure that my successor will be very glad to investigate the cases if details are given."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"As regards the scale of diet and the sort of food, the hon. the Home Member said that the jail superintendent would put a prisoner on a scale different from the one to which he was accustomed if he so desired. May I ask, Sir, whether an Indian prisoner would be given the European diet if he asked for it."

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* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"That, Sir, is not quite correct. The question raised was whether an Indian who was accustomed to European diet could ask to be put on the European scale."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"I think the committing magistrates themselves state what sort of food a prisoner is entitled to get. I well remember that my friend Mr. Vasudeva Ayra was given a different diet other than the one to which he was accustomed. He was perhaps given ragi diet by the committing magistrate in a fit of generosity. Now I ask what is the criterion for saying 'he is an European and he is entitled to European food'. I have known—I was one of the non-official visitors who visited many of the jails in the Presidency—of persons who put on pantaloons and calling themselves Europeans got all the luxuries while other people having very much higher status in life got food very much inferior in quality."

"As regards the complaint of my hon. friend Mr. Satyamurti that the prisoners are supplied with very bad vegetables and very bad rice, I may say that some of the jail officers are getting vegetables at a ridiculously low price. They pay one anna or so and they get a basket of good vegetables. This deprives the ordinary prisoner of the common luxury of having vegetables which if he were outside would have got for a pie or so. I have visited a large number of jails in this Presidency and the prisoners are not given even the common radish, but only the leaves thereof. I do not know of any person getting radish as part of his 'Kolamba'."

"Secondly, as regards the variation in quantity of food according to the physical strength of the prisoners, personally I am sorry that such a distinction is not made with the result when food is doled out, some people are not satisfied with the quantity of food they get, while there are others who cannot take all the food that is supplied to them. If some such discrimination is not made, the prisoner might think of resorting to some objectionable methods of getting enough of his food. It is with a view to bring all these things to the notice of the hon. the Home Member and to show that the prisoners are breaking the rules out of sheer necessity and owing to the absence of proper rules in the Jail Manual governing the quantity of food and the nature of food to be varied between prisoner and prisoner, that I support the motion."

Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—"Sir, Indian prisoners are supplied with mud chatties, while the European prisoners are supplied with cups and saucers. Is it because that the Indian prisoners do not deserve even the luxury of having cups and saucers that they are supplied with mud chatties? I suggest to the hon. the Home Member to take note of this point and do the needful."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"The hon. the Home Member said that when an Indian had been accustomed to European way of living his case would be considered favourably and that he would be given European diet. Did I understand him aright?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I said I was not aware of any cases where an Indian asked for European diet and that I had no doubt that his case would be considered if he were to ask for it."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"I am referring to this matter because I am painfully aware of the fact that people who had been accustomed to European ways were not supplied, even as a matter of policy, with

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European diet. They were given only the ragi diet, the only diet once laid down for all 'native' prisoners before the introduction of rice diet for such of them as had been accustomed to rice. I do not know how it is now. I shall be glad to know that the jail authorities are now governed by humane considerations in the distribution of food to prisoners according to their habits, as they do in the case of European and Anglo-Indian prisoners. The hon. the Home Member referred to the change of rice diet from ragi diet. That decision was arrived at after a lot of struggle. I made a motion in this Council and it was only after a prolonged controversy and fight in this Council the Government decided that food should be given according to the habits of the prisoners. As soon as a man is convicted the magistrate or the judge decides what diet the convicted man should get. I am aware of cases where the jail superintendents do not carry out the instructions of magistrates with regard to diet to be given to prisoners on the plea of economy. I beg the hon. the Home Member to take note of the fact that they should ask the superintendents of jails not to pass over the opinion of the committing magistrate or the sessions judge but to give the prisoners the sort of food that they had been accustomed to, and as the Magistrates and Judges direct.

"Cases have occurred, Sir, where the jail authorities ignored the directions of Courts, and I think hon. Members will bear me out, my hon. friend from Coimbatore in particular, I mean Mr. Ramalinga Chettiya who is very busily engaged in conversing with his neighbour (Laughter), when I say that sometimes the magistrates' recommendations are overlooked by the jail authorities and the prisoners are given food to which they are not accustomed on the score of economy. There is another point that I wish to touch. I know the jail authorities are substituting aluminium vessels for the chatties. But they are doing it gradually. I wish the replacement had been completed. For it is so degrading to any prisoner to have these chatties. No doubt, Sir, they have introduced many reforms and they have yet to introduce many more according to the recommendations of the Jail Committee. The food that passes to the prisoner sometimes sticks to the hands through which it passes. That is the expression used even with regard to English prisons. Corruption is prevalent and the poor prisoner is sometimes starved, more often given bad and insufficient food not only here but also in England. Much depends upon the vigilance of the superintendents. There are very many minor points which could be very easily dealt with by the superintendents if only they are willing to carry out the recommendations of the Jail Committee in a humane spirit. Wherever you go, Sir, they now say that the prison system is only an effort at reforming character and there is no vindictiveness about it. That is the very first thing that you hear from the jail superintendents themselves. I am sure the hon. the Home Member will look to it and issue further instructions if necessary before he leaves the shores of this country to carry out the recommendations of the Jail Committee wholeheartedly."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, with reference to the various points raised in the course of the debate I should like to make certain statements proceeding from personal knowledge based upon my frequent inspection of the district jail of Cuddalore. In 1923, I found to my amazement that the quality of rice supplied to the prisoners was

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hopelessly bad and it gave very bad odour and it was also slightly black and more than once I had to express in strong terms, in the visitors' book, my dissatisfaction with the quality of rice supplied. Till last year things continued to be the same. But since then for the past 18 or 19 months the supply of rice is somewhat good.

"With respect to the non-discrimination in the supply of cooked rice, I may state that in the course of my visit some persons bitterly complained to me of the insufficiency of the quantity supplied. Each prisoner is given a certain amount of food irrespective of his requirements. Some men bitterly complained that the quantity supplied was low while others said that they were getting more than they wanted. In that state of things, myself and some of the official members of the Board discussed the matter with the jail superintendent and asked him whether he could not try to distribute so that the wants of each man were satisfied. He said that the rules were very rigid and did not permit of any such allocation or adjustment.

"With respect to the matter about which there was a complaint by the hon. the Deputy President, I am in entire agreement with him. In December last an Adi-Dravida was convicted by the Sessions Judge and sentenced to a long term imprisonment. As required by the departmental rules the Sessions Judge got a statement in the prescribed manner prescribing him rice diet while in prison. Four or five days after he had been sentenced, in the course of the visit by myself, the District Judge, the Collector and other persons, that Adi-Dravida convict complained that notwithstanding the fact that the Sessions Judge had prescribed rice diet the superintendent had refused to give him rice food but gave him ragi diet. When we reported the matter, the jail superintendent told us that the complaint was quite well-founded but that there was no helping it because under some Government Order, an option was left to him in the matter and that when he found that the convict was an old offender, he recommended ragi diet for him for in his opinion the concession ought not and should not be extended to old offenders. The Sessions Judge felt himself rather inconvenient and put the question to the superintendent in our presence as to whose order was to prevail, the order of the Sessions Judge made upon an inquiry or the bare order of the jail superintendent. The superintendent replied that he was as much a subordinate of the Government as the Sessions Judge though in a different capacity and felt himself unable to carry out the orders of the Sessions Judge passed in his judicial capacity. We, members of the Board did not leave it there. We entered our protests in the Visitors' Book and passed a resolution giving expression to the feeling about the beginning of January at one of our quarterly meetings. I do not know exactly what orders have been passed thereon by the Government. That is a matter worth while looking into as it is always desirable that this conflict between the judicial authority and the jail superintendent in respect of the convict's diet is avoided and respect is paid to the orders of Sessions Judges who are required by certain departmental rules to prescribe the kind of diet."

Mr. K. Uppi Sahib:—"Sir, the Alipuram jail is entirely a Mussalman jail. I wish to know whether the Government have made any arrangement so that the Mussalman prisoners may observe fasting during the Ramzan. Sir, fasting is a most important creed in the Mussalman religion and it is up to the Government to see that prisoners in jails are not prevented from

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observing the religious rites imposed on them by their religion. It is reported that the water-supply in the Alipuram jail is quite inadequate."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I have no right to intervene, Sir, but I do not know whether my hon. Friend is not proposing to proceed with the separate resolution about the Alipuram jail of which he has given notice. I would suggest that it would be more convenient if my hon. Friend would raise the question then."

Mr. K. Uppi Sahib:—"It is a dietary affair, Sir, and hence connected with the motion under discussion. All that the jail superintendent has to do is to change the hours of the diet to 6 o'clock in the morning. Water for ablution is also very essential. Fasting will be observed even by those who are not very strict in their beliefs during the Ramzan and it is up to the Government, if they have not already made arrangements, to ask the superintendents to give the necessary convenience to the Mappilla prisoners in the Alipuram jail which is purely a Mussalman jail, to make adequate provision for this very important religious observance."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"I shall make one or two observations just for a minute. In spite of the supervision that is exercised on the jail diet, we find many contractors profiteering immensely and not a few subordinates of the jail establishment fattening themselves by some arrangement or other with the contractors. What I would propose is that the visitors should pay surprise visits rather than formal visits of which notice is given and everything is prepared. The visitors as a result find everything in order when they visit the jail. Nobody knows what happens in the intervals. There must be a large number of surreptitious practices played by which very bad food reaches the prisoners. I would also propose that Members of Legislative Council should be included among visitors to jails, if not all, at least two or three of them at each centre so that they may have access along with the visitors and bring matters to the notice of the Council at its meetings."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"My hon. Friend from Malabar did not respond to my suggestion that if he wanted particularly to discuss the matter of Muhammadan observances during Ramzan he might raise the question on a later resolution which I think he has given notice of. I am afraid my hon. Friend has placed himself and me also at a disadvantage inasmuch as it is not easy for me to deal on the spur of the moment with the questions he raises or give him as much information as I should like to give. I will however ask him to read the provisions of rule 283 of the Jail Manual as now amended which definitely provides that water for ablution and mats should be provided in cells where Muhammadan prisoners are confined and facilities should be given for their prayers on Fridays and other special days; and I may add that we have made arrangements for providing kanji for Muhammadan prisoners during the Ramzan. I am not sure whether there is any other definite point to which my hon. Friend has alluded."

"Passing to the general questions raised, one hon. Member repeated the suggestion which arises out of the original point of the Mover's resolution that we distinguish between European and Indian diet in the matter of quality. We do not. The quality of the materials is exactly the same and it is only the kind that differs. I have not the least hesitation in

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saying that the vegetables, for instance, which are being supplied to the European prisoners are precisely the same as for Indians."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" If my interruption is allowable, Sir, I would like to know what the cost in respect of the European prisoner is and the corresponding cost for the Indian prisoner."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" That, Sir, if I may say so, is not relevant to the point I was making. I agree that the cost of one diet is higher than the other because it includes meat. What I do say is that hon. Members have no right to suggest that the difference in the kind of food supplied represents a difference in quality, nor is it right to say that because the same kind of food is not given to both classes of people, there is racial distinction."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" If the difference is in kind there is no comparison at all."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The reason why the food is different in kind is that prisoners are accustomed to different kinds of food and we seek to continue the accustomed food whether for European or Indian. We observe precisely the same distinction when we have an Indian from any part of India other than this Presidency, if for example he is accustomed to eat wheat he is given wheat which we should not give to our local prisoner."

1 p.m.

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" What about dress, Sir?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid, I cannot quite see how the question of dress arises on the issue of the convict's diet. No doubt I may come to it in due course, in some other debate. Then, Sir, it has been suggested that a great deal of waste occurs owing to the fact that the superintendent does not ascertain for himself what is the capacity for food of each prisoner and arrange that those who can only eat very little should be given little and those who can eat much should be given much. Well, Sir, apart from an obvious danger, namely that if you give such discretion for the superintendent, there is the risk of favouritism, perhaps not on the part of the superintendent but on the part of the subordinate officers, it is practically impossible to undertake anything of that kind. I cannot imagine and hon. Members have not suggested, what arrangements could possibly be made before deciding exactly how much is going to satisfy each man at each particular meal. For practical purposes, I see no alternative to the rule we have in force, which lays down a scale which has been found by experience and by medical advice to be sufficient to keep the generality of men in health and which also lays down that on no account should a jail officer reduce the amount laid down as suitable and sufficient. On the question, Sir, whether it is sufficient or not, I think the best answer that the House can have is to be found in one of the statements attached to the latest Jail administration report, namely, the report of 1923. We have there a statement showing the condition of the prisoners discharged with reference to their weight. We find that out of 18,000 prisoners discharged during the year, not less than 13,242 gained weight, 4,000 remained stationary and only 1,500 lost their weight. That, I think, is the best general test you can have in the matter and it supports the view which the Government, on the report of the Inspector-General of Prisons, has taken,

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bat, generally speaking, the scale of food which is given is suitable to maintain the men in health, and I may add, to enable them to perform the task that are allotted to them. One Member, I think, suggested that on the ground of economy the jail superintendents are inclined to reduce the scale of diet, or at any rate the nature of the diet and as an example we were told of a case where the jail superintendent has substituted ragi for rice. May I say in passing that it would not be at all surprising if superintendents when they see how year after year cuts are made in this Council from the provision for jail diets were tempted to think that they must practise economy at all costs."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I think as a matter of personal explanation that we have repeatedly and over and over again said that the dietary charges of the prisoners in the jails and the convenience of the prisoners should not in the least be affected by our reducing the total grant. We want the number to be reduced, more to be set free."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Unfortunately, Sir, our officers are hardly likely to appreciate that detail. All they know is that as the result of the deliberations of this House they get a memorandum from the Inspector-General of Prisons telling them that the provision for food in their jail has to be cut down. This is only in passing. The hon. Member from Cuddalore referred to a particular case in which a certain Adi-Dravida, who was marked by the convicting Magistrate as being accustomed to rice diet, was refused rice and given ragi. Well, Sir, I do not know the case, but from what was said I do not quite gather what decision the board of visitors came to. They went into the question as to whether the superintendent was or was not within his rights under the rules, but I am not clear what their finding was."

* Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" He drew our attention to the rules and said that under certain Government Orders old offenders were not entitled to the concession of a rice diet, notwithstanding the fact that the Sessions judge, at the time of the conviction, prescribed it."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" My hon. Friend, as I understand, is now a member of that Visiting Committee. I do not understand whether he saw the Government Orders or insisted on being shown them. He had a perfect right to do so."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" A word of personal explanation, Sir. He drew our attention to some Government Order. He only mentioned it, but the order was not shown. But at the same time we insisted upon the judicial order of the Court being given precedence to any other Government Order."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid, Sir, that the hon. Member is on false ground. The note made on a warrant as to the kind of food to which a prisoner is accustomed is not a judicial order and does not purport to be such an order; it is only a note for information. It is not a direction as to the diet which the prisoner shall receive but merely information as to what, in the opinion of the Court, is the diet to which he has been accustomed."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" We looked into the warrant and found that rice diet has been prescribed."

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* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" If my hon. Friend took that attitude and tried to represent the entry on the warrant as an order which the superintendent was judicially bound to obey, I am not surprised that he did not succeed. I am very sorry that he did not, in his capacity as a visitor, insist on seeing the Government Order. I can find nothing in the Jail Manual to suggest that any discrimination has been made between old offenders and others. If my hon. Friend says that this matter has been brought to notice by the visitors, I will cause further inquiries to be made and find out what the true position is.

" Then, Sir, Mr. Saldanha, I am sorry to say, appears to assume, that during the intervals between visits everything must be wrong."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I want to know what is being done during that interval?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Those rhetorical additions, I am afraid, do not really contradict my position. He seems to assume that between the visits things must be wrong. There must be corruption. I am going to suggest that even criminals are entitled to be regarded as innocent till proved guilty. I would put it to my hon. Friend that it would be fairer to avoid such suggestions of general misconduct on the part of this or any other establishment or department unless there is some foundation for them. If there were anything very wrong in the jails it would be discovered by the visitors. I should like to point out that their visits are not necessarily formal visits but are sometimes made without notice. I personally know certainly of cases where the visitor goes without any notice, sometimes in the morning, sometimes in the evening and sometimes when the superintendent is not there. They have a right to go whenever they like. A good many non-official visitors do, I know, exercise their right, and I think that so long as the board of visitors to the jail do not find any scandals which they think it necessary to bring to the notice of the authorities the Government are justified in believing that the affairs in the jails are generally being conducted with propriety or regularity. I should like just to mention that our jails have been very carefully inspected recently by a representative of the Burma Government who was on special duty inspecting jails in England, in Europe and in India with a view to improve their own jails in Burma. I have been allowed to see a copy of the report and it has been a very great satisfaction to me to see how enthusiastic it is about the Madras jails. We may take it as a compliment that in very many matters the Madras jails are recognized as the best model to copy. One particular point has already been mentioned this morning. They lay stress on the fact that in Madras aluminium plates and cups are being introduced instead of mud chatties which have been formerly used. I take it that the hon. Member will be satisfied to hear that there is some progress in that direction. I do not think, Sir, that on this particular motion there is any further point raised which needs reply."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" May I say, Sir, that the hon. Member has not touched the subject which I mentioned, namely, was the order of the Judge who endorsed on the warrant that the prisoner was accustomed to such a diet—no doubt they are not orders as the hon. Member observed—followed, and are not the superintendents to carry out those instructions? Could they ignore them on the score of economy?"

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* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am sorry, Sir, that as I was referring to the question of economy I did not deal further with the point which my hon. Friend has raised. My answer is that while the information noted on the warrant does not constitute a judicial order, the intention of the Government is that the kind of food as entered by the judge should be given by the Jail Superintendent. The judge's order should be respected in every case unless possibly the prisoner himself, as sometimes happens, represents that a mistake has been made in his classification as given by the court."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" May I beg the Government to issue a Government Order on that point?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I know in what particular jail the hon. Member found the order disobeyed?"

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I request the hon. Member's attention to the point raised regarding Members of Legislative Councils being appointed as visitors of jails?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" On that point, Sir, I should like to invite the attention of my hon. Friend to the Report of the Jail Committee whose opinion according to some hon. Members is entitled to very great respect."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" On certain matters."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I quite agree. They went very carefully into the question of visitors to jails and their recommendation was that the District Magistrate, the District Judge and one or two other officials should be on the Board of Visitors. The Committee was of opinion that in the selection of non-official visitors should not be selected solely on the ground of social position, wealth or political influence. They hold the opinion that a non-official jail visitor should be chosen on the ground of definite qualification such as interest in prison matters or other social work and ability and willingness to assist in finding work for prisoners who are released. It is on that line, Sir, that we have been working. We have, for example, directed that the local representative of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society should be appointed as a visitor."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Are not Members of the Legislative Council nominated as jail visitors? Do not they satisfy this test?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not know all Members of the Legislative Council are necessarily interested in the inside of the jails. It is quite impossible for me to say anything more than that. The District Magistrate makes the selection on certain definite principles."

Mr. T. M. MOIDU SAHIB :—" I wish to know whether there is any Muhammadan visitor for the Alipuram jail?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not know whether any Mappilla visitor is available. If my hon. Friend would like to go and live in Bellary in the interests of the Bellary jail I would gladly have him made a visitor, but we do not contemplate placing non-residents on the Board of Visitors."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I submit, Sir, that the majority of Members of Legislative Councils are very deeply interested in the matter?"

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* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Is it my hon. Friend's suggestion that all Members of the Legislative Council who are in Madras ought to be made official visitors of the Penitentiary? "

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Not all. As many as possible. "

* Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" It seems, Sir, that recently the prisoners were allowed one tola of salt per day. And then it was reduced to half a tola and then on account of the agitation carried on by the hon. the Deputy President the quantity was raised to three-fourths of a tola. What I want to say is that salt forms the main item in the food of the people of this country. I think it was the Right Hon. S. Srinivasa Sastriyar who once said in the Council of State while talking on the salt duty that he had to go when he was a child without food because his mother could not give him salt. In the higher classes of people if it is so, the difficulty is all the more great in the case of food given for the lower classes. Salt is very essential in the case of ragi and cholam. So, Sir, under the circumstances salt must be raised to the original quantity of one tola per day."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, the discussion since I made this motion has ranged over a very large number of subjects. I want to go back to the motion I raised and I want to have the vote of the House on the particular point I raised, viz., racial considerations as regards diet. There are Europeans and Europeans and there are Indians and Indians, and I do not for a moment suggest that all Europeans are rich, or that all Indians are poor, although Europeans as a class are much richer than Indians. But it must be recognised that the status of the prisoners before they were sent to jail should be taken into consideration. I do not think that our Jail Manual should any longer be disfigured by racial discriminations, and may I suggest to the hon. the Home Member that this term may be removed, if he and I are merely to gain the object that both of us have in view that only social habits should be the criterion in the matter of diet? In order to focus the opinion of the House and with that object alone in view, I request the House to vote for the motion."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I have got only one or two more words to say. I cannot fall in with my hon. Friend's suggestion to accept the motion for reduction. It is quite impossible to accept any such motion unless an actual saving is indicated. As regards racial distinction in diet, I have already explained that the distinction is not intended to be racial. It is a mere matter of phraseology. May I remind the hon. Member that a somewhat analogous distinction of phraseology in the matter of diet is commonly employed in our towns. I have seen eating houses calling themselves 'Military clubs', not because their frequenters are soldiers, but because they supply a certain kind of diet."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" It is vulgar, slang."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I know nothing of that. The sign is very commonly seen in the bazaars. I only use the illustration as showing that the term 'European' when used in our jail phraseology in respect of diet means only diet in the European style and does not connote any racial differentiation."

The motion was then put to the House and declared carried. A poll was taken with the following result.

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Ayes.

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| 1. Mr. A. V. Banoji Rao. | 22. Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar. |
| 2. " J. Rappuswami. | 23. " K. Koti Reddi. |
| 3. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 24. " S. Muttayya Mudaliyar. |
| 4. " P. N. Marthandam Pillai. | 25. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 5. " C. Muttayya Mudaliyar. | 26. Mr. J. A. Saldanha. |
| 6. " K. Prabhakaran Tampan. | 27. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 7. " P. T. Rajan. | 28. " V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. |
| 8. " B. Ramachandra Reddi. | 29. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 9. " J. D. Samuel. | 30. " Chavadi K. Subramaniya Pillai. |
| 10. " K. Sarabha Reddi. | 31. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 11. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 32. " K. Suryanarayan murti Nayudu. |
| 12. " A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 33. Mr. K. Venkatachala Padayachi. |
| 13. " C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 34. Diwan Bahadur W. Vijayaraghav Mudaliyar. |
| 14. " T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 35. Khan Bahadur Haji Abd-ul-lah Ha Kasim Sahib. |
| 15. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. | 36. Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib. |
| 16. Mr. K. Uppi Sahib. | 37. " T. M. Moidu Sahib. |
| 17. " P. C. Venkatapati Raju. | 38. Janab Muhammad Qadir Moidin Sahib. |
| 18. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | |
| 19. " S. Satyamurti. | |
| 20. " T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. | |
| 21. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. | |

Noes.

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 12. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. |
| 2. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 13. Mr. A. E. Rencontre. |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal. | 14. " H. B. Ari Gounder. |
| 4. " Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 15. " P. K. S. A. Arumugha Nadar. |
| 5. " Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 16. Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan. |
| 6. " Mr. R. A. Graham. | 17. Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja. |
| 7. " Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks. | 18. Mr. K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai. |
| 8. Mr. R. W. Davies. | 19. Rao Bahadur P. Raman. |
| 9. Dr. John Nathai. | 20. Mr. R. Srinivasan. |
| 10. Mr. Abdulla Ghatala Sahib. | 21. Rao Sahib P. V. S. Sundaramurti. |
| 11. Mr. S. Arpudiaswami Udayar. | 22. Mr. Abbas Ali Khan. |

38 members voted for the motion and 22 against.

Motion No. 81.

* Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 25,03,000 for jails be reduced by Rs. 100.'

" I only want to point out that the work of scavenging is being allotted to the members belonging to the depressed classes. It is admitted by Government, Sir, that when totis are not available, I mean the scavenging class, the other members of the depressed classes are asked to do that work. I have already pointed out this matter to the hon. the Home Member and I hope that he will be pleased to revise the Jail Manual. Sir, I do not know if the members belonging to the other classes, other than these, should not be asked to do that scavenging work. Mahatma Gandhi too has said that scavenging is a form of service. But I do not know why particularly the members of the depressed classes and not the members of the other classes should be asked to do that service. I hope the hon. the Home Member will be pleased to sympathetically consider the matter and make the necessary revision in the Jail Manual."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, I understand that the hon. Member bases his remarks on the answer given to a question put and answered on the 13th October last. What I said there was that 'scavenging work is usually allotted to convicts who belong to the toti or sweeper class, but when these are not available low caste prisoners are employed in accordance with

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the principle laid down in Rule 387 of the Jail Manual.' I may in passing remark that no reference was made to depressed classes. But I think my hon. Friend would have been more fair to me if he had looked into a series of answers given at a later meeting which left no room for any misunderstanding. Rule 387 is perfectly clear in the matter and I find it quite impossible to see what it is in that rule that I am asked to alter. I think I have the whole House with me in the view that there is no reason for the jail authorities to go out of their way to ignore caste prejudices, they may be reasonable or unreasonable, but we know that they exist. I am quite at a loss to know how my hon. Friend wants me to revise the Manual."

* Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—" May I suggest that the work may be handed over to be done by the municipalities and thus we may be able to avoid much of the trouble? It may involve some expense but it will solve much of the trouble."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" If my hon. Friend is acquainted with jail matters, he will realise that there are great difficulties in
1-30 p.m. the suggestion put forward. My position is that it is merely a matter of sentiment in this country that only certain outcastes in the jail should do the work. If you go to a country in Europe you will find such work being done by people who do not thereby lose public respect or self-respect. I am sorry to find hon. Members insisting on the view that particular work must for ever be done by particular classes."

Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—" That is a most degrading work and it is done only by certain people. This sort of thing will continue for a long time; till then ways and means should be found for allotting the work to the particular people who are set apart for doing that work."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am obliged to my hon. Friend for the admission. All I can say is that, if my hon. Friend on the other side will indicate to me any alteration in the Jail Code, I will consider it."

At this stage the House adjourned for lunch (at 1-36 p.m.).

After Lunch (2-15 p.m.)

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA :—" I should like to bring to your notice a suggestion. Here we have got motions for reduction of total grants and token motions following them. My suggestion is token motions may be taken first and motions for reduction of total grant afterwards; otherwise we shall not have a chance of moving other motions."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member had better raise the question when we have finished the list of motions for nominal reduction which precede the lump cut. When we come to No. 515, that is the first lump cut that the hon. Member is referring to, then the hon. Member can raise his point."

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA :—" Sir, as regards this motion of Mr. Veerian, I should like to say a word. A fortnight back, I visited the Madras jail. The Superintendent of the Penitentiary told me that he was not employing depressed classes for doing scavenging work. What he told me was that the particular community that does the work has been asked to do it, and in case

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members are not available in that community, he used to ask other jails to send the men. Often, it seems, he has asked the Inspector-General to engage men from other jails. If this is observed there is no difficulty. If the work of scavenging is given to the depressed classes, it is no doubt very objectionable. I do not want that it should be done even in jails. Therefore I must respectfully request the hon. the Home Member to do something in this matter and see that there is no such rule in existence as to make either the lower classes or the depressed classes to do this sort of work in the jail."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, I have already given an answer to the hon. Member who moved this motion. It only remains for me to refer to the remarks made by the hon. Member below the gangway. What I want him to understand is that there is no question of Government being unreasonable. There is nothing in the wording of the rule which calls for alteration. The rule says 'In allotting labour reasonable allowance shall be made for caste prejudice, e.g., no Brahman or caste Hindu shall be employed in chuckler's work. Care shall, however, be taken that caste prejudice is not made an excuse for avoiding heavy forms of labour'. The direction that caste prejudice should not be unnecessarily offended proceeds on precisely the same principle that my hon. Friend below the gang way proceeds on. He says that there is caste prejudice against doing this particular kind of menial work and he asks us to respect this caste feeling. In answer to a question in this House I said that scavenging work is usually allotted to convicts belonging to the sweeper classes, but when these are not available, low caste persons are employed according to the principles laid down. That answer, I admit, did not quite reproduce rule 387 of the Jail Manual which does not specifically say this work is only to be given to low caste persons but it is obviously the intention that you should not choose for the purpose high caste people whose caste prejudices will be most offended. The fact is that if men of the toti class are not available the Superintendent has to give the work to anyone whom he considers most suitable. It is work which has to be done in the interests of the prisoners themselves; it obviously cannot be left undone. I do not think there is any alternative but to say that this is a matter in which discretion must be left to the Superintendent if an emergency arises. I made a reference long ago, when the discussion began, to the Superintendents of Jails to ascertain how far any difficulties had actually arisen in this connexion. The answer I received was that they had never found any particular difficulty. No objection was made by persons who in an emergency were called upon to do this work. The objections taken by my hon. Friend Mr. Veerian are based much more largely on sentiment than on practical necessity. It has been suggested that if a shortage of labour of this kind does occur in any jail, it may be possible to import persons from other jails. As a matter of fact, this system is already in force to a certain extent. If a Superintendent knows that he is going to be short of prisoners of the toti or sweeper class, he does apply to the Inspector-General for permission to move prisoners from another jail where they may possibly be in excess. But that obviously cannot apply to cases of emergency. Where the interests or health of other prisoners demand it, the Superintendent must be allowed to use anyone he likes. The work has to be done and it is his business to get it done subject to his giving his best consideration to the selection of men most suitable for the work. If my hon. Friend or the Superintendents of Jails can make further practical suggestion for getting over the difficulty, I personally, and the Government, would be perfectly

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prepared to give it the fullest consideration. The suggestion that people should be brought in from outside for the purpose of doing scavenging work has already been put to the Inspector-General and his reply is that it is quite out of the question, for the reason that we have to take the most rigorous precautions to see that the prisoners inside jail are protected as far as possible from infection. No new arrival is allowed to mix with others until he has passed through the quarantine period in the quarantine portion of the jail. To permit sweepers to come in from outside every day and mix with prisoners would be absolutely unfair to the prisoners and would be an entire departure from the principle on which Government have always acted, and I think rightly acted, namely, that having got these men inside the four walls of the jail, having denied them freedom of movement, it is our duty to see them absolutely protected from all preventible diseases. This is the strongest reason against the suggestion made of bringing in sweepers to deal with the sweeping work in jail. I am quite prepared to agree to the movement of sweepers from one jail to another when the Superintendent sees that he is going to be short of them. But I cannot go to the length that my hon. Friend would like me to go and lay down a rule that under no circumstance whatever shall anyone who does not belong to the sweeper class be engaged in that work."

2-30 p.m.

MR. R. VEERIAN :—" I believe the Government cannot interpret the Jail Manual in any other way."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am not interpreting the Manual. I am admitting that a previous answer was badly worded and suggesting that it should be taken in the sense in which I now put it."

* MR. R. VEERIAN :—" I am glad to hear that. I cannot for a moment think that the depressed classes are the only people fit to do scavenging work. There are so many sub-sects among the depressed classes. Some of them are working as domestic servants and some as field labourers. Can anybody say for a moment that all these people are intended to do only scavenging work? Sir, it was definitely stated on October 13th that 'the scavenging work is usually allotted to convicts who belong to the toti or sweeper class, but when these are not available low caste prisoners are employed in accordance with the principle laid down in rule 387 of the Jail Manual.' Can the hon. Member say for a moment that the depressed classes are not given that work? I know for certain that in the Coimbatore Jail out of one thousand and odd prisoners about 87 of them belonging to different sub-sections of the depressed classes are made to do scavenging work. Even in Salem Jail such kind of work is given to them. I want to know why the members of the depressed classes whose habitual occupation is not scavenging work are made to do that work. When we respect the feelings of the other communities, are we not bound to respect the feelings of the depressed classes also? There are various ways of getting this work done. We can appoint a paid agency instead of asking the depressed classes to do this work. It is very easy. Then, Sir, when scavenging classes are not available in a particular jail, the authorities can ask for some members of the scavenging class being sent from other jails where they are available. This is also very easy. There is yet another suggestion. The flushing system may be introduced. These are my three suggestions. Any one of these may be adopted after careful consideration. I do not want to say

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anything more. If the hon. Member in charge of the department gives an assurance that he would respect the feelings of the depressed classes in this matter, I have no objection to withdraw my motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. the Home Member has already stated that the Jail Code is so framed as to respect the feelings of all classes of people."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" If you will allow me, Sir, I am prepared to say one further word. This subject has given rise to a good deal of discussion during the last 5 or 6 months and I may say that the points which my hon. Friend urges—I think rightly urges—have already been brought to the prominent notice of the Jail Superintendents. I think therefore that he may rest assured that the Superintendents, unless it is a case of very great emergency, are not in the least likely to assign this work to any member whose occupation is not that of a sweeper. If any other alternative is available such as that of sending for scavenging class prisoners from other jails or of employing a small paid staff which remains inside the jail—the other suggestion for introducing the flushing system being impossible for a great many years—I am quite prepared to consider proposals. But I cannot give my hon. Friend a general assurance that on no account whatever would any one not belonging to the scavenging class be given this work."

MR. R. VEERIAN :—" Then, I should like to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 82.

MR. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—" Sir, I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 25,03,000 for jails be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"Sir, I have tabled this motion in order to bring to the notice of the Government the lack of facilities in the jails in this Presidency for the Muhammadan inmates of the prisons to observe their religious obligations according to the tenets of their religion, and to request them to give all the necessary facilities for this purpose. Sir, I have visited one or two jails such as the Trichinopoly jail and the Coimbatore jail and have seen with my own eyes the difficulties which the prisoners there are labouring under. I think the hon. the Home Member has got sufficient experience by his contact with his Muhammadan friends in India to realize that out of the five tenets of the Muhammadan religion, two of them relate to prayer and Ramzan—the observation of fast for one month. As regards the first, prayer, greater significance and importance is attached to the congregation for prayer than to the prayer made by each individual separately five times a day. Some people make their prayer on Fridays and twice in a year. All these congregational prayers are very important according to the principles of Muhammadan religion. The hon. Sir Abdur Rahim while discussing in his book on 'Muhammadan Jurisprudence' whether India should be considered as a Hazrat Islam or Darat-Islam, in other words, whether India is a country fit for the expansion of the Muhammadan religion or whether it is not a country fit for the expansion of Muhammadan religion, has laid it down that India is Darat-Islam, that is, a country of atheists. He has stated in his book that the Government have not given facilities for

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congregational prayer to the Muslim prisoners and convicts undergoing imprisonment in their jails. I must say that the Government are placing obstacles in the way of the Muslims offering their prayers according to the tenets of Islam. That is why India has been called a country of Darat-Islam and not Hazrat-Islam. In certain jails, temples have been constructed in order to give facilities for the worship of Hindu prisoners. I therefore ask Government why such provision has not been made for Muslim prisoners in jails where there are a large number of them. I wish to emphasize on the Government the need for constructing places of worship for Muslim prisoners inside the jails.

"Sir, in order to facilitate the Muslim prisoners conducting their prayer according to the tenets of their religion some alteration has to be made also in their dress now supplied. Let them be given a dress which extends below the knee so that they may observe their prayers without hindrance according to their faith.

"Another point which I wish to bring to the notice of Government is that in the case of Christian convicts the missionaries are being allowed to go and preach sermons inside the jails, but on one or two occasions when a Muhammadan Moulvi wished to go inside the jail and preach to the Muslim convicts the tenets of their religion, permission was not given. Sir, this is another grievance of the convicts which should be looked into.

"Sir, I have to draw attention to one more hardship undergone by the Muslim convicts. The Muhammadan convicts are made to live in cells surrounded on all sides by electric wires. Sir, there is a custom among us that the freedom of the hands and the legs of a man at prayer should not be restrained. Living in the cells surrounded by wires amounts to something like a restraint. This also should be remedied."

Mr. T. M. MOIDU SAHIB :—"Sir, I beg to support the motion made by my hon. Friend. I beg to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the holy month of Ramzan has begun and request them to be pleased to issue orders to the various jail authorities to give special facilities to the Muhammadan convicts to enable them to observe fasting for the whole month. With reference to the Alipuram jail, I regret to bring to the notice of the Government that even in respect of prayers which is the most essential duty of a Muhammadan, the Muhammadan convicts have not got the required facility. I may draw the attention of the hon. the Home Member to the fact that for a male member the dress must at least cover the knees and I do not know whether the jail rules allow this. Now, with regard to the need for a place of worship inside the jails, I must emphasise the fact that it is only such things that would reform the convicts and do any good to them. For religious education, if a Moulvi is allowed at least once a week to go and preach inside the jails, I must say that in the near future the number of convicts will be surely less. With these few observations, I support this token motion."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"So far as I have known, now the Moulvis and the Pandits are allowed once in a week to go and preach religion and morals in the prisons. In addition to this there are elementary schools started in most of these jails. In the Bellary Central Jail religious preachers of the respective classes of prisoners are allowed to go and preach to them. I do not know in which jails no Moulvis are allowed,

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(A voice: All jails.) But there is a provision for it now. The Government are allowing the Moulvis and the Pandits to go inside the jails and preach to these people their religion.

"I do not know whether there is a preacher in the Alipuram jail.

2-45 p.m. Religious preachers are allowed just now to go to the prisoners, Muhammadans and Hindus, and to preach to them. I do not know to what jail they are referring to, when they say that no moulvi is allowed. The Jail Manual provides for the admission of religious preachers for the benefit of the prisoners. I wish to know from the hon. the Home Member, with the permission of the Chair, whether this is being done in every jail."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"So far as the policy is concerned, I cannot but sympathize with this motion. So far as the Roman Catholics are concerned, I am told that special facilities are afforded to our priests to go and perform services at least once a week on Sundays and on holidays. The preachers are allowed to preach to the prisoners, conduct mass and hear confession. Every facility is afforded for giving religious instructions. I think it is but reasonable that the treatment of prisoners who are undergoing imprisonment in jails should be of a reformatory character. And it is necessary that religious instruction should form a predominant part in reforming the prisoner. I therefore strongly support this motion."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Like the hon. Gentleman who spoke last, I have very great sympathy with this motion, and I entirely agree with him in his recognition of the great assistance that it will be in the administration of the jails if religious instruction is allowed as much as possible to reach the prisoners with a view to assist in their reformation.

"A definite question was asked as to permitting moulvis to visit the jails. On that point, hon. Members will be glad to know that in January of this year the Government definitely accepted the proposal that moulvis should be admitted into jails for the purpose of giving religious instruction to Mussalman convicts and instructed the Inspector-General of Prisons to appoint, in consultation with the District Magistrates concerned, moulvis for each jail for that special purpose. On that point, my hon. Friend will probably agree that all that can be done has been done.

"An interesting suggestion was made that we ought to go further and, in jails where there are a larger number of Muhammadan prisoners, we should have a mosque in which they can exercise the privilege of congregational prayer. In the Chingleput Reformatory School, to the best of my knowledge, they have a Christian chapel, a small Hindu temple and a mosque. In the case of such jails as Alipuram where the whole population is Muhammadan, I think the suggestion is an excellent one. I propose to bring this suggestion to the notice of the Inspector-General. How far we can extend such an idea to the jail where the number of Mussalmans is small is a matter which has to be decided in the future. But, so far as the Alipuram jail is concerned, I am prepared to have this proposal looked into and pushed forward.

"The circumstances of the Alipuram jail have compelled the jail authorities to use belchans, which have already been described as barbarous. We have not been able to avoid it. As I explained to my hon. Friend, the money necessary has not been forthcoming. If there is a chance of finding

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some money this year, I shall put forward this as one of our most urgent schemes. What the result will be I cannot foretell. The Superintendent of the jail is the last person to desire the use of these chains, but that is the only method of securing safety when prisoners sleep in an open place.

"With regard to dress, I think there are rules already providing specially for the requirements of the Muhammadan prisoners. I understand they are allowed trousers which reach below the knee. That is provided in the Jail Manual. The Inspector-General will, of course, inquire into any case in which the dress provisions of the Jail Manual have been disobeyed."

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—"The trousers must be above the ankle and below the knee."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"The Manual says that in the case of Muhammadans, the trousers should be four inches above the ankle, which, I take it, will be above the ankle and below the knee."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"Am I to understand that there are different rules regarding the dress to be provided for a Muhammadan and a Hindu convict?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Yes. The Government have a right to respect religious sentiments in that matter and they have provided Muhammadan convicts with special trousers."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"If the Hindu convicts were to ask . . ."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I think that it is a hypothetical question."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"With your permission, Sir, I would like to know if the Government will be pleased to consider favourably if the Hindus were to ask for these trousers just like the Muhammadans?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid that I am not come here quite prepared for a discussion of sartorial details of this kind. But if it should be the case that a considerable number of Hindus would like to have their knees covered and if there is any particular reason why they should prefer that dress, I have not the least doubt that it will be considered as in the case of the Muhammadans. Very good reasons were given in the case of the Muhammadans, reasons connected with their religious observances."

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—"But I know that the Hindu prisoners do not like this dress. They feel uncomfortable and it detracts from their personal appearance. If *veshtis* can be substituted, they look more dignified and more honourable. From a healthy point of view also, I think *veshti* should be preferable to these shorts."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"My experience is that it is convenient to wear shorts. My hon. Friend from Malabar will, I think, bear me out when I say that the tendency among the free population to wear shorts is growing every day. It is a very comfortable form of dress. If the hon. Member wants that *veshtis* should be substituted for trousers in the case of ordinary prisoners, he may raise the point and give my successor an opportunity of obtaining the views of the persons concerned, and I have no doubt that it will be fully considered. I do not think there is any other point on which I am called upon to speak."

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Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—"May I ask whether it is not possible to arrange to give meals to the Muhammadan convicts after sunset and before 4 a.m. on certain fasting days?"

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I understand that that order has already been made. The matter came to my notice last year, I think, in connexion with one jail. My impression is that in jails where there are Muhammadan convicts, arrangements have been made to give food very early in the morning before sunrise. I do not know whether that is the case in the Alipuram jail. I quite recognize that they must eat before sunrise and my impression is that the prison authorities did allow them to eat before sunrise and again after sunset. If my hon. Friend refers to any particular jail. . ."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB:—"The convicts in the Alipuram jail would not have any facility to eat in the night because they are chained."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"My experience is in connexion with another jail where no such difficulty arose. I shall certainly look into the case of the Muhammadan convicts who are chained and who cannot therefore get up and eat. I thank my hon. Friend for bringing the point to my notice. I am quite prepared to make inquiries and see what can be done."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The hon. the President then called upon Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar to move motion No. 514 on the agenda. Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar said 3 p.m. that he did not want to move his resolution.

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"May I move it, Sir?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member is there and he has not moved it."

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA:—"Sir, I find in the arrangement of motions that token motions come after the motions for lump sum cuts. Usually token motions will come first and then the motions for lump sum cuts or total omission. I therefore suggest that motion No. 523 which is a token motion may be taken first and motions Nos. 515 and 516 be allowed to come afterwards."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member had better move that motions Nos. 515 and 516 be taken up after motion No. 523 is disposed of."

Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA:—"I now move that motions Nos. 515 and 516 be taken after motion No. 523 is disposed of."

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—"I second it."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"I oppose it."

The question was put to the House and lost.

Motion No. 83.

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Sir, I move

'that the allotment of Rs. 30.14 lakhs for jails be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.'

"Sir, the expenditure under this head is growing year after year and no attempt is made to check its growth. According to the revised budget estimate for 1924-25, the expenditure is Rs. 30,11,000. The budget estimate for 1925-26 is Rs. 31,57,000, thus showing an excess of Rs. 1,46,000. Even

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according to the revised estimate for 1924-25, the voted amount was only 24 lakhs, whereas this year it is 25 lakhs. There is an increase of one lakh. We find that the increase in the staff employed is only Rs. 1,300, whereas we find that there is an increase in the allotment under jail manufacture and jails generally. Even if we take the increase under the revised non-voted amount, it is only twenty-six thousand rupees. Therefore, there is the real increase in jails from Rs. 25,30,000 to Rs. 26,56,000, and if we take away Rs. 26,000, that is, a non-votable item regarding which the House has no voice whatever, there is still an increase of Rs. 1,00,000 in the votable amount. We know, Sir, that these figures do vary on account of the strength of the jail population, and on account of the cost of raw materials required for jail manufactured articles. At the present moment, I do not see any reason why Government should expect an increase in the jail population for 1925-26. In the past years we had a great increase on account of the Malabar trouble and the Agency trouble. But both these troubles are over. There is therefore no necessity for budgeting for an increased expenditure. According to the revised estimate, the increase on account of raw materials is only Rs. 20,000. Even supposing that the cost of food-grains is a factor for the expected increase, I don't think that the seasonal conditions warrant an increase in the prices. On the other hand, we must expect the prices to go down. Under these circumstances, I think that no case has been made out for an increase in the budget estimate for the next year. I therefore move that the allotment be reduced by one lakh of rupees."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I wish to say a few words in support of this motion. I have been frequenting the Coimbatore jail as often as possible. ('Hear, hear' and laughter.) I may say I do that without giving notice to the magistrate or the police. I must say that, so far as the present management is concerned, it is very fair. I personally saw that the prisoners get good vegetables in the Coimbatore jail. I must say here I do not know what the case is with the other jails. But what has been said about other jails does not apply to the Coimbatore jail. It is my duty to say so from what I have seen of it. But I should ask the hon. the Home Member not to repeat what he said last year and the previous years also, that a general cut like this would go to reduce the allotment for the necessities of life of the prisoners. We have been repeatedly saying that a general cut like this is not intended to cut down the dietary charges of the prisoners. The reduction might be made by selecting all superintendents from non-Indian Medical Service officers. I do not see any reason why the superintendents should be Indian Medical Service officers. Already there are loud complaints that there are not sufficient number of Indian Medical Service officers. We have also heard from a recent telegram that the Secretary of State has recruited 14 officers for the Indian Medical Service. Therefore by indianizing the higher establishment and by taking away the Indian Medical Service from the cadre of Jail Superintendents, we can certainly make much saving. There is no use of Government not listening to us and not reducing a pie from the cost of management and reducing everything from the dietary charges."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"On a matter of personal explanation, Sir. On a previous occasion, unless I was mistaken, the lump cut was definitely taken from the head of diet. This is now taken from the total allotment and therefore that question hardly arises."

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* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I am afraid, Sir, otherwise the hon. the Home Member may say that this was a lump cut from the whole allotment and therefore the allotment for the dietary charges must also be proportionately reduced."

"Again, Sir, I wish to submit that, so far as short-time prisoners are concerned, Government should be more liberal both with regard to their release and with regard to preventing them from going into jail. We generally see a large number of persons going to jail for less than one month. It would certainly do harm rather than good for people who go to jail for short periods as one month to keep company with prisoners there and return. I will therefore appeal to the Government, to the Law Department and the Jail Department, especially the former, to see that offenders are not sent to jail for these small terms. It is also desirable that young persons are released under security even before they enter the jail. Section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code may be made use of more often with advantage in these cases. Or some rule must be framed by which persons who are convicted for minor offences for terms of imprisonment of less than one month would be released even in the Court itself without being taken to jail. My own experience is that such people are much better than those who have served their full sentence. If in this way a large number of short-term prisoners are eliminated, there will be a considerable saving in the dietary charges. I believe there are about four to five thousand such prisoners a year. I do not know the exact number. But anyhow, there will be a large reduction in the dietary charges."

"Then, Sir, I have only to repeat what was said last year about the Mappilla prisoners. I am afraid, Sir, that there is a false idea that the State prisoners must necessarily be a set of dangerous people. In Coimbatore itself there are twelve State prisoners belonging to the Mappilla community. Some of them are old gentlemen. They say that as soon as the rebellion broke out in Malabar, they were arrested and without any trial whatever—probably there was no evidence—they have been kept in several jails and now they have come to Coimbatore jail. They did not know any reason why they were arrested except probably they were born Mappillas. It is a great hardship for these people to be confined in jail for a long time without any trial and conviction, and against whom absolutely no charge has been levelled. It appears that the Collector of Malabar is against allowing any State prisoners into Malabar whatever their antecedents might have been, for the simple reason that because they are State prisoners there must have been some strong grounds for putting them into prison. Again, Sir, it seems to be a great hardship that men should not be allowed to go to their homes at any time for no reasons whatever. If Government have any strong objections to allowing these men to enter Malabar, then they request to be permitted to live with their families in some other district. Government have not been pleased to allow them to do so. The Visitors' Committee passed a resolution—they sent a copy to the Inspector-General of Police and I do not know whether it has reached Government—officials and non-officials agreeing, that they had no objection to let these people reside outside Malabar. Government will therefore do well to take this matter once more into their consideration and enquire into each case individually in order that fair justice may be done to them. I suppose this will be done."

"As regards the other Malabar prisoners, we had a long discussion and I do not think it is necessary to go into the matter again. Government

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announced last year that a large number of people was released. If that is so, there is absolutely no reason why a further inquiry should not be made and more Mappilla prisoners released.

"The question of going to Andamans is a very nice thing. It is all very easy to say 'go and be a free man in Andamans rather than be a prisoner in jail in this Presidency'. Probably 3-15 p.m. Europeans cannot understand the home-sickness, rightly or wrongly, of Indians. They like to be in their own homes. Although some people might have been unfortunate to have somehow or other been implicated in the Mappilla rebellion, I do not think it is fair to suppose that their only alternative is that they should go to the Andamans or be rotting in jails. I do hope that the Government will continue their investigation in this matter and arrive at a proper settlement of this question. I need hardly say that, so far as Mr. Narayana Menon is concerned, it is a matter in which the Government can fairly and reasonably satisfy the wishes of this Council who passed an almost unanimous resolution by ordering an early release of this gentleman."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I agree with many of the arguments that have been advanced by my hon. Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar as regards the release of prisoners and not sending them to jail, so that the jail population might not be so large as it is now. In prison reform, the United States of America have been the most civilized and advanced, and England has borrowed many ideas from them."

"The Government of Madras who is said to have been commended very favourably by a prison officer from Burma as a progressive administration so far as jail matters are concerned, will adopt the parole system of America. I would ask the hon. the Home Member to consider the grave situation that has arisen from the fact that the Government have ignored the resolution that was almost unanimously passed in this Council regarding the release of Mr. Narayana Menon and also of some of the Mappillas. I have read the resolution passed by this Council on the motion of my hon. Friend Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar. This resolution is that 'this Council recommends to the Government that Mr. Narayana Menon who has been convicted of having waged war against His Majesty. . . . undergoing imprisonment shall be released'. We find in the speeches that many gentlemen who have stake in the country, men like Mr. C. Gopala Menon, Mr. T. R. Ramachandria Ayyar, Mr. Raman Menon, Mr. Narayana Nambudripad, Mr. Madhava Raja, Mr. Kumaran Nayar, Diwan Bahadur T. Ranga Achariyar, Deputy President of the Imperial Assembly, Mr. Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastriyar, the present Advocate-General, were of opinion that Mr. Narayana Menon appeared to be the victim of judicial error. Whatever that may be, we do not want to criticize the judgment of the judicial tribunal, but we do want the Government to take into consideration the public feeling in this matter. The hon. the Home Member cannot state that we are not interested in maintaining order and peace in Malabar or in any other part of the Presidency. The hon. Member will shortly leave this House and I hope that he will favourably consider this question and order the release of Mr. Narayana Menon. Sir, I may point out that the maintenance of order and progress are also dear and of importance to the people and our advice, our request and our opinion should carry some weight with the Government. May I appeal to the hon. the Home Member to consider justly, as he said he was going to consider some other

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representations, before he retires, this question of release of Mr. Narayana Menon? When the Government gets some ideas fixed in their minds, it is a very difficult task for people's representatives to dislodge them. In our ancient books it is stated that is a wise Government which heeds the opinion of its subjects. Ignoring the feeling and the opinion of men who should be credited with a sense of responsibility and the considered resolution of his Council is an insult."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I cannot help asking my hon. Friend whether he means that the Judge who ordered his imprisonment was wrong."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"I am not now traversing the opinion of the judicial tribunals. Out of mercy, out of wisdom, out of policy, I say the man must be released. The hon. Member might, if he likes, make a statement from Mr. Narayana Menon before his release. People are clamouring, Hindus and Muhammadans, for his release. I hope the hon. the Home Member will take all this into consideration and adopt a more liberal and humane policy."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Of the two motions which were tabled on the subject last referred to by the hon. the Deputy President, neither was moved. Probably the House was not then prepared to take them up. I do not know if any other hon. Member is going to discuss the same subject in connexion with this particular motion. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition wanted a reduction merely on the ground of economy and if any other speech is going to be made on the release of this individual, I think it would be irrelevant and out of order."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I take it that you will not apply that to me. Otherwise it will be very unfortunate for me that the point of order was not raised earlier."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"There is hardly any time for the Government or any one else to reply. If the hon. the Home Member wishes to speak, he can do so. I do not propose to allow him later."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Had you not told me, Sir, that you were not going to allow any one more to speak of Narayana Menon's case, I had hoped that we should not have an opportunity of hearing the views of other parts of the House on one statement made by the last speaker. In his closing remarks he declared that the release of Mr. Narayana Menon was desired by all people, Hindus and Muhammadans included. I have yet to learn of any Muhammadan who desires his release. My impression is that if you go to the Mappillas in Malabar . . ."

Mr. UPPI SAHIB:—"I supported the motion for his release myself."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am aware of it. Nevertheless, I do not believe that if you were to enquire of the Ernad Mappilla, you would find my support for my hon. Friend's contention that the Muhammadans generally wish for Narayana Menon's release. The whole of my information is entirely to the contrary. At the time when the suggestion for his release was first made, it was put to me very strongly that if I were to pick him out for release because he was a Hindu and had influential friends, while thousands of Mappillas were in jail for rebellious offences which were very much less serious, it would cause grave indignation in Mappilla circles."

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* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Did the Muhammadans object to his release on any terms or did they object even to his settling elsewhere than in Malabar ? ”

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ The Muhammadans to whom I refer are the ordinary Mappillas of Ernad and Walluvanad taluks, not very highly educated but full of commonsense. The question they would ask is this : How do you excuse your release of this particular convict while—to borrow my hon. Friend's expression—our Mappilla relatives are rotting in jails ? Why are you going to release him ? Is it merely because he happens to be a Hindu, an educated man belonging to a learned profession and a political leader, and is a friend of influential people that he is to be selected and let loose, although he was the leader of the rebellion, while his unfortunate victims are kept in jails without any consideration ? ”

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ May we know whether any Muhammadans voted against the motion for release ? ”

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I prefer to take my inspiration from the Muhammadans of Ernad and Walluvanad taluks. ”

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask the hon. the Home Member if he has ever met them ? ”

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I have met them on many occasions. I have first-hand information and I maintain what I already said, namely, that I would prefer to take my inspiration from the actual people concerned, i.e., the Muhammadans of Ernad and Walluvanad taluks, rather than from Members of the House coming from, let us say, the Ceded districts. ”

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—“ May I say that for the release of individual Mappillas many petitions have been sent signed both by Hindus and Muhammadans of Malabar ? ”

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am aware of that, but my hon. Friend does not suggest that this House passed any resolution for the release of individual Mappillas. This House is only interested in this gentleman who happens to have connexions in influential circles. I am going to maintain the position I have taken all along. I do not admit that this gentleman is entitled to be released on any ground. ”

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“ On the ground of good policy and political justice. ”

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ There must be some good cause for making a distinction between one prisoner and another. The Court convicted all of them and, so far as their offences are concerned, they must be deemed to be in the same position. As regards mercy, I have yet to hear of any special reason why this gentleman who was one of the main instigators of the rebellion should be selected for special treatment while hundreds, if not thousands, of people who followed or moved under his instigation are left in jail. ”

(A VOICE :—Release all of them.)

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ This House has never expressed the opinion that we should release all of them. Hon. Members have selected one particular gentleman and have passed

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a unanimous resolution saying that it is the wish of the House—it is not a matter of reason or argument but merely their wish—that he should be released. ”

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ A large number of Mappilla prisoners also, it was the wish of the House, should be released ”

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I can hardly take seriously my hon. Friend's suggestion that all Mappilla prisoners should be released. ”

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—“ I wish to know whether any Mappilla prisoners have been released. ”

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ If I have time, I will come to that. I am now dealing with the special point raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Kesava Pillai. ”

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“ I said, Sir, that the release of Narayana Menon has been supported by many influential people who have a substantial stake in the country. ”

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ My hon. Friend, Sir, did say something of the kind. He said that Narayana Menon's innocence was certified to by a large number of respectable people, but I thought that later he gave up the question of his innocence. ”

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“ I only said, Sir, that it was a technical subject and I did not want to express my opinion on the judicial aspect of it. ”

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ My hon. Friend is again contradicting himself. Does he or does he not raise the question of his innocence ? I was assuming that like the rest of the Council, he left out the question whether he was guilty, and that the demand now is a demand for mercy. On that point, as I have already said, I am still to be shown the reason why this one particular individual should be selected for release, on parole—I do not know what my hon. Friend means by that—while hundreds and thousands of Mappillas, simply because they happened to be Mappillas and acted at his instigation, are to be left, as we are accustomed to say in this House, to rot in the jails. I am not going to be a party to any such discrimination. ”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ The time of two and a half hours appointed for the discussion of this demand having expired all the questions necessary to put the demand before the House must now be disposed of and I presume the hon. the Leader of the Opposition who has made this motion wishes that it shall be put. ”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“ Yes, Sir. ”

The motion was put and declared carried. A poll was demanded.

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN :—“ May I know, Sir, what will be the effect of this motion, if carried ? ”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ The effect of this motion will be that the Jail budget will be curtailed by a lakh of rupees (laughter), not that anybody will be released. It was therefore I said that it was a pity that this subject of release was introduced. ”

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districts every man who has anything to do with the Congress had the honour of two constables attending always on him. It may be that I do not know their names. The two constables were often changed. I can understand, Sir, that at a time when non-co-operation was a great bugbear to Government, and that every one was becoming a great man, simply because he was a non-co-operator it was considered necessary, at the great cost of the tax-payer, that a number of people called by the Government the Criminal Investigation Department officers should watch the proceedings of these people. There were several of my friends of high rank, who had sub-inspectors always travelling along with them. Some of my colleagues in this House had some of those honours. Many hon. Members of this Council had that honour of being accompanied by sub-inspectors. I had the honour for some time and I brought it to the notice of the Government and the Government thought that it was unnecessary especially for a man like myself. I am only showing that in those days when the Government could not control themselves they thought that every one of some name should be shadowed. There is absolutely no reason why such establishment should continue hereafter. I know that it would be said by the hon. the Law Member that one of the functions of the Criminal Investigation Department is to investigate into the intricate cases. No doubt in some matters some intelligence officer is deputed for these things. Sometimes they fail and sometimes they succeed."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"May I recall the attention of the hon. Member that he is dealing with the City Intelligence Department."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I am only saying, Sir, that the mufassal Intelligence Department has not much work at all. That department may as well be made to work for the Presidency town as well as for mufassal places. Therefore it is quite unnecessary to have the two sets of officers. One of them may as well do the work. This is not the first time that it is said that some of the people of the Investigation Department are at times put on investigation of the departmental cases. It does not matter whether it is the Presidency Intelligence officer or the mufassal officer. It is in connexion with that, I must say, that they are somewhat useful. I should think that there should be some curtailment of the establishment, and that some substantial cut should be made. Of course we know the hon. the Law Member is one of those who are very profuse in promises, if I may say so, and I believe last year he said that before long there would be a cut in the police expenses."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"There has been."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I do not know whether it has been done. Apart from that, the Government is very fond of cutting the feet and not the head."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The head is in the charge of the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State and the feet under the control of the hon. Members of this Council."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I know that this is the unfortunate thing. Therefore they are very obliging to us. We want the establishment charges at the top to be reduced. We have no power. We can only make a token motion as in several other cases. I am sure the hon. the Law Member will say we have cut 1,999 constables and probably some head constables. From the public point of view we want constables. It

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does not matter whether there are 25 or 22 District Superintendents of Police. But we want the lower officers to be retained. I think the hon. Member will do something now definitely so far as this department is concerned. The Criminal Investigation Department can be reduced so as to be of some use both in the city and in the mufassal. It is with this view that I beg to move this motion. If the hon. the Law Member is going to make a satisfactory reply, I am prepared to have it as a token motion."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, was telling us that there was a large staff of the Criminal Investigation Department here. In fact when compared with the other Presidency towns we have very few people. In Calcutta the strength of the Criminal Investigation Department is 202; in Bombay 93; in Madras it is only 19. In Calcutta 3 lakhs of rupees are spent on the Criminal Investigation Department, for the Presidency town of Bombay about 2½ lakhs, while in Madras the expenditure is only one-fourth of a lakh. Moreover, Sir, our Madras Intelligence Department people are very level-headed and they keep their heads always cool. But for them, Sir, so many arrests would have been made during the riots and mill strikes. They do not exaggerate things. They do not make exaggerated reports. It is on account of them and them alone there were no arrests and many political consequences were prevented. We have got only a very few officers in our Madras Intelligence Department people and they realize that the Criminal Investigation Department exists for the sake of the people and not to harrass them. With these few words, I request my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, to withdraw his motion because the officers here have been acting very properly unlike the departmental officers in other presidencies. Another thing which Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar urged was why there should be a separate establishment. We do not want our Intelligence Department of Madras to be deleted, and our Madras to be troubled always by people of the Criminal Investigation Department coming from outside. We have not got many arrests, and this is a positive proof that our Intelligence Department people are very level-headed people."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I feel greatly relieved inasmuch as my task has been lightened by the very instructive remarks made obviously from first-hand information by the hon. Member for Madras. But, Sir, in addition to the somewhat striking figures which he quoted with accuracy of memory in regard to which I am not so adept as my Friend, it is also the fact that the Intelligence Department of the City Police consists of two inspectors, five sub-inspectors, six head constables and six constables. There is not therefore that large amount of shadowing hon. Members of this Council and other persons, which has been conjured up for us by the hon. Member, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar. I for one am perfectly free to admit that the function of the Intelligence Department is not and ought not to be merely that of going behind hon. Members of this Council or even other political men. They have got very many lines of work to follow. I think, in the whole of these discussions, it is forgotten that the Intelligence Department and its activities are associated only with what is called political work. But it is not so. Let me point out for instance that in Madras the functions are questions under the Arms Act, questions with regard to licences, questions with regard to the importation of arms, questions relating to daily sales of arms and ammunitions, number

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of fire-arms shops and things of that kind, keeping of the register of Indian and European residents of the town, the latest arrivals of the tourists and so on and not solely the watching of the activity of persons here who may be dangerous to the public safety and welfare. It seems to me, Sir, that absolutely no case has been made out for the abolition of the City Intelligence Department. Nevertheless, I may mention to the hon. Member that this question, whether it is expedient and right that there should be a City Intelligence Department as apart from the Criminal Investigation Department is engaging the attention of the Government and Government will solely deal with the question on report from the departmental heads. It may however be noticed that elsewhere in Calcutta there are five gazetted officers dealing with the city. In Bombay there are three officers. In Madras there is none. So far as the total of the other officers are concerned there are 197 in Calcutta, in Bombay 90, in Rangoon 90, and in Madras 19. It cannot therefore be said that this department, so far as the city work is concerned, is over-staffed. As regards the actual working, the Inspector-General of Police has been asked to get the record for six months from September 1924, showing the amount and the nature of the work that has been done so that, at the expiration of that period, the questions may be considered as to how much of the work may be left to the Intelligence Department. That report is due in April next and we shall consider that matter carefully. In view of the remarks made by the hon. member Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, I do not propose to give any undertaking to that effect. What I can say is that I will consider that matter. The question has been under investigation. The Inspector-General has been asked to supply us with materials with reference to what is taking place elsewhere and with reference to the total of the work which he has been asked to scrutinize in this matter and to report to us. I may say that the cost of the department in Madras as compared with the other Presidencies is between one-eighth and one tenth. In other words, it seems to us that no case has been made out for a lump cut. If the object of the hon. Member is to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that there have been duplication of agencies, then I have nothing more to say with regard to this motion. But if the hon. Member wants that a lump sum should be cut, I must sincerely and strongly oppose it."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I have no objection to reduce it to Rs. 100. I must however say one or two words as regards the champion on this side of the House. I thought he was very selfish. If the Intelligence Department of the Madras City is very efficient and is very good let us also have a share in it."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Does my hon. Friend want to send the City Intelligence department man to Coimbatore?"

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"We will rather be without that department; and if we have we will have the best of it."

"Probably some gentlemen seem to think that I am one of those who
4 p.m. miss being shadowed at present."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Madras police is separate from the mufassal police. It has a separate Commissioner and Criminal Investigation Department. So there is no use of mixing up Madras with the mufassal."

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* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I do not suppose the Inspector-General also is separate. He is the same both for the city and for the mufassal. Something like two lakhs odd is being spent on the mufassal. I thought the hon. the Law Member was going to give me solid reasons so that I might withdraw my motion. He said that the Intelligence Department was doing various duties."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"What I mean is not only in this country but in every other country they are not intended merely to shadow certain kind of men, for instance, tracking political men. They have also to do a lot of confidential work regarding persons and activities of some persons about whom suspicion is largely entertained."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"We have heard of London where the Police department does the whole work."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It is quite different in the ordinary course. The main point about London is that there is what is called the Scotland Yard and it has nothing to do with the police which is directly under the Home Secretary."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"That apart, I do not think that a separate department like this is so very necessary for taking down the names of permanent European and Indian residents in Madras."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The question is this. Supposing there are persons arriving in Madras from all mufassal places and about whom there are suspicions as regards their character, antecedents and so forth, there must be a lot of them coming over to Madras, this being a commercial centre. Supposing some are suspected to be carrying arms without licences or importing arms and things of that sort, to track all such cases a department seems certainly necessary."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Now, the hon. the Law Member detailed a list of functions one of which he said was that they are to take down a list of all permanent European and Indian residents in Madras. Anyhow a separate department so highly paid is not at all required for any of the functions detailed by the hon. the Law Member. My hon. Friend, Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar, stated that this was not so costly in Madras as in Calcutta or in Bombay. That only shows that we are such a peaceful sort of people and that is all the greater reason why we do not want anything to do with this Intelligence Department. In any case, in view of the fact that we want to show to the Government that we do not want a separate department, I want to press the motion. But I have no objection to making it a token motion by reducing the figure to Rs. 100 if the House will permit me to do so."

The House gave leave to the hon. Member Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar to amend the figure Rs. 25,000 into Rs. 100.

The motion as amended was put to the House and declared lost.

Motion No. 86.

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Sir, I beg to move

'that the allotment of Rs. 7,50,400 for pay of establishments be reduced by Rs. 1,900.'

[Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo] [26th March 1925]

"This is only just a small matter, Sir. I move for the reduction because I find that on page 159 while the budget was for 68 inspectors last year it is for 69 this year. I want that there should be a reduction by this one inspector. We have always wanted reduction in these posts and we have been asking for retrenchment in this direction of expenditure in the Police Department. We, on this side of the House at least, are for something being done to see that the number may not be increased and consequently to reduce expenditure. As I said, this is a small matter of the reduction of one inspector which is an addition for this year."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, the following motions deal with this question raised by my hon. Friend, viz., Nos. 528, 545, 547, 548, 554. And I propose with your leave to deal with all these motions together because to some extent the principles that were adumbrated in the remarks that fell from the hon. Member for Ganjam have been raised in these motions also and it is with a view to the existence of these motions in the agenda that I propose to make my remarks once for all on this motion. These motions are really for the reduction in the number of inspectors. In 1916-17 the Government tried an experiment . . ."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Sir, I have given the motion with regard to the reduction of inspectors. If you take 528 it is only for a small thing, viz., the reduction of one inspector. The general question of inspectorate is an economic point and we need not go into the general question on this motion. Now I think it is better that we proceed with this motion alone."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think particularly when we are pressed for time it may be convenient if hon. Members will allow all these motions about reduction of inspectors to be dealt with upon one motion. I will ask other hon. Members who have given notices of similar motion to speak if they choose to do so on this motion."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"As I said an experiment was tried in Trichinopoly and Kurnool where the inspectors were completely removed and in a modified form in Coimbatore where two inspectors were attached to each subdivisional officer for purposes of investigation and control of crime, the system of inspectors' circles having been abolished. But in 1919 the Inspector-General of Police reported that the system was a complete failure and that supervision over the work of sub-inspectors had become bad, investigation of crime unsatisfactory and discipline not up to the mark. In 1923 the Government thereupon remarked that though it may be possible to effect some reduction in their numbers, the grade of inspectors must be retained. As to the reduction in the number of inspectors it was discussed both by the Police Committee and the Retrenchment Committee. In the Police Committee it may be said a large number of Police officers sat and therefore it may be conceived that they have looked at the point from their own perspective. But the Retrenchment Committee . . ."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, may I point out that the Retrenchment Committee did not go into the matter but simply recorded the resolutions of the Police Committee?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The question may be legitimately asked as to why they did not go into the matter. If they had

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thought that the Police Committee had taken a wrong line of thought in arriving at their conclusion, it was perfectly open to the Retrenchment Committee to have gone into the matter themselves."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"That was exactly what it wanted to do, but it was told that a separate committee went into the matter and it was enough if we merely recorded its conclusions."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"All that I can say is that at all events there has been no case made out for retrenchment in this direction."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"Sir, one of the members of the committee I mean Mr. Ramanujam Ayyangar who occupied a responsible position in the Police Department himself recommended the abolition of the inspectorate. May I ask the hon. the Law Member why he did not give the gentleman a chance to try his suggestion?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"As I said before, I am afraid my hon. Friend did not hear me well. The experiment was tried in Trichinopoly specifically and in two or three other districts and it was found a failure."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"My point is this, Sir. In the report of the Police Committee this gentleman, himself a Police Superintendent, says that in his own district he was prepared to work without inspectors. I know Government made certain attempts in certain districts. In those places the district officials may not be prepared to have retrenchment in this direction. I therefore request the hon. the Law Member to say whether he seriously took this matter and asked this gentleman, Mr. Ramanuja Ayyangar, to work the system in his own district."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I have got the report of the Police Committee before me. Mr. Ramanuja Ayyangar was one of the members of the committee. The conclusion was that these inspectors could not be dispensed with."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"May I also point out that another gentleman, the second Presidency Magistrate, I believe it is Mr. Narayanaswami Reddi, has also recommended the abolition of the inspectorate?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Does the hon. Member suggest that if there are eight members in a committee and two or three out of them suggest a particular course to be adopted that the Government should at once take up the suggestion of these two or three. In this case the Government agreed with the view of the majority of the committee and came to the conclusion that it was not possible to abolish these inspectors. If a case is made out for the abolition of the posts or for the reduction of the number the matter will be considered. That is my position at the present moment. Now, let me point out what is obtaining in other places. So far as Calcutta is concerned the number is 39, in Bombay it is 46 and in Rangoon it is 20. Whereas in Madras it is only 10. As a matter of fact it would be impossible to reduce the number in Madras any further especially having regard to the Mambalam extension that will make the jurisdiction more extensive. I submit that any reduction is therefore impossible."

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* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I am yet to see a member coming before the House and saying that retrenchment is possible in his department and that he will undertake it. The hon. the Law Member is no exception.

" Sir, I come from a district in which as the hon. the Law Member said, the experiment has been partially tried. What do we find now? Originally there were Inspectors with one personal assistant to the Superintendent at the headquarters. Now, under the new scheme, we have got inspectors, and three Deputy Superintendents in addition to the Superintendent. That is how retrenchment is effected. We wanted to try the experiment in the case of inspectors and the result is that the number of Deputy Superintendents has been increased to three. If this is the sort of retrenchment that they are going to make, I think we can say 'Save us from those gentlemen who are trying retrenchment'. So far as we in the mufassal are concerned, we are yet to find what the real functions of these inspectors are. The hon. the Law Member said that they are there to help the sub-inspectors. The moment a crime is committed, the sub-inspector is expected to go to the scene at once. When is he to take advice from the inspector? Before he is able to take advice, perhaps half the investigation will be over. Is he to go in for a second investigation? No doubt, it is sometimes done, but not on the advice that is got from inspectors.

" Well, Sir, what work are the Deputy Superintendents doing? The same thing. They are, with the inspectors, helping the poor sub-inspectors. The sub-inspectors are bound to get information, and are expected to run at once to the scene of occurrence. Then the Deputy Superintendent may come there a week hence and he may find fault with what the sub-inspector has done or he may start altogether a new enquiry, with the inevitable result, that when the case goes to the sessions, it is thrown out mainly on account of the interference which comes a week later. That has been the experience in several cases of interference by inspectors and Deputy Superintendents, who do not go to the scene of occurrence at once, but take their own time and afterwards interfere with the work of the sub-inspectors, and this has resulted in several cases being thrown out in the sessions. That has been the result of overstaffing this department. There is absolutely no necessity, so far as the poor people in the district are concerned, for these two grades of officers, the inspector and the Deputy Superintendent. One set will be more than adequate for the purpose for which these officers exist, and one of these can very well do for maintaining the efficiency of the department. That is the opinion in the mufassal. I do hope that although the hon. the Law Member has stated like the heads of other departments that his department is not open to any more retrenchment, still he would listen to the voice of the public for whose benefit the police are supposed to exist. This experiment of decreasing the inspectors has only resulted in increasing the number of Deputy Superintendents and at the same time maintaining the whole strength of inspectors. This is not at all satisfactory. This is a matter which does require urgent looking into."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, this motion raises two questions: one is about the abolition of the grade of inspectors, and the other is about the reduction in the grade of inspectors. Viewed from other standpoints, I am afraid the hon. the Law Member has not thoroughly examined the question and come to conclusions. In any case, the reply given by him that it was tried for two years and the Government

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came to the conclusion in 1919 that it was a failure is a reply which we must consider as highly disappointing. I should consider that this system has not been given a fair and proper trial. Before the hon. the Law Member can expect us to accept his statement, I should like to know on what principle and on what considerations those districts were originally selected, whether those districts which were selected were in charge of superintendents who really believed in the desired change, in the trying of the experiment, and whether it was tried in the district in charge of Mr. Ramanujam Ayyangar who himself expressed the view favouring the abolition of inspectors. Every one is aware that if one in charge of the department goes into the question with the settled opinion as to the undesirability of the change, it is very difficult to expect a required result from him. There is one who himself feels that the change is desirable, that it should be tried. Therefore I should like to know whether in selecting districts any such principle was observed, whether care was taken to see that the experiment was given a proper trial. This is the first question that I would ask. Secondly, I think that the period of two years given for the purpose of trying the experiment is very short. Changes like the one under contemplation require a longer period and a careful consideration of the various circumstances which depend upon the sub-inspectors in the district, their qualifications, their character, their conduct and so on, and also the inspectors. Such being the case, to state that it was tried in two districts, that shortly after, in 1919, the Government came to the conclusion that it was a failure, is a thing which is certainly not satisfactory. In view of the feeling expressed that this duplication of machinery of sub-inspectors, inspectors and deputy superintendents is not necessary or is one that requires substantial modifications, I would request that a proper trial be given to the experiment, that it may be tried for a sufficiently long period and entrusted to persons who are prepared to give it a fair and reasonable trial before any conclusion is arrived at. From the information the hon. the Law Member has placed at our disposal, I think the Government has not given a fair trial."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—" Sir, as one coming from rural parts, I should like to say a few words regarding the police administration. I quite realize the nature of work they are doing and it may be admitted on the part of the Government that they are doing useful work. So far as the inspectors and deputy superintendents are concerned, as has already been pointed by the hon. Member from my district, they are merely adding additional wheels to the machinery of Government."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I would be obliged if my hon. Friend would indicate as to what particular wheel he would like to be eliminated."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—" The inspector; the double inspection. The nature of work turned out by inspectors can only be said to be reporting or supervision of cases. If we ask the sub-inspectors what work they are doing, they would themselves admit that they have a very large amount of writing business, because whether there is any important work to attend to or not, they must write their diary and submit it to their superior officers first. In this way, the efficiency of detecting work and investigation of crimes, with all these officers of high education and efficiency has very much declined. Responsibility is hard to be fixed, and in many cases it is very difficult to find where and in whom it rests as regards investigation and

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detection of crimes. They spend more time in attending to the official routine and other formalities than in detection of crime. Under the reformed arrangements made in the Police department, the work of detection has become very inefficient. Formerly, the police officers were doing good and efficient work in those areas. It has now become a thing of the past. At the time of the introduction of the new arrangement, people feared the police for their fine attire and head dress. When people found that these officers are more interested and careful only in attending to formalities and writing diaries and reports and not doing the real work which they are expected to do, detection and prevention of crime have now fallen down considerably and people have lost faith very much in their work. On account of their high educational qualifications, they did not want to exert themselves very much, apart from writing reports. Just at the time of the introduction of sub-inspectors, they were compulsorily asked to keep a horse, and that to some extent helped them in the investigation of crimes in the country parts. Now, I am told that system of compulsory keeping of animal has been abandoned; either they keep a bicycle or own a jutka and always have a nice road to go along. They are easy-going. That is how the work has suffered very much and expenditure to the State is increasing. Crimes are not properly investigated and people suffer for want of security and police protection. People are reluctant even to complain to the police. In those areas where criminal tribes are brought under the police supervision, those people there suffer very much. It affords another additional work for the police to report and show themselves as doing much work in that line. I therefore beg that subordinate officers may be given power to deal with cases without waiting for the inspector or superior officer to instruct them. Much delay will be avoided in the investigation of cases. I request that the constables and outposts may be increased and the superfluity of inspection work done away with."

Mr. J. D. SAMUEL:—"Mr. President, Sir, in my view the whole of the grade called 'Inspectors' grade' should be abolished. 4-30 p.m. Looking into the matter carefully, it will be seen that the working element in the Police department is the sub-inspector helped by a few police constables. What are the inspectors doing? Practically nothing. They are merely acting as post offices. There is absolutely no necessity for their interference with the work of the sub-inspectors. Sub-inspectors are men who can do their work well. These inspectors sitting in their chairs have been wrongly interfering with the work of the sub-inspectors. They do not know what the real work of the sub-inspectors is. Moreover, when we have courts which pass orders on the conduct of the investigation of cases, there is absolutely no necessity for this class of officers called inspectors. If real retrenchment is to be effected, I think the knife should first be applied to the inspectors. I am sorry I have to say such hard things against the inspectors, but in this opinion of mine I am fortified by the weighty words of experienced men contained in Volume II of the Retrenchment Committee Report. At page 154 Mr. T. Venkoba Rao says:

"The present-day circle inspectors are more or less a sort of "post office" between the Sub-Inspector and the District Superintendent of Police. As I have already pointed out, they do little or nothing by themselves. They are always ready to throw blame upon their sub-inspectors. The number of inspectors who may be said to be of any real use to their sub-inspectors is very small. I would recommend the abolition of the whole of the Circle Inspectorate."

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"There is the further fact that there is the Deputy Superintendent of Police between the Sub-Inspector and the District Superintendent. Another gentleman, Mr. N. Ramanuja Ayyangar, has written as follows which appears at page 160 of the report:

"I am inclined to the view that circle inspectors may be abolished and more divisions created."

"He then states thus in his note made on the new Police scheme of working without inspectors in the Trichinopoly district in the years 1916-18:

"From what I have seen of the work, I should say I like the scheme myself. It is more interesting work . . ."

"And then about the sub-inspectors, he says:

"The sub-inspectors seem to feel more happy under the direct supervision of the Deputy Superintendents. . . . The public seem to like the new work and appreciate it."

"Again, he says:

"Other advantages which have been noticed and which are sure to reflect beneficially on the public directly or indirectly are—

- (1) Quicker despatch of work,
- (2) Considerable diminution in the scriptory work of sub-inspectors, setting them free to devote more attention to their executive work,
- (3) More prompt and thorough inquiries by sub-inspectors,
- (4) Better opportunities of judging the work of sub-inspectors by coming in closer contact with them,
- (5) Greater freedom given to sub-inspectors and more initiative on the part of Deputy Superintendents with the resultant quick and effective action,
- (6) Considerable improved discipline in even outstations."

"Sir, these are the reasons given for the abolition of the Circle Inspectorate. At page 182 there is the opinion expressed by the Raja of Ramnad which is to the same effect. Then again there is the opinion of Dr. Subbarayan in favour of the abolition. So, I do not think there is any necessity for keeping on these people. It is better to have a deputy superintendent, a more educated man, to look after the work done by these people, all old men who have imbibed many things. It has been my humble experience and by saying that I do not mean to say that all circle inspectors are alike. In my opinion, therefore, there is no need for circle inspectors."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I would not take up much time of the Council in dealing with this question as I do not think I have much to add to what has already been said. I just want to bring to the notice of the House that there can be no two opinions as regards the necessity for retaining these circle inspectors. They ought to go. This question has been agitating my mind for some time and I have been really enquiring into it. My enquiries have been more of the circle inspectors themselves as some of them happen to be my friends more than of the public. The opinion of the sub-inspectors invariably is that these circle inspectors are post offices and that the work could be easily carried on without them. But one objection that they have to this abolition is that their chances of rising higher would be minimised. It seems to me that that is no reason why we should retain these unwanted men, the circle inspectors. The aspirations of the sub-inspectors can be met by promoting some of them as deputy superintendents. I do not mind if that is done. By retaining these circle inspectors the Government are really adding insult to injury already done

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to the sub-inspectors. There are many instances in which honest sub-inspectors have felt that the circle inspectors were standing in the way of their doing their duty. The existence of these two classes of officers, the deputy superintendents of police and the circle inspectors, is quite unnecessary. Besides the existence of a number of these corrupt circle inspectors is only adding to the injustice that is being done to the honest, capable and intelligent sub-inspectors. I hope the House would express its opinion on this token motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I believe the intention of hon. Members who have given notice of motions enumerated by the hon. the Law Member is the same, viz., whether the motions relate to the City Police Force or the mufassal, all that they wish to do is to express their opinion that the grade of inspectors is unnecessary. If that is so, they will, perhaps, as agreed upon by the House on a previous occasion, allow me to put the token motion first. If that is carried and if hon. Members who insist on a more substantial cut for the same purpose desire it, the motions for the larger cuts will be put. If the token motion is lost, it will be an indication that the House does not wish to proceed further."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am in the hands of the House. There were certain statements made by hon. Members with which I should like to deal; but if hon. Members are anxious to vote on this matter I do not want to say very much."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" The vote may be taken with reference to the mufassal police."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, I do not think I would be acting courteously to these hon. Members, who relying upon their experience and upon their information have sought to inform the House of the conclusions at which they have arrived, if I did not say a few words although I feel that the hon. Members are keen to go straight to a division on this matter."

" It seems to me that there is one underlying fallacy, if hon. Members will permit me to use that expression, that prevails through the whole of this argument. Hon. Members contend that inspectors should go. Let us take facts as they are. The inspectors and the deputy superintendents of police as they are now are two efficient and necessary police functionaries. When we have an ideal state of things when the sub-inspectors are conscientious men who, without supervision, will be able to undertake the work that falls on them, then we can do away with supervising agencies. The argument that has been adduced overlooks one important circumstance that has been stressed by the Report of the Police Committee. Sir, with your permission, let me read an extract from the Majority Report of the Police Committee which puts the matter in a nutshell and puts it, I contend, incisively and accurately :

" The functions of the inspector cannot be adequately exercised by the divisional officer who, by reason of the wide difference in rank, cannot mix as freely with his sub-inspectors and by reason of his comparatively large charge exercise the same intimate control. It is not a fact that the existence of inspectors renders sub-inspectors unnecessary and *vice versa* or that the reduction of both ranks involves a duplication of a subordinate supervising agency. The sub-inspector is not a supervising agency at all but as station house officer is the unit of administration and a subordinate supervising agency in the shape of the inspector is indispensable."

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" If hon. Members feel that the present sub-inspector, who is the unit of police administration according to the Majority Report of the Police Committee, is sufficient and adequate to perform all the functions that devolve upon him without any further supervision, it is open to them to say that."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" The Government may appoint a larger number of deputy superintendents of police."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" If hon. Members want to strengthen the grade of deputy superintendents of police so as to have effective supervision over sub-inspectors, I think the net result will not be very much different either in cost or in efficiency. The deputy superintendents of police will have such a large charge that they cannot bestow the necessary kind of supervision."

" Let me proceed and complete what I was reading"

Finally as with the superior officers it is essential for the maintenance of contentment and efficiency in the force that there should be prospects of promotion. The gap between the sub-inspector and the deputy superintendent is too wide to admit of direct promotion from the one to the other and in no case could the cadre of deputy superintendents be expanded to an extent which would provide opportunities for more than a very small proportion of sub-inspectors even if they were found deserving of such exaggerated advancement."

" Sir, the Police Commission made an investigation into this matter and it is because they came to the conclusion that the arrangements for the supervision of police work as then existed were defective that the present system with which we are now dealing was inaugurated. Now, Sir, there were specific arguments advanced with which I shall deal very shortly. In the first place, it was stated by the hon. Member from Coimbatore, Mr. Ramalinga Chettyar and also by Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar that the inspector was lolling in his easy-chair without going to the scene of offence. It seems to me that it may happen in some districts; I do not deny that. It may happen in a certain specified number of cases; but that was not the object with which the inspector was brought into existence. If the inspector either contents himself with inspecting from his easy-chair or if he makes a more effective inspection of the rupees that have been collected for him by the sub-inspector, that is not the function with which he is charged. On the other hand, the inspector, according to the orders of the Police department, should encourage, assist, as well as supervise and guide the investigation of important cases."

" Sir, in all these cases, the question is fundamentally a simple one and also it seems to me to be a very comprehensive one. It is this. If there is action and re-action with regard to public opinion and the work of the police officers, if public opinion makes itself felt with regard to the work of the police officers and if we are able to recruit men of efficiency, status and respectability so as to eliminate these supervising agencies, no one would insist upon an hierarchy of supervising agencies. It is because of the conditions that prevail especially with regard to this department that public opinion and the working of the Police department are to a certain extent divorced from each other and acting not convergently but divergently and it is because there is a wide gap in the subordinate ranks and there are no men of sufficient status and respectability so as to need no supervision that the question at all arises. It is in those directions that improvement and reform should proceed. It seems to me that under the present conditions,

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to take the supervising agency and to substitute only an increased number of deputy superintendents would be to aggravate the evils which were so picturesquely and fully described by hon. Members."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I shall put Motion No. 554 on the agenda vote."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am not in favour of my motion, although I have given notice of the same. After I gave notice, I have considered the question and I do not wish to move the motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Possibly the motion was tabled to elicit some information. The hon. Member does not wish to press the motion even as a token motion, to vote?"

" I would request the hon. Member, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, to amend his motion No. 548 as I first advised him to do."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I have no objection to amend the motion in the following form." ' I move that the allotment be reduced by Rs. 100 instead of by Rs. 1,001."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" The allotment is only for the Mufassal Police and not for the City Police."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I thought that all the hon. Members who spoke on this motion wished that the cadre of inspectors should either go or be reduced considerably in strength. If hon. Members wish the two motions to be put separately, I have no objection whatever. I thought that the intention of the House was that only one motion should be dealt with."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am desirous to elicit the opinion of the House as regards the question of inspectors. Probably there is an idea prevailing in the minds of some hon. Members that if the motion regarding the City Police is not put, I may take advantage of that. Whatever may be the vote, I take it that the object of the vote is to ascertain the feeling of the House and to record the feeling of the House on the question of the existence of inspectors as such."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" The motion is as regards the Mufassal Police and not as regards the City Police."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I would ask the hon. Member who moved the motion what his intention is."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" It is to be taken for the whole police."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member Mr. Sasibhushan Rath will be satisfied if one motion is put."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" I have not spoken about the City Police."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I gave intimation, after the hon. the Law Member had made his remarks, that I would call upon every hon. Member who wished to speak to do so; and after hon. Members had spoken for a certain length of time there was a general expression of desire that this debate should be terminated and that the Council should proceed to vote on the motion."

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Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" It is a question of the inspectorate in the city also being reduced."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" If the hon. Member likes, he may avail himself of another opportunity to press his own point of view. For the present, I shall put the motion to vote."

The motion of Mr. Sasibhushan Rath was by leave withdrawn.

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I beg to amend my Motion No. 548 (on the agenda) and to move ' that the sum of Rs. 88,05,200 for pay of establishments be reduced by Rs. 100 '."

The motion was put to the vote and carried; and the reduction was made.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The House will adjourn till 11 o'clock to-morrow. The debate will continue for 1½ hours after ' Questions and Answers ' to-morrow."

The House accordingly adjourned.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 27th March 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI AVARGAL, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the chair.

I

NEW MEMBERS.

The following members were sworn in :

- (1) Captain C. R. CAMPBELL, D.S.O., M.V.O., R.I.M.
- (2) Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN, I.C.S.

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The House will now proceed to deal with the starred questions left over yesterday."

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Civil Justice.

Mode of calling parties and witnesses in courts.

* 657 Q.—Mr. K. RAGHUCHANDRA BALLAL: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that parties and witnesses before all civil, criminal and revenue courts in South Kanara are called by their names in the vernaculars in the singular number which is not respectful; and

(b) the Government's objections, if any, to stop the practice by a Government Order?

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A.—The Government have not so far received any complaints that witnesses are called by their names in any disrespectful manner. The Government have no doubt that the presiding officers of the courts will deal suitably with any such cases as may be brought to their notice.

Public Prosecution of South Kanara.

* 658 Q.—MR. K. RAGHUCHANDRA BALLAL: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have ascertained the opinion of the District Superintendent of Police regarding the Collector's recommendation of Mr. Mahabala Hegde for the Public Prosecution of South Kanara;

(b) whether the Government have been guided by communal reasons in making the said appointment; and

(c) what is the number of vakalathnamas filed by the said appointee during the last three years in civil and criminal courts singly by himself and in conjunction with others?

A.—(a) No.

(b) No.

(c) The Government have no information.

MR. S. SATYAMURTI:—"With reference to the answer to clause (c), I remember the hon. the Law Member told us that it was because this gentleman was the leading member of the bar he was appointed. How did they come to that conclusion, without having an idea of the number of vakalathnamas filed by him?"

THE HON. MR. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"We were informed by the Collector and the District Judge that he was a leading member of the bar."

MR. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Then it is not the information of the Government. It is only the acceptance of the information supplied to them by others."

THE HON. MR. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"It is impossible for the Government to scrutinize the number of vakalathnamas."

G.O. No. 1662 (Judicial), 1924, regarding recommendation of persons for office of Public Prosecutors.

* 659 Q.—MR. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to lay on the table G.O. No. 1662 (Judicial), dated May 1924, containing instruction for the guidance of District Magistrates and Sessions Judges in the matter of recommending persons for the office of Public Prosecutors?

A.—The Government do not consider it expedient to place on the table the instructions issued to their officers.

MR. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether the Government Order in question is one marked 'Confidential'?"

THE HON. MR. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I believe so; I shall verify."

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MR. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know the reasons why Government do not consider it expedient to place on the table the instructions issued to their officers? Is it because public interest will be affected or because the instructions are likely to be adversely criticised by the public?"

THE HON. MR. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Not the second reason, Sir."

Criminal Justice.

Alleged arrest of three mirasidars of Maruthuvakudi.

* 660 Q.—MR. V. PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that three mirasidars of the village of Maruthuvakudi were recently arrested by the Sub-Magistrate of Tiruvadamaruthur;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government have further extended the order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, against the villagers of Maruthuvakudi for a period of six months after the expiry of the original order;

(c) whether the villagers preferred an appeal to the District Collector against the order of the Sub-Magistrate and, if so, the result of it; and

(d) whether the hon. Member received any memorial or petition from the villagers of Maruthuvakudi about the 'Corpse route affair', and if so, what action was taken upon it?

A.—(a) The Government have seen a newspaper report to that effect.

(b) It was extended for four months.

(c) The Government have no information.

(d) Yes. It was transferred to the District Magistrate, Tanjore, for disposal.

Release of a "French Mechanic".

* 661 Q.—MR. V. PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the offence for which the 'French Mechanic' referred to in the leaderette of the *Hindu* of 23rd February 1925 was convicted;

(b) the unexpired portion of his conviction at the time of release;

(c) whether Government had received any petition from the prisoner himself either after or prior to His Excellency's visit to the Penitentiary praying for his release and if so, the reasons stated therein; and

(d) if the answer to (c) be in the negative, the reasons for his release?

A.—(a) Culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

(b) Six months excluding any remission which he might have earned in the first six months' imprisonment.

(c) No.

(d) The hon. Member is referred to answer to question No. 603.

MR. S. SATYAMURTI:—"With reference to the answer to clause (c), stating that Government received no petition from the prisoner, may I take it that Government acted *suo motu* in this case as distinguished from other prisoners?"

THE HON. MR. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"No, Sir. The prisoner represented matters in person."

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Alleged dacoities in Salem.

* 662 Q.—MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that burglaries have recently taken place in the main streets in the most densely peopled parts of Salem in which the dacoits freely used firearms;

(b) whether it is a fact that two persons lost their lives as a result of use of firearms by the dacoits;

(c) whether a state of panic prevails in the town on account of these dacoities and whether the inhabitants held public meetings and addressed the local authorities and the Inspector-General of Police praying for adequate protection of life and property; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to prevent such dacoities in the place?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have made inquiries and find that the accounts in the newspapers have been greatly exaggerated. At the attempted housebreaking in Shevapet in February, an alarm was raised before any theft was committed. The thief had a muzzle loading gun which he discharged at random and one of the shots passed through the heart of a 12-year old boy who was standing near by and he was killed. There has been no other case recently of the use of a firearm by thieves in Salem.

(c) The Government are not aware of any state of panic existing in the town. The District Magistrate held a conference, but the Government have no information regarding other public meetings.

(d) The District Magistrate reports that no dacoities in the legal sense occurred in Salem in February. The Government do not consider that any situation has arisen calling for measures which are beyond the power of the local officers.

Police.*Police constables' strike at Kumbakonam.*

* 663 Q.—MR. V. PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government can place on the table all papers connected with the Police constables' strike at Kumbakonam;

(b) the immediate cause that precipitated the strike;

(c) how many constables were suspended, how many dismissed and how many sent to jail;

(d) whether Government propose to take any of them back to service; and

(e) whether the strikers alleged in their petition or during inquiry by the Deputy Superintendent of Police that the senior Sub-Inspector and the Town Inspector had ill-treated them, and, if so, what action was taken thereupon?

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A.—(a) The judgments^a of the First-class Subdivisional Magistrate and of the Sessions Court are placed on the table.

(b) The immediate cause was the punishment of a constable for neglecting his duty.

(c) Forty-one men were suspended.

Fifteen men were dismissed.

Eleven men were convicted and sentenced by a Court to imprisonment.

(d) Men dismissed or convicted and sentenced by a Court to imprisonment will not be taken back to service.

(e) The Government have no information.

Government Servants' Conduct Rules.*Presence of Government officials at social functions.*

* 664 Q.—MR. V. PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is an order of Government prohibiting district officials to be present at any social function arranged in their honour; and

(b) whether or not Government approve the presence of officials at the tea party given by Mr. Abdulla of the Aduthurai tannery in which the District Collector and the Superintendent of Police were reported to have been present?

A.—(a) The only rule^b which has any bearing on the subject is rule 3 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

(b) The Government have no information on the subject.

MR. S. SATYANURTI:—"May I ask the hon. Member whether the Government took any steps to satisfy themselves that the rule is observed by their subordinates? If the Government have no information, how then did they satisfy themselves that this order is being obeyed by the subordinates?"

THE HON. MR. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Unless they have information to the contrary, the Government presume that their subordinates are obeying the rules."

MR. S. SATYANURTI:—"Do the Government then shut their eyes and think that the orders are being obeyed?"

THE HON. MR. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Does the hon. Member mean to suggest that any infraction of the rules has been committed?"

MR. S. SATYANURTI:—"The question asks whether Government approve the presence of officials at the tea party given by Mr. Abdulla in which the District Collector and the Superintendent of Police were reported to have been present. May I know whether, after the receipt of this question, Government have satisfied themselves whether the party was attended by these Government servants or not?"

THE HON. MR. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Government have no information as to whether there is any such person as Mr. Abdulla of the Aduthurai tannery, as to whether Mr. Abdulla gave a tea party, or as to whether

^a Printed as Appendix I on pages 849-864 infra. ^b Printed as Appendix II on page 865 infra.

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any Government officials were present. If the hon. Member suggests that there has been an infraction of the rules, I shall be glad if he will say so definitely."

Land Revenue.

Grant of Government land for cultivation in Adoni taluk, Bellary.

* 665 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government poramboke survey Nos. 268, 178, 179, 196-A and 470 of Kowtalam, Adoni taluk, are used by the village people for grazing their cattle;

(b) whether the areas in them fit for grazing are proposed to be assigned on patta for cultivation; and

(c) whether there are any other Government wastes available in the village for grazing of cattle and, if so, the extent thereof?

A.—The Government have no information.

Village establishments.

Uniforms, pay, etc., of talaiyaris, vettis, etc.

* 666 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have already reinstated the village menials, viz., talaiyaris, vettis, etc., since the amalgamation took place;

(b) whether the Government intend or propose to give uniforms to these talaiyaris, vettis, etc.; and

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the pay of these village menials, viz., talaiyaris, vettis, etc.?

A.—(a) No.

(b) & (c) No such proposals are before the Government.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know whether the Government will at least now consider the question of reinstating those talaiyaris who have been working faithfully and loyally for several years together?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"That question is under consideration."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I ask the hon. Member whether any bigger appointments were created after sending away these men?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"This does not arise out of the answer."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"With reference to the answers to clauses (b) and (c), may I ask whether the Government will at least now consider these proposals?"

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Education.

The 'Nambudiri' community.

* 667 Q.—Rao Bahadur O. M. NARAYANAN NAMBU DIRIPAD: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is not a fact that the Nambudiri community is one of the most backward communities in the Presidency in point of English education;

(b) whether the Government have made any inquiries as to why the community is slow to take advantage of the existing facilities for education;

(c) whether it is a fact that this deplorable condition of the community is mainly due to the many religious and social habits and customs which preclude their youths from joining the ordinary public schools until comparatively a late age in life, and not due to any lack of desire or enthusiasm on their part for education and culture;

(d) whether representations have not been made to Government by the spokesmen of the community through addresses presented to successive Governors in the course of their tours in the West Coast pointing out these disabilities and praying for the opening of special schools for their benefit; and

(e) whether the Government propose to take any steps in the matter?

A.—(a) The Government believe that this is the case.

(b) No.

(c) & (d) Representations have been made to Government as referred to in the question.

(e) The community as a whole is well-to-do and the initiative in the matter should be taken by them.

Rao Bahadur O. M. NARAYANAN NAMBU DIRIPAD:—"May I know when the Government propose to take steps in the matter?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Government do not propose to take any steps at present."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"May I know the reason why?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"The answer already says that the initiative in the matter must be taken by themselves."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Sir, I know there are rich people in the community. But if they fail to take the lead and do their duty by the community, should not Government come forward in a matter like this?"

Rao Sabib P. V. GOPALAN:—"May I ask whether Government have started any special school for any special community except the Nambudiri community?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"I do not recollect any special schools have been established."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"May I point out that there are special schools for the pupils of the fishermen community and the pupils of the Mappilla community and ask why Government should not start special schools for the pupils of the Nambudiri community also?"

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The Government have given the answer to the question and there is no doubt about the answer given."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—"May I ask the hon. the Minister for Education whether he is aware that special schools have been started for the Nambudiris in the Cochin State and that they are working very successfully?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I am not aware."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—"Is the hon. the Minister of opinion that there are no poor people in the Nambudiri community who can take any initiative in the matter?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Minister has said 'community as a whole'."

Day School in Kalpathy Agraharam.

* 668 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) with reference to question No. 124 answered at the meeting, dated 5th February 1925, regarding the Day school in Kalpathy Agraharam, whether the report said to have been called for has already been received; and

(b) if so, whether the Government will lay a copy of the report on the table of the Council?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the letter, dated 3rd February 1925, from the District Educational Officer, Malabar, is laid on the Council table.^a

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"Sir, with reference to the answer to clause (b) the Educational Officer himself says in his report that admission is denied to the depressed classes. In such a case may I know whether Government have asked the Palghat Municipal Council why they should locate the school in the middle of the Agraharam?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"It is engaging the attention of the officers?"

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know whether Government have given any grants to that school?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"The question, as I said, is being enquired into by the officers."

The feeding of pupils in elementary schools.

* 669 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a G.O. No. 1890, dated 3rd December 1924, was passed to the effect that no expenditure should in future be incurred on the feeding of pupils in elementary schools from the Elementary Education Fund under the control of the presidents of taluk boards, chairmen of municipal councils and the President, Corporation of Madras; and

^a Placed on the table on the 21st March 1925—vide Communication to the Council relating to that date.

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(b) whether it is a fact that the poorer class of pupils in elementary schools of the Corporation of Madras City are being fed now; if so, the fund from which the expenses are met?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government have no information. The order in question has been communicated to the Corporation of Madras.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"Sir, with reference to (a), may I know whether Government have suggested to the local bodies any other source from which they can obtain money for feeding the pupils of the depressed classes?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"It is open to the local bodies to utilize funds specified for this purpose."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I know the reasons why Government have passed this Government Order?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Because it was referred to them."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I am not questioning the power of the Government. I am only asking the reasons which prompted the Government to pass an order prohibiting the use of the funds for feeding the poor pupils, which is very necessary if the poor pupils are to be educated."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Government realize that it is very necessary; but they say that the fees which were levied for certain specific purposes must be utilized for those purposes only."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Have Government set apart or do they propose to set apart any other funds for the purpose?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"The local bodies have to raise funds."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"If the local bodies raise funds, will Government also help them in giving elementary education?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Grants for elementary education are guided by rules already published."

Elementary schools under public management.

* 670 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of schools (elementary) that are now being run under the public management in the Presidency since the passing of G.O. No. 329, Home (Education), dated 17th March 1919;

(b) in how many elementary schools the pupils of the depressed classes are admitted out of the total number of schools run by the public bodies; and

(c) whether any medical inspection is being made in all these schools?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 323 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 4th March 1925.

(c) No.

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Co-operation.*Request for a Land Bank to Sattur taluk.*

* 671 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether any resolution has been passed in 1923 by the co-operative societies of Sattur taluk, Ramnad district, requesting to sanction one land bank to Sattur taluk; and whether it was communicated to the Government;

(b) whether any step has been taken in the matter; and

(c) how many banks have been opened in the Presidency till now?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) A scheme for the promotion of Land Mortgage banks has been drawn up. If the people of Sattur taluk are now in a position to find the necessary capital to finance a bank, it is for them to make proposals, which the Government will be glad to consider on their merits.

(c) One at Conjeeveram.

Societies started by Honorary Assistant Registrar appointed to supervise Kallar societies.

* 672 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state, with reference to question No. 329 answered at the meeting of the 4th March 1915, how many societies were started or organized by the Honorary Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies who was appointed to supervise Kallar societies?

A.—The Government have called for the information.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—“Sir, may I know why the particular appointment was given to that particular candidate since he had not taken any active part in the co-operative department?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—“Government thought that he was a competent man for the post. Subsequent reports go to show that he has not been working satisfactorily. In fact, it is very difficult to find a suitable person to occupy that place so far as the Kallar societies are concerned.”

Depressed class members as Honorary Assistant Registrars.

* 673 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state with reference to question No. 395 answered on 5th March 1925—

(a) how many members of the depressed classes were appointed as Honorary Assistant Registrars for the Co-operative Societies for the year 1924-25; and

(b) their names and the districts to which they were so appointed?

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A.—

Names of the Honorary Assistant Registrars.	District in which appointed.
1. M.R.Ry. Vinaraghavalu Bahadur ...	Chingleput.
2. V. S. Mark, Esq. ...	Do.
3. M.R.Ry. Gudipati Premayya Garu, M.L.C. ...	Guntur.
4. „ Chilukoti Venkataswami Garu ...	Kistna.
5. „ Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja Avargal, Madras. M.L.C.	

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—“With reference to the answer to clause (a), may I know why only five persons belonging to the depressed classes were nominated as honorary assistant registrars?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—“More would have been appointed if competent men were available.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—“May I know what has become of the long list of persons suitable for the post which I gave to the hon. the Minister?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—“That was after the nominations had been made. They will be considered next time.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—“May I know whether any preliminary inquiries have been made regarding their fitness for the post?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—“They are being made.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—“May I know the result of those inquiries?”

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“We should pass on to the next question.”

Industries.

Proposals to participate in the Wembley Exhibition.

* 674 Q.—Mr. P. ANJANEYULU: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether this Government have received or considered any proposals to participate in the continuance of the Wembley Exhibition in London in 1925 after his reply to question No. 210, dated 7th February 1925; and

(b) if so, what those proposals are?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the press communiqué* issued by the Government of India on 19th February 1925, a copy of which is appended. This Government have decided not to participate in the exhibition.

[For further starred questions, please see page 774 infra.]

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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.**Forests.***Sale price of timber supplied to Russellkonda saw-mills.*

675 Q.—Mr. M. RATNASWAMI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what the price is of timber sold by the Forest Department to the Russellkonda saw-mills;

(b) whether this price has been objected to by the Accountant-General or Chief Conservator of Forests or by any official on behalf of Government;

(c) whether Messrs. Parry & Co. at any time refused to buy timber from the Forest Department on higher rate than they were willing to pay for it and threatened to close down the saw-mills if timber was not sold to them at their price; and

(d) how the cost of felling and transporting one cubic foot of timber compared with the price Messrs. Parry & Co. are willing to pay for it?

A.—(a) Four annas a cubic foot.

(b), (c) & (d) Timber is not sold to Messrs. Parry & Co., but is supplied to the saw-mill which is the property of Government at a price which is fixed for account purposes by the Chief Conservator of Forests. There is no question of Messrs. Parry & Co. refusing to buy or of their being willing or unwilling to pay any particular price.

Irrigation.*Palayakayal tank in Tinnevely district.*

676 Q.—Rao Bahadur CRUZ FERNANDEZ: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of improving the supply of water to the Palayakayal tank, Srivaikuntam taluk in the Tinnevely district, is pending for a very long time;

(b) whether it is a fact that the owners of wet lands under the said tank have been incessantly petitioning the district authorities about the insufficient supply of water to their tank and the consequent failure of crops under it;

(c) whether it is a fact that no steps have been taken so far to augment the supply of water to the said tank in spite of the assurances given by the district authorities that arrangements were being made to improve the supply; and

(d) whether any proposals for improving the supply to the above tank, which were said to have been called for in the reply to question No. 132 in this Council in 1914, have been since received and if so, what those proposals are and what orders have been passed by Government on them?

A.—Proposals for improving the water-supply to the Palayakayal tank, Srivaikuntam Anicut System, were submitted by the Superintending Engineer in 1915 and the estimate therefor was sanctioned by Government in February 1918. The Government have not received any complaints or petitions since.

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Land Revenue.*Proposal for opening a sub-treasury in Devakotta taluk.*

677 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. M. M. MURUGAPPA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government propose to open a sub-treasury in the Devakotta taluk in the Ramnad district and if so, where they propose to locate it?

A.—The matter is under consideration.

Jamabandi prior to kistbandi, Tanjore district.

678 Q.—Mr. V. PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Collector of Tanjore has issued circulars to his subordinates in the taluk of Kumbakonam that the jamabandi for the current fasli will be held before the kistbandi is over;

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, whether such circulars have been issued to all other taluks in the district; and

(c) the usual period in a fasli when jamabandis used to be held in previous years?

A.—In March 1923 the Board of Revenue with the object of simplifying and expediting jamabandi issued instructions to all Collectors pointing out, *inter alia*, that jamabandi should ordinarily take place earlier in the year than was customary in many districts. In pursuance of the Board's instructions jamabandi was in Tanjore district commenced in February both last year (1924) and this year. Before that, it was usual to commence it either in February or March and sometimes, though rarely, even in April. The instructions in question have no reference to the kistbandi and the Collector of Tanjore has not issued circulars to the effect suggested in clause (a) of the question.

Education.*Alleged misrepresentation of facts about the Prophet in a Telugu History of India.*

679 Q.—Munshi ABDUL WAHAB SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telugu History of India published by Mr. G. V. Sitapati, Lecturer in History in Raja's College, Parlakimedi, contains several contemptuous misrepresentations of fact regarding the Holy Prophet;

(b) whether the Government have received any memorials from the Muhammadan Literary Society, Nellore, and from other Muhammadan societies of this Presidency protesting against such misrepresentations;

(c) if so, what action has been taken by the Government in the matter; and

(d) if not, why not?

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- A.—(a) & (b) Memorials have been received from Muhammadans objecting to certain statements made in the book referred to.
 (c) The Director of Public Instruction has been asked to inform the author of the book that he should amend the portions objected to and that till such amendment is carried out the book will be removed from the list of books approved for use in schools.
 (d) Does not arise.

Reference to the Holy Prophet in Mr. G. Sitapati's Telugu History of India.

680 Q.—MR. MUHAMMAD MOOSA SAIT: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he has seen a copy of Mr. G. Sitapati's Telugu History of India;
 (b) whether it is a fact that in the said book the author has made certain disparaging references to the Holy Prophet in a manner which would wound Muslim feelings;
 (c) whether he has received any representations from the Muslims of Rajahmundry protesting against the said references to the Prophet;
 (d) if so, what action he has taken or propose to take to meet Muslim wishes, against the book as well as its author; and
 (e) how long ago was the book published and whether it was used for any length of time as a text-book for any class?

A.—(a) No.

(b) to (d) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 679.

(e) The information is not available.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Forests.

Provision of water-supply to cattle grazing in Jettai Gutta forest reserve, Bellary.

* 681 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the extent and the nature of the provision of water-supply for cattle permitted to graze in the Jettai Gutta reserve, with reference to villages for the cattle for which permits are issued?

A.—There is no source of water-supply in the reserve itself; but there are many tanks at distances of about a mile from the reserve boundary.

Jails.

Alleged ill-treatment of prisoners in Alipuram jail.

* 682 Q.—MR. K. UPPI SAHIB: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether since four or five months ago there has been any special reason for treating the prisoners of Alipuram jail more severely than before;

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(b) the reasons for punishing about 150 prisoners with bar fetters simultaneously;

(c) whether it is a fact that many more were threatened with the same severe punishment;

(d) whether it is a fact that the present Superintendent gives bar fetters to prisoners for a month and more;

(e) whether it is a fact that prisoners in this jail are chained all nights to pikes or are chained together;

(f) whether a number of prisoners have only a single chatti or earthen-pot to take their food and no water allowed to wash this pot;

(g) whether the water-supply to this jail is very insufficient and whether very often the prisoners had to go without washing themselves after answering the calls of nature;

(h) whether it is a fact that many of the prisoners go naked for want of jail uniforms and many others are in langotti only;

(i) whether the jail medical officer pays little heed to the sufferings of the prisoners, and sick prisoners are refused admission to the jail hospital;

(j) whether any prisoner who was discharged from the jail hospital and was supported to his ward died soon after he reached there; and

(k) whether it is a fact that the present Superintendent of this jail makes prisoners stand in the burning sun of Bellary from morning till evening and that for days, and some of them are suffering from sunstroke sores?

A.—(a) The prisoners are not being treated more severely than before.

(b) In December last, 122 prisoners who were evading work were collected in a separate block and allotted work. They overpowered the guard and escaped from the block. They were therefore put in link fetters.

(c) No.

(d) The Superintendent awards bar fetters only when this becomes necessary as a jail punishment.

(e) Prisoners are secured at night by belchans.

(f) No. All prisoners have regulation eating and drinking vessels. Water is provided and is plentiful.

(g) No. The new water-supply scheme for the Alipuram jail is now complete and there is plentiful supply of water.

(h) No.

(i) No.

(j) The only death which has occurred out of hospital was that of an old man of 74, member of an invalid gang who died of heart failure on the night of the 11th October 1924. He did no work, was under out-patient treatment for a few days previously, and appeared as well as usual on the day preceding the death. Medical assistance was available as soon as he took ill, and he died under treatment.

(k) No. Some of the prisoners work in the open air as in other jails and as workmen do outside jails. There have been no cases of sunstroke. The majority of the convicts work in sheds.

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"The answer is that prisoners are not treated more severely than before. May I ask whether they are usually treated severely and if so why?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid, Sir, that I do not know what standard the hon. Member goes upon. At any rate, the Jail department do not, and I do not, regard the treatment in the Alipuram jail as severe."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"What is the period referred to here?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid I cannot say exactly; it may be a month, but certainly it is a considerable period."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Was any attempt made to bring home to the minds of the prisoners why they were punished?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"An attempt was made to find out the ring-leaders with the object of punishing them. But unfortunately the Superintendent did not succeed in discovering the ring-leaders. Therefore the whole body of prisoners had to be punished. They were put in link fetters."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask whether the Jail Code contemplates 11-15 a.m. mass punishment, punishment even to those who are not guilty?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I do not see how the question arises. The Superintendent tried to find out who the chief offenders were and if he failed to find them out, he was quite prepared to punish the offenders *en masse*, if the occasion demanded it."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Therefore, Sir, I am asking whether if the Superintendent fails to find out the ring-leader he may punish the prisoners *en masse* all the 150 prisoners."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The answer to that is the Superintendent did not find out who the ring-leaders were. If he had found out who the ring-leaders were, he would have preferred to punish them chiefly. Not being able to find out the ring-leaders, he was entirely justified in punishing all of them."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"The answer to clause (e) is 'prisoners are secured at night by belchains.' May I know what is meant by 'belchain'?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"A belchain is a chain which passes through the ankle rings of a number of prisoners and is used for the purpose of securing them at nights."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Does this not remind us of the Prisoner of Chillon? Is this barbarous system of punishment still in vogue?"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"What is the number of prisoners who are subjected to this punishment?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The greater part of the prisoners at the Alipuram jail are secured at night by these belchains. Their sleeping place is a verandah and because it is an open verandah it is used."

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Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"May I ask whether any of the visitors made any remarks about this episode?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"So far as I am aware, no remarks were made about this episode. Apparently they were unconscious of the occurrence."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"Is it not a fact that ankle rings were done away with some time ago?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"They were certainly not done away with at Alipuram."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Is the visitors' book kept regularly and is there any system by which the Superintendent informs the visitors of such extraordinary things like this?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I cannot say that. I accept my hon. Friend's reference to the incident as 'extraordinary'. Although the number of prisoners punished on this occasion seems large, if we take into consideration the total number of prisoners in the jail, it is a small number. I do not know whether the matter was reported to the visitors by the Superintendent."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Suppose, Sir, these prisoners want to attend to calls of nature? What is the remedy? Some 20 or 30 people are chained by one chain and many of them may have to attend to calls of nature?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid I am not acquainted with that detail, but shall get the hon. Member the information if he likes."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask what is the average period for which that punishment is awarded by the Superintendent?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I do not think I have the information. No such average has been worked out."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask the Government whether they will be pleased to call for the information?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"May I ask my hon. Friend whether it is his suggestion that the present Superintendent has been awarding this punishment for a longer period than used to be the case? If there is any foundation for my hon. Friend's suggestion, I am prepared to call for the information."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"May I remind the hon. the Home Member that in the answer it is given 'that the present Superintendent gives bar fetters to prisoners for a month and more'?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"A specific question is asked for what period the present Superintendent usually gives bar fetters. Probably he is under the impression that it is for a longer period than is normal and proper. If there is any foundation for that idea, I am quite prepared to call for the information."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"None of us here is asking questions on account of idle curiosity. I am asking this supplementary question with a view to find out whether the Superintendent gives punishment for one month and more, or even for a greater period. I am surprised that we are called upon to put in affidavits for the sake of putting supplemental questions. I do not think it is fair that we should be called upon to do so. I am simply asking what is the average."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am prepared to consider it if any useful purpose would be served by calling for information. As regards the complaint made by my hon. Friend that he should not be called upon to put in affidavits and so forth, I too think that it is not fair for him to make insinuations in the form of supplementary questions when there is no foundation for such insinuations."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask for your ruling on this matter, Sir, namely, whether we can ask questions with regard to facts which take place in the departments under the control of Government in the form of allegations, and are we not entitled to ask the Government to substantiate those allegations or to deny them if they are not true? Are we to do it or are the Government to do it?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"With reference to the answer given by the Government that 'the Superintendent awards bar fetters only when this becomes necessary as a jail punishment', the hon. Member wanted to know further for how long, i.e., the average time for which the Superintendent gives that punishment. I think there is nothing objectionable in that."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"If I may be allowed to point out, my objection was on the ground that there was indication that there was something substantially against the present Superintendent. On that ground I asked my hon. Friend whether he was suggesting that the present Superintendent was giving punishments for a longer period than other Superintendents had done. If my hon. Friend wants general information as to the extent and the average period for which the punishment has been given, I have no objection to call for the same. I am merely asking whether he intends to suggest some charge against the present Superintendent."

Mr. P. ANJANEYALU :—"May I know whether any visitors to this jail recorded their impression that the treatment given to the prisoners was more severe than it ought to be?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"As I have already said, I am quite prepared to make inquiries on the point."

Mr. P. ANJANEYALU :—"May I know the name of the present Superintendent?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"It is in the Civil List."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"We have heard a statement to the effect that no useful purpose will be served by calling for information. We want to know whether it is not for us to say whether any useful purpose will be served or not, or it is for the Government to say that. I can understand your saying or the House saying that, but I cannot understand the Government

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saying 'it would serve no useful purpose'. We do not consider that it is a proper answer for them to give and, if they are to say so, it would amount to lenying their duty."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think the hon. Member has undertaken to get the information."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know whether the prisoner aged 74 who died in the jail was fed on European diet or Indian diet?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid I have not got any official information. But it seems likely that he was fed on Indian diet."

Labour.

Labour conditions in coffee and tea plantations in the Presidency.

* 683 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Labour Commissioner and his subordinates have visited the coffee, tea and other plantations within this Presidency to inspect the residential arrangements made for the workmen in these plantations, with the necessary sanitary, hygienic and other amenities of life;

(b) if so, which are the plantations visited and inspected by the Labour Commissioner and what places;

(c) what defects he found in the residential and other arrangements required for the health and comfort of the workmen; and

(d) what are the various wages paid to workmen in the plantations or the average wage?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Kodanaad and Curzon Tea Estates in the Nilgiris district.

(c) No defects have been reported to Government.

(d) The following statement shows the wages given in the several plantations :—

	Anamalai.	Nilgiri Wynaad.	Malabar Wynaad.	Malabar (Calicut and Ernad taluks).	Salem.
	AS.	AS.	AS.	AS.	AS.
Men ..	7	7 to 8	7 to 8	5, 6, 7 and 7½	5 to 6 †
Women ..	5	5	5	4	4 to 5 †
Children ..	3 to 4 *	3 to 4 *	4 average *	2, 3 and 4	2 to 4 †

* Extra wages can be earned at harvesting crops and contract work. Pickers of coffee and pluckers of tea—average eight annas both for men and women.

† Fifty to 100 per cent more can be earned by contract work.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"There seems to be several plantations in the Nilgiris and Wynaad districts. How is it that the Labour Commissioner visited only two plantations in the Nilgiris district?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"It is not his duty to make regular inspections of plantations. The Government have however suggested that in the course of his tours he might with advantage inspect some of the plantations. It is not a duty laid on him to inspect the whole of the plantations."

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"What is the Labour Commissioner for?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"He holds the control of the Labour department."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"Is there any special reason why he has inspected these two estates only?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Probably because they are in his neighbourhood, and it was convenient for him to inspect them."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May we have an approximate idea as to the number of coffee and tea estates in the Nilgiris?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid I must ask for notice."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know the area of the residential quarters which the coolie is allowed to live in with his family?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I have no information."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know how many hours are allowed to each coolie to take his meals?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid I have no information."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"So far as this question is concerned, will the Government be pleased to call for a report from the Labour Commissioner so that we may know what estates he visited and what he says about labour conditions in those estates?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"What does my hon. Friend suggest? Does he suggest that there were defects in those particular estates with regard to conditions of labour and so on?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"We shall be very glad to know that he found no defects during his visit, but all the same we should like to have his report because there are a number of estates and it would be well if we were to know something of them."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am only commenting on the way in which the supplemental question has been put. I am only asking the hon. Member whether he suggests that there were defects in these estates of which the Labour Commissioner did not make a report. I am quite prepared to find out generally what was the result of the Labour Commissioner's visits to these estates, but I am not prepared to enquire what were the defects discovered."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I am not taking up that attitude?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Not my hon. Friend."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"So far as the answer is concerned, I am afraid, Sir, it gives room for such a question."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I do not see that there is any room for such suggestion at all in the answer."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"There are only two plantations referred to in the answer. Will the Government consider the question of having a comprehensive inspection of these tea and coffee plantations?"

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The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I do not know what my hon. Friend suggests. Is it that a special inspection should be made of all plantations? Will he say why he does not suggest an inspection of the rice or sugarcane fields and other places where agriculture is carried on all over the Presidency?"

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"But we have a large congregation of coolies on these plantations and there is therefore a possibility of a number of defects existing which do not arise in the case of the rice fields or sugarcane fields. If no inspection is considered necessary at all, may I know why these two estates were inspected?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Are these estates not considered to be factories under the Factories Act?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"So far as regards the Factories Act, that inspection is made in the ordinary course by the Factory Inspectors working under the Labour Commissioner. Whether these two estates come within the definition of factories in the Factories Act I do not know. If my hon. Friend who asks the question is definitely referring to factory inspection under the Act, that is a very different matter."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I simply wanted to bring it to the notice of the Government."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I wanted to say, Sir, that I did not understand the question from the point of view of factories. As regards factories, all those that had to be inspected have been inspected in the regular course."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"May I know the age of the children engaged for labour on these estates?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I have no information, Sir."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I know if the Government will be pleased to get a report from the Factory Inspectors in the districts who visit the factories and who will be able to give the information?"

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"May I know whether the labourers are engaged in the estates under the provisions of any Act?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am not aware, so far as these two particular estates are concerned."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"I do not confine my question to these two estates. I wish to know in these big plantations where large number of labourers are recruited whether they are governed by the provisions of any Act?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I really must suggest, Sir, that although a Member of Government may have responsibilities he is hardly here to answer a general examination paper. It is open to my hon. Friend to ascertain for himself what the law of the country is. The Planters' Labour Act is in force in certain districts. Which estates have taken advantage of that and which have not is a matter which I cannot answer offhand. If my hon. Friend would refer to the Planters'

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Labour Act and make himself acquainted with the conditions of its working and then ask me any question, I should be delighted to answer it."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" My object in putting the question was to elicit information whether that Act is in force and whether the Government are not under an obligation to inspect these plantations."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" According to the provisions of the Labour Act, the District Magistrate is the officer who inspects them."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I have heard definite complaints that a large number of coolies were taken away from South Kanara to certain plantations in the Coimbatore district and that in some estates there were no adequate arrangements and facilities for comforts, for prevention of malaria and the like and that conditions were not so good as pictured to the coolies before they were recruited."

11-30 a.m. The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" What is the hon. Member's question?"

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" What I want to ask is whether the Government with a view to allay these suspicions will order an investigation and send the Labour Commissioner or any other officer to the plantations?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I suggest that South Kanara is a long way from the Nilgiris. If my hon. Friend wants to bring any particular point to the notice of the Government, he should do so by bringing a separate question."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" May I ask whether the Government think that the wages as shown in the answer are reasonable and fair?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid I must have notice."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" May I take it that the Government are satisfied with the labour conditions prevailing in the estates?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not think my hon. Friend can take anything of the kind. The Government have not committed themselves to any statement, that they are or are not satisfied with the conditions in every plantation in the Presidency."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask whether the Government have no responsibility in the matter and will they not see that the man who is paid for the purpose is doing his duty?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The Labour Commissioner is not paid for that."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Then what is he paid for?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" For control of the Labour department."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask whether these estates do not employ labour?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" That may be so. As I have already said it is not a regular part of the Labour Commissioner's duty to inspect them. The inspection of estates under the Planters' Labour Act is in the hands of the District Magistrates and local officers. It was only

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incidentally suggested to him that when an opportunity occurred he should have a look on any estate he might come across. There is thus no specific duty laid upon the Labour Commissioner to make any general inspection of all estates."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know, Sir, whether there is any Presidency officer who is specially in charge of the coolies on the tea estates?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" There is no Presidency officer in charge of them. The matter is left to the local district officers."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask whether the district officers are required to inspect the tea estates and report from time to time to Government?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am not quite clear as to who is given the duty to inspect under the Act. But my impression is that the right of inspecting is also placed on the District Magistrate."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask, Sir, if these District Magistrates have performed their duties as the hon. Member claimed for them, and if the Government have information as to conditions of the labourer in the estates? I can understand my hon. Friend asking for notice, but for the Government to say that they have no information on the matter is a position which I cannot concede."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The Government have not said that they have no information. They have, in answer to the specific question, stated that no defects have been reported in the case of these two estates. That is the only answer the Government have given on the subject."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I was referring to the oral answer to the question of my hon. Friend as to whether the Government were satisfied with the labour conditions. The reply was that the Government are not either satisfied or dissatisfied. That is to say, they have no information. I am asking, Sir, whether the Government have really any information as to the condition of these unfortunate coolies in the tea estates."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am sorry, Sir, my hon. Friend has again begged the question by talking about the unfortunate coolies. He has not shown that they are unfortunate. So far as I am concerned, I believe that there is no good ground for such a general description. The answer given by me to the member below the gangway was intended to mean that I was not going to fall into his trap and say that the Government have complete information about the several estates and are entirely satisfied with the labour conditions there. I said that we had no detailed information. At the same time if our district officers have found no defect worth reporting to us, we are entitled to assume from the negative evidence, that the conditions are such that there is no particular complaint to be made in respect of them."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member if he does not agree with me that these coolies who get seven annas a day only are rather unfortunate?"

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Irrigation.*Applications for water in the villages of the Periyar system.*

* 684 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of applications for water relating to the fasli 1334 for lands classed as dry in the resettlement in the Government and non-Government villages of the Periyar system received by the Executive Engineer, Madura division, up to the end of June 1924;

(b) the number of applications finally disposed of by the Executive Engineer;

(c) the number of applications sent to the inspecting subordinates for irrigation eligibility certificates up to the 15th September 1924;

(d) how many applications were returned to the ryots as time-barred;

(e) whether in such cases the use of water will be considered as unauthorized;

(f) how many appeals were preferred by the ryots to the Executive Engineer in respect of time-barred applications;

(g) whether it is a fact that the Executive Engineer and the Collector of Madura realizing the disadvantageous position and hardship of the ryots in such cases have referred the matter to the Government with a recommendation to amend the rules;

(h) whether it is a fact that the Government have amended the Periyar water-rates rules in respect of the date of the receipt of the applications; and

(i) if so, the necessity for the same?

A.—(a), (b), (c), (d) & (f) Applications for water permits under the Periyar system are dealt with by the Executive Engineer, Madura division, and the particulars asked for are not available with Government.

(e) In cases in which water-permit applications have been specifically returned as time-barred, the use of Periyar water will ordinarily be considered as unauthorized.

(g) No such recommendation has been received by Government.

(h) No; the rules have not been amended.

(i) The question does not arise.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"With reference to the answer to (a), (b), (c), (d) & (f) that the particulars asked for are not available, does it mean that it is not possible for the Government to get the information or that the Government are not prepared to get it?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"These are dealt with by the Executive Engineer. Unless we have specific complaints we do not get these particulars at all."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"Some of the grievances are keenly felt by the ryots and I shall be very much obliged if the hon. the Law Member calls for the information."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"There are hundreds and thousands of them. If my hon. Friend gives me any list of grievances, they will be enquired into, but to ask the Executive Engineer to send all applications and scrutinise them is impossible."

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Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"I am not suggesting that the hon. Member should call for all the applications. I only want the number of applications and I hope the hon. Member will be pleased to get the information."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The total number; yes, I shall."

Public Works.*The Coimbatore water-supply scheme.*

* 685 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance, the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state with reference to the answers to question No. 1175 and supplementary questions given on 13th November 1924—

(a) at what state the question of the supply of iron pipes for the Coimbatore water-supply scheme is at present;

(b) whether the final terms about the supply of pipes have been approved by the Government; whether there is any objection to publish the same;

(c) whether the draft agreement between the Company and the Chief Engineer has been formally approved by the Government; whether there is any objection to publish the same;

(d) the companies that were asked to give quotations; if the names cannot be published, how many of these were registered companies and how many other firms; the total number and how many of them are managed by Indians; and

(e) in what department of the Government order was given to the Chief Engineer to accept the offer of the South Indian Export Company?

A.—(a) As stated in the answer to question No. 1175, an order has been placed with the South Indian Export Company for the iron pipes.

(b) A copy^a of the agreement is laid upon the table.

(c) The Chief Engineer is entitled to accept terms.

(d) Quotations were invited from eight firms—one of these was an Indian firm.

(e) The powers of the Chief Engineer are laid down in paragraph 457 of the Public Works Department Code.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Was it not understood that the pipes were to be made in India?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"The pipes will be made in India."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Has any contract been entered into?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"The agreement has been placed on the table."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Yes. It is therefore that I : the question. I have not been able to read the agreement; it is a long one. So far as I have been able to see, I do not see that any condition has been laid that the pipes should be made in India. I am asking whether there has been any separate contract?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I would like the hon. Member to read the agreement placed on the table if he has not done it and then to raise questions on it."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I have read it, Sir. And I do not find any such condition in the contract. I am therefore asking the hon. Minister if it is to be read between the lines or whether there is any separate agreement to that effect?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"The agreement is that they should be made in India."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"So far as I can see from the long agreement, the only condition seems to be that laid down in paragraph 3 'The pipes shall be tested in the Bengal Iron Company's Works in accordance with the hydraulic test described in paragraph 22 of the British Standard Specification for class 'B' pipes'. I do not see any specific condition that the pipes should be made in India. May I take it that there is no other agreement apart from what is contained here?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"There is a lot of correspondence in the matter."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Is there no term of agreement wherein this condition is laid down?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"It is a contract entered into between the Chief Engineer and the firm, the Chief Engineer having authority under the Public Works Department Code to accept any terms."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"That is as agent for the municipality?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I know if any portion of the correspondence insists upon the pipes being made in India? It has been clearly understood not only here but also in the private conference which the hon. Minister had with us that they should be made in India and that was why English help was not resorted to. As the money is going to be spent in India, I appeal to the hon. the Minister to find out, not necessarily now, if there is any understanding in writing to that effect."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"My recollection is that the Bengal Iron Company is going to manufacture these 18 inches pipes in India and is going to supply us according to the contract."

Mr. P. L. MOORE :—"May I just furnish one piece of information to the House? There is no doubt whatever that the pipes will be made in India as the hon. the Minister has said. It will perhaps clear the doubt of hon. Members if I may say that there is going to be a special section in the Bengal Iron Works for carrying out the contract in regard to the supply of pipes. These works are in Calcutta and hence in India."

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"We have been told, this is not the first time, that there is going to be some special machinery brought for the purpose. In the beginning we have been told that if it is not possible to make pipes within India, they would be got from England. There is nothing in the contract for or against it. And I am now asking the hon. the Minister and the Secretary for Local Self-Government whether there is anything in writing by which these people are bound to give only pipes manufactured in India. Is there any penalty if they do not do it. My doubt has been enhanced by the statement in the agreement that the pipes shall be tested at the Bengal Iron Company's works. If the pipes are made there, there is no reason for specially referring to testing them there. I appeal to the hon. the Minister to enter into such a specific term, if no such one is already there."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know whether any public protest has been received from Coimbatore for the abandonment of the scheme?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"So far as I know, there has been no public protest which has reached Government."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Is the hon. Minister aware that the matter has been considered by the Municipal Council?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Yes. Personally I have been told by some hon. Members of this Council that there has been some agitation going on."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Have not the Government received a copy of the resolution of the Council asking for reduction from 10½ to 8 per cent?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I do not think that the Government have received any such thing. I am not however quite sure."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"As regards (d), Sir, may I know if it is not possible to give the names of the firms?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"It is not desirable to give the names."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I know at least, Sir, whether the firm is a manufacturing firm or a consigning firm?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"It is an importing firm."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I ask whether Tata and Sons or the Bhadravati Works were among those to whom notices were sent?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Notices were issued to all firms dealing in pipes and so far only eight firms sent their quotations."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Is it that quotations were invited only from eight firms or that eight firms supplied quotations while notices had been sent to all?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"As I said, Sir, all firms that dealt in pipes have been intimated to send in their quotations."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Are they eight in number or are they more?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Yes; they are eight, I hope."

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Was the Local Government consulted as to the draft of this agreement before it was concluded ? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" The matter was placed in the hands of the Government Solicitor and his advice was accepted by the Government. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Are we to understand that the Local Self-Government Department or the municipality was consulted before the agreement was entered into ? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" The question does not arise. "

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" What I want to know is not whether a solicitor or any legal gentleman was consulted as to the legal phraseology of the agreement, but whether the Local Government were consulted as to the terms of the agreement. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sub-clause (e) of the question asks ' in what department of the Government order was given to the Chief Engineer to accept the offer of the South Indian Export Company ', and the answer says that the powers of the Chief Engineer are laid down in paragraph 457 of Public Works Department Code. That is why I am putting the question whether the Local Self-Government Department or the municipality was consulted before the agreement was entered into. "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Yes, the Local Self-Government has got the power of passing the scheme and the other administrative department, that is the Public Works Department, has got the power to enter into agreement. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" So, am I right in saying that neither the Local Self-Government Department nor the municipality was consulted ? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" The principles of the contract were agreed upon by the municipality and the Local Self-Government Department. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Did the municipality agree to the terms of the agreement ? Was it consulted, and did it agree ? "

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" The municipality need not take the grant if it does not want to. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" That is another matter, and we have got to say a lot on that. "

Stationery.

Mechanic to repair typewriters.

* 686 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether repairs to typewriters, other than Remingtons, now in use in Government offices in the Presidency headquarters are done by a mechanic who is carrying on business in the premises of the Stationery office under the name of the ' Typewriter Repairing Company ';

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(b) if so, whether nobody except the agents of the various makers only can supply genuine parts and by the use of the spurious parts by the said mechanic the life of the machines is impaired;

(c) whether the said mechanic also repairs Remington typewriters;

(d) if not, why typewriters other than Remington make alone should be repaired by the mechanic; and

(e) whether the Government are aware that the practice now prevailing is deemed as unfair to the companies representing different kinds of typewriters in the market ?

A.—(a) & (d) The work of repairing typewriters in use in Government offices in Madras is entrusted to the agents representing the different makes if the agents can undertake the work. In other cases, the work is entrusted to a mechanic working on the premises.

(b) No complaints have been received that ' spurious parts ' are supplied and the life of the machines impaired.

(c) No.

(e) The hon. Member seems to have been misinformed as to the prevailing practice.

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—" With reference to the answer to clauses (a) and (b), will the Government be pleased to say whether the agents representing different patterns of the machines have at any time been found wanting in their work in preference to the mechanic employed on the premises ? "

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I am not sure whether I understand the question, but so far as the first part of it is concerned, there certainly have been complaints against the firms supplying the typewriters. "

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—" So, they have been found wanting in their work, and that is the opinion of the Government then ? "

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" The Government have no opinion in the matter. The Superintendent of Stationery is in charge and he has received complaints. "

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—" With reference to question (e), what is the prevailing practice ? "

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" The practice is described in the answer to question (a). "

Education.

Mr. Velan's claim to Deputy Inspector's post.

* 687 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, in his proceedings No. 2610-23, dated 28th June 1924, mentioned that Mr. Velan's claim for promotion to the Deputy Inspector's cadre will be considered when a suitable vacancy arises;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. Velan (depressed class) employed now in the Government College, Palghat, is a graduate;

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(c) whether it is a fact that Mr. E. Narayanan Nayar, Mr. P. Hussain Kutti and Mr. O. Ahmed Unni, who hold only secondary grade teachers' certificates, were appointed as Deputy Inspectors of Schools after the issue of proceedings No. 2610-23, dated 28th June 1924; and

(d) how many were appointed as Deputy Inspectors of Schools and the community to which they belong since the passing of the proceedings by the Director of Public Instruction?

A.—(a) Yes, but the correct date of the order is 28th June 1923.

(b) Mr. Velan is not a graduate.

(c) Messrs. P. Hussain Kutti and O. Ahmed Unni were appointed as Deputy Inspectors prior to 28th June 1923. Mr. E. Narayanan Nayar held a permanent appointment in the Deputy Inspectors' cadre prior to 28th June 1923.

(d) No new officer was posted as Deputy Inspector in Malabar district after 28th June 1923 excepting Saiyid Khaja Hussain, who was appointed as officiating Deputy Inspector of Schools, Ponnani Mappilla range, from 9th August 1924. He is a Muhammadan. Four other permanent Deputy Inspectors who were working in other districts and one who was on leave were posted to the Malabar district after 28th June 1923. Of these five, three were non-Brahmans and two Brahmans.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“With reference to the answer, may I know why the claims of Mr. Velan were not considered, for we find here that one Muhammadan gentleman was appointed after 28th June 1924 to officiate as Deputy Inspector of Schools?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“The answer in clause (d) states that.”

Agriculture.

Agricultural farms closed within the last ten years.

* 688 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the agricultural farms closed within the last ten years;

(b) the officer or officers responsible for their establishment at first;

(c) the amount spent on each for acquisition of land, construction of buildings, plant, machinery and other incidental expenses respectively;

(d) the loss to the Government by their closure in each case; and

(e) the reasons in each case for closing the farm?

A.—(a) The agricultural farms closed are—

(1) Sirvel.

(2) Bantanahal.

(3) Anamalai.

(4) Manganallur.

(5) Gudiyattam.

(b) The farms were established on the recommendation of the Director of Agriculture.

(c) & (d) The Government have no information and the figures cannot be easily collected.

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(e) The reasons are :—

(1) *Sirvel*.—This station was opened with the particular object of solving the problem of increasing the manure supply in the area which was proposed to be commanded by the Velgod Irrigation project. As the project did not materialize, there was no necessity to retain the station.

(2) *Bantanahal*.—This station was opened with the two-fold object—

(i) of multiplying the seed of strains of cotton and jonna and

(ii) of continuing the sheep-breeding experiments carried on at the Hagari Agricultural station.

As regards the first object, departmental seed farms were a necessity in the earlier stages of the development of district work but eventually it was found possible to arrange with private growers to grow seed for the department. The second object was not realized as experience showed the locality to be unsuitable.

(3) *Anamalai*.—This was opened with the object of improving the cultivation of Cambodia cotton and producing by selection a strain which would give an increase in yield, evenness and length of staple. Owing to its inaccessibility, it was decided to close the farm as recommended by the Special Retrenchment Committee.

(4) *Manganallur*.—This farm was opened on leased lands for carrying out certain manurial and rotational experiments in paddy cultivation. The experiments were completed in 1922 and the farm was accordingly given up on the expiry of the lease period.

(5) *Gudiyattam*.—This farm was opened on leased land with the object of improving the cultivation of paddy, sugarcane and coconuts, and of introducing Cambodia cotton. In actual working the land was not found altogether suitable, so the farm was closed on the expiry of the lease period but not until some valuable experience had been gained.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“It seems to be a very peculiar sort of responsibility that is fixed upon the Director of Agriculture, for in clause (b) it is said that the farms were established on the recommendation of the Director of Agriculture. I want to know which Director or Deputy Director of Agriculture it was that recommended the establishment of these farms.”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“I want notice, Sir.”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“In paragraph (3) at page 6, it is stated that the Anamalai farm was opened with the object of improving Cambodia cotton, but owing to its inaccessibility it was decided to close the farm as recommended by the Special Retrenchment Committee. I do not know what this means. Does it mean inaccessibility for making the experiments or inaccessibility to the ryots and other people?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“The answer is plain and I do not understand the hon. Member's difficulty.”

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, a perusal of the reasons given in clause (e) would make one think that the officer, whoever it was, was not very careful in his recommendations. I wish to know what action the Government have taken in the matter."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" The hon. Member is furnished with the information desired in his question and what more action is required is not clear."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Will the hon. the Minister call for information on the points referred to in clauses (c) and (d), namely, the amount spent on each farm for acquisition of land, construction of buildings, plant, machinery and other incidental expenses, respectively, and the total loss to the Government in each case?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" It would be a very difficult operation. It means that the establishment would be put to very great trouble in collecting the information. I would request the hon. Member to consider the matter in its practical aspect."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" I appeal to my hon. Friend to view this point in this way. Here are various experiments tried under the expert advice of the Agricultural Department and abandoned. I think the taxpayers have a right to know what losses were incurred thereby, and secondly who the officers were that were primarily responsible for managing these matters. I leave the hon. the Minister to be the sole judge of the matter."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" I have no objection to collect the information, but I have only to plead the loss of time and energy that would be entailed. Further, it was more than ten years ago that these things took place, and no useful purpose would be served by calling for the information."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" May I know whether the annual reports of the administration of agricultural farms are not issued year after year, and whether such reports do not contain the amounts of expenses and receipts and so on?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" They do not give any details such as those required in the question, I think."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" May I say that I found in the early administration reports of these farms, information was given as to the cost of acquisition of lands and so forth? I think from those administration reports much of the information now asked for can be collected."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" The information already available is furnished in the answer."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Here are cases in which farms have proved failures either because of inaccessibility or unsuitability of the soil or some other patent causes like that. I wish to know whether the Government do not propose to take any action in the matter and deal with those that are responsible for these things."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member told us that it was more than ten years ago that these things happened."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I have seen cases of officers who were dealt with after they had retired for faults committed by them when in service. Are these officers not still in service?"

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" With regard to Anamalai farm, may I know whether any experiment was carried out?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" Probably it must have been carried out. I have not got the information just now."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" With reference to Sirvel, it is stated that that farm was opened with the particular object of solving the problem of increasing the manure supply in the area which was proposed to be commanded by the Velgod Irrigation project. How does it happen that long before the Velgod project fructified or started and any expenditure was incurred thereon, this farm came to be established? The answer shows that. Why was the farm opened at all, long before the irrigation project became a reality?"

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" I do not understand the printed answer. Does it mean that the dry land does not require manure? Even if that project has been abandoned, is there no necessity for supplying manure?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" It is the green-manure supply that is wanted."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" Still, I suppose, a large tract of land covered by the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal may not require any kind of manure."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" The Government at the time appear to have thought there was a demand."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Will the hon. the Minister at least look into the question and see that these mistakes do not recur?"

Diwan Bahadur W. VIJAYARAGHAVA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it not a fact that the last mentioned farm, that is, Gudiyattam farm was opened on the recommendation of this House which passed a resolution to that effect?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" I understand it is so."

Co-operation.

Division of Co-operative Department into 'audit' and 'general' branches.

* 689 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the establishments belonging to the Co-operative Department have been divided in some districts into two branches, viz., audit and general;

(b) whether this has been done in Salem district and, if so, when;

(c) whether it is a fact that both branches check the accounts and submit reports; if so, whether the figures given by the two branches agree in all cases; whether it is a fact that they differ in several cases;

(d) if the figures given by the two branches differ, what figures are published and whether any attempt is made to see why differences exist;

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(e) whether any rules have been framed as to how each branch should check and audit the accounts of the societies; and

(f) whether any societies in the Salem district have had their accounts audited by the audit branch and how many by the executive staff and how many by both?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. In February 1924.

(c) No.

(d) & (e) Do not arise.

(f) The audit of societies is conducted by the portion of the staff set apart specially for that duty. To prevent undue delay in the issue of audit certificates, administrative inspectors are occasionally deputed to assist the audit inspectors as a temporary measure.

III

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

The Secretary laid on the table copies of the reports of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of the Government of Madras for 1923-24.

IV

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

DATE FOR DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, may I ask what day or what time is set apart for us to discuss the report of the Public Accounts Committee? The House will remember that last year we had, I believe, the day set apart for supplementary demands for the discussion of this report. I should like to know when it would come up this year, so that we may come prepared for the debate."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"There will be a motion, Sir, that the report of the Public Accounts be taken into consideration."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Yes. It will be put on the agenda for the 30th."

V

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1925-1926.

DEMAND XIV—POLICE.

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"With regard to my motion No. 532 on the agenda, I want to know from the hon. the Law Member as to what control is exercised by the police in the matter of speed limit on motor cars."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"In the Administration Report on pages 57 and 58 occurs the following passage :—

'The total number of cases investigated during the year being 1,637, which is double the figure in the previous year. Prosecutions were instituted against 914 persons, of whom 783 were convicted, 17 discharged, cases against 40 withdrawn'

*Printed separately.

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"No specific speed limit has been laid down. The police have directions to prosecute those who are endangering the safety or convenience of other persons. That is a general case. It is no doubt a fact that the motor traffic especially in this city has led to a great deal of congestion of traffic. The Government are aware of it and are taking steps to see that stringent regulations are laid down for the purpose of preventing these very inconvenient drives on the part of the owners or drivers of motor cars."

The motion was not moved.

Motion No. 87.

Mr. J. D. SAMUEL :—"Mr. President, Sir, I wish to move—

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,54,300 for pay of officers by Rs. 18,000.'

"My object in moving this motion is to press for the cancellation of the bifurcation of the Kistna district. I have no objection to make it a token motion."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Does the hon. Member wish to proceed with the motion on the basis of a token motion?"

Mr. J. D. SAMUEL :—"Yes, Sir. The reasons alleged for making this bifurcation of the Kistna district are first, the largeness of the district. It must be remembered however that the Kistna district contains many large zamindaris, Challapalli (Devarakota), Nuzvid, Munagala, Tiruvur and some small ones too. Moreover the upland to the north is poor dry land. The second reason alleged for bifurcation is that there is a lot of increase of work. Statistics may be quoted to prove anything; but the proper way to look at it is on broad lines. Since the proposal, I may say that the proposal is many years old, various changes reducing the work of the District Collector have come into being. First of all the District Board has been taken away. The District Board work was formerly taking about two hours of the District Collector's daily work. But now there is a separate body to look after that business."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"There is one aspect of the question which I wish to point out to my hon. Friend. I may mention that a press communiqué was issued on the 6th October 1923 with regard to the bifurcation of the Kistna district. Now so far as the bifurcation in regard to revenue is concerned it has been decided upon and no motion was made, when the revenue budget was under discussion, so that that is a *fait accompli*. The question therefore is only with reference to police, if there are going to be two districts and that is decided officially. Having regard to the fact that we have passed the revenue budget, how can this big question be raised now? If the hon. Member wants to question the necessity for two separate police districts and sets of police officials, let him proceed with his motion. But if the hon. Member wants to deal with the other aspect, namely, the revenue aspect, I think it would be quite a different matter. I may for his information point out that this is one of the directions in which the Government have insisted on and have started Indianization by making it clear that at least one of the District

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Superintendents of Police should be reserved to a provincial police officer. One effect of my hon. Friend's carrying the motion will be that Indianization in that one direction will be affected and nothing more."

Mr. J. D. SAMUEL :—" I do not see any reason, Sir, why the amalgamation cannot take place."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I do not say that it cannot be proposed. What I say is this. So far as the Revenue matter is concerned, it ought to have been proposed when the Revenue Budget was being discussed. The Revenue Budget is now over so that it is only the question of Police that my hon. Friend has to deal with."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" I may add, Sir, that all the other members are strongly in favour of this bifurcation. The matter was discussed in this Council last year and all excepting Mr. Samuel were in favour of it. And Sir K. V. Reddi also gave his support for it. Now that the Revenue bifurcation has been carried out, I hope the other things also will be carried out."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I would advise the hon. Member not to proceed with this motion which raises according to him, the general question of the bifurcation of the Kistna district. The hon. the Law Member has pointed out that nothing that the hon. Member from Kistna could adduce hereafter can affect the Revenue Budget which has been passed and under which this bifurcation of the Kistna district is an accomplished fact. If the hon. Member wishes to raise the question separately by means of a resolution, he is at liberty to do so. But it seems to me that the general sense of the House as well as the form of the particular motion notified by him requires that he should abstain from raising the general question. I must say this that I am aware to a certain extent of the object of the hon. Member. He complained that he had no opportunity during the Revenue discussion of raising this point. But unfortunately it so happens that the present opportunity cannot be taken advantage of for that purpose."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" May I point out, Sir, that even if this token motion is carried in reference to the Police Department, it is open to the Government to consider the whole aspect? It may be well remembered by hon. Members of this House that a motion to urge for the cancellation of the bifurcation of the Kistna district which ought to have been discussed was not discussed owing to the lapse of time under the item of Land Revenue. May I point out, Sir, that 20 or 25 of the hon. Members of this House, belonging to the Nationalist party, gave notice, urging the cancellation of the bifurcation of the Kistna district? Of course it is true that some of them are against it. But still we cannot take it as a settled fact. It is open to the Government to consider the whole question."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir. Even when a motion has been given, the final attitude to be adopted in regard to the motion is generally arrived at after discussion by the parties concerned. It was as a result of the consultation with my hon. the Leader, who can bear

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me out on this point, that with our eyes open and after debate we had voted for the bifurcation last time."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I say this, Sir, that even if there are two Collectors I do not know whether it necessarily follows that there should be also two Police officers?"

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I point out, Sir, that the hon. Member himself has not finished his speech. But we hear so many other hon. Members speaking. May I say, Sir, that it is better we allow the hon. Mr. Samuel to proceed with his speech."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. Samuel himself did not rise. But I have no objection. I simply wanted to say, Sir, that the fact that there should be two Revenue districts does not necessarily follow that there should be two police districts. There is a suggestion to abolish the district police so far as the Nilgiris district is concerned. Now there have been districts where at one time or other the District Judges do not correspond to the number of District Collectors. Therefore, Sir, apart from the question of having two Revenue officers the whole matter as to the necessity of having two police officers has to be considered. I think the hon. Member may take it into consideration, not as a question of *res judicata*."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I have no objection to consider it. The only thing I can say is that the Government have passed orders that one appointment should be reserved for a provincial police officer. If hon. Members would not like to take this opportunity I have no objection to consider the question."

Mr. J. D. SAMUEL :—" What I wish to emphasise is this. If once this token motion is carried I expect the Government to look into the matter, at a time when we are in this financial stringency to see if it is absolutely necessary to carry on the administration of two districts separately. I have already told, Sir, I would have by this time finished. I was saying that a large amount of work which was formerly done by the District Collector himself is now being done by different departments. There was a district board at first. Income-tax and salt are off their hands. There is no Forest department in Kistna. We have no non-co-operation work. Even at its worst our Collectors Messrs. P. L. Moore and Tyler were able to keep things quiet. Two young Collectors cannot make one experienced Collector."

"The cost of bifurcation is very great. It cannot be said that there is absolute necessity, when for twenty years we have been going on quite well."

"Even if there were any necessity for bifurcation, is this the time? The separation of the Executive from the Judicial is already overdue and we know it will change the work of the District Magistrate."

"The Irrigation Bill with its boards and panchayats will certainly make a change in the quantity of work. Very soon the question of the formation of the Andhra Province must come up, now that the matter of the Oriya Province is under discussion. It will be time when the Andhra Province is formed, to consider what shall be the limits of our districts. The decisions

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now being made may never suit us then. Building places and offices now and spending money over them will only be sheer waste, especially when the budget shows such a heavy deficit. Is it right or fair?"

* Mr. P. L. MOORE:—"Mr. President, Sir, the hon. Mover has said that I did the work of the Collector of Kistna. I rise to plead not guilty to the soft impeachment. I did not do the work of the Collector of Kistna, because I had not been a week in the district, before I realized that it could not be done by one man. I believe that all the other Collectors of Kistna have had the same experience and have come to the same conclusion. Of course the work had to be done, and one had to give instructions as much as possible to the divisional officers. Government knowing the conditions made it a point of sending good men as divisional officers to the district, and one did the best one could. But it was absolutely impossible to give the amount of time and attention which a Collector ought to be able to give to the details of the administration. One aspect alone of the Collector's work was this. The number of visitors was very much indeed and it was quite impossible to give to those gentlemen the time which a Collector wants to give and ought to give to anybody who has business to discuss with him. I have put the case from the point of view of the Collector, not because he is the important person but because that is the point of view, from which I saw it. If a Collector has a heavy district it is all in the day's work. He expects that in due course the grateful Government will reward him either with a promotion or with a light district, or better still, as I always rather hope, with a bonus on collections. However, I have received no bonus yet. Perhaps it is hung up in the Finance Department. The really important thing of course is that if the Collector is overworked it is the public that must suffer. It simply means that they do not get the time and the attention of the Collector to the extent to which they are entitled. I will take one instance which comes to my mind, the question of distribution of water for the second crop irrigation in the Godavari Western delta. In a normal year there was water enough to grow the second crop in about two-thirds of the ayacut. The decision as to what channels should have the water and should not, was a matter of the greatest difficulty. I did my best, after giving an opportunity to the ryots, to make a fair distribution. But I knew perfectly well that to do this thing properly the Collector should have to tour constantly in the area and make himself much more familiar with all the conditions than was possible for him to do. I may say I agree with my hon. Mover that figures should not be our guide in deciding this question. With all the figures available one could no doubt prove many different things. I agree that if I cannot convince him on the human side I do not wish to convince him by figures. What I have tried to explain to the House is that the work of the Collector of Kistna cannot be done by one man and that therefore the whole district suffers from a failure of the Collector to give personal attention, which he should give to the various problems which arise. The hon. Mr. Samuel is of course interested in the question of headquarters. But the question that is decided is that Masulipatam shall be the headquarters of the Kistna district. I am convinced that that decision is right. With regard to the headquarters of the other district the question is not so easy, but Government, having had the benefit of much advice and of local

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opinion on the subject, will, I have no doubt, come to the right decision. One thing is certain. The bifurcation should take place at once."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Sir, I only wish to make a few remarks on the general aspect of the question which has been raised on the bifurcation of the Kistna district. The fact that Kistna is a district too unwieldy for the administration of one Collector has been recognized for some time; so long as the Agency division was in existence the Government did not feel justified in incurring further expenditure in that part of the Presidency on district administration. But as the agency division has been abolished and the districts reconstituted as they were before it became justifiable again to consider the question of the bifurcation of Kistna. Apart from the question of the work of the officials which the hon. Member Mr. Moore has dealt with, the main reason that weighed with Government was the convenience to the people that would result from the bifurcation. After the proposal was put forward one hundred and seventeen memorials were received on the subject and not a single one objected to the bifurcation; they only made suggestions as to details and especially as to where the headquarters of the new district, Godavari West, should be. Latterly, however, there have been one or two objections from Masulipatam: but with regard to these objections the Government did not feel that there was any substance and thought public advantage in general and in particular the convenience of the people on the other side of the Colair swamps outweighed any temporary diminution of the privileges that the people from Masulipatam complained against."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Now, Sir, I speak with considerable personal knowledge regarding the judicial administration of the Kistna district. The Kistna District Judge has to supervise the work of six subordinate courts and thirteen district munsifs' courts. This is practically double the work of any other district judge in the presidency. Let me also point out certain other figures notwithstanding the somewhat pungent and trenchant remarks made by the hon. Member of the Board of Revenue, regarding the policy involved in relying upon figures. As some of these figures are simple and self-speaking I do not apologise for adverting to them. The area under irrigation in the Kistna district is 1,093,123 acres whereas the average irrigation area in other districts is 249,000; that is nearly four times the area under irrigation so far as Kistna is concerned. Then the Income-tax demand is Rs. 2,91,000 whereas in the other parts it is only Rs. 1,45,000. Then the number of criminal cases is 17,515 and the average for all other districts in the Presidency including Cuddapah, Kurnool and Coimbatore is 11,000. So that from the point of view of criminal statistics and from the point of view of income-tax statistics—I do not want to bracket these together either literally or metaphorically—and from the statistics of the area under irrigation it is clear that the charge is too heavy for one man. Also from the information that Government has received it is abundantly clear that for one Collector the district is really unmanageable. That is from the general point of view.

"The same arguments apply with equal force so far as my department, the Police, is concerned. I do not lay too much stress on the argument of Indianization. It might be said that the addition of one more Indian cannot and does not affect the ultimate decision of the question. I submit

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that no case has been made out for reconsidering the bifurcation of the district which has been decided upon as a matter of policy."

The motion was then put to the House and declared carried. A poll was demanded and taken with the following result:

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. A. V. Banoji Rao. | 13. Mr. S. Satyamurti. |
| 2. " J. Kuppaswami. | 14. " T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. |
| 3. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 15. " P. Anjaneyulu. |
| 4. " B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 16. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 5. " C. Muttayya Mudaliyar. | 17. Mr. K. Koti Reddi. |
| 6. " B. Ramachandra Reddi. | 18. Sriman Sasithushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 7. " J. D. Samuel. | 19. Mr. J. A. Saldanha. |
| 8. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 20. " C. V. Venkatramana Ayyangar. |
| 9. " C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 21. " Chayadi K. Subramanya Pillai. |
| 10. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. | 22. " M. Ratnaswami. |
| 11. Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju. | 23. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 12. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | 24. Mr. K. Venkatachala Padayachi. |

Noes.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 21. Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja. |
| 2. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 22. Mr. V. Madhava Raja. |
| 3. " The Raja of Panagal. | 23. Mr. T. Mallesappa. |
| 4. " Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 24. Honorary Lieutenant Madurai. |
| 5. " Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 25. Mr. K. S. Ponnaswami Pillai. |
| 6. " Mr. R. A. Graham. | 26. Rao Bahadur O. M. Narayana Nambudripad. |
| 7. " Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks. | 27. Mr. B. Obalesappa. |
| 8. Mr. G. T. H. Bracken. | 28. Rao Bahadur P. Raman. |
| 9. " P. L. Moore. | 29. Rao Sahib P. V. S. Sundaramurti. |
| 10. Dr. John Mathai. | 30. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 11. Mr. Abdulla Ghatala Sahib. | 31. Mr. R. Veerian. |
| 12. Mr. S. Arpadaswami Udayar. | 32. " Abbas Ali Khan. |
| 13. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 33. Khan Bahadur Haji Abd-ul-la Haji Kasim Sahib. |
| 14. Mr. A. E. Rencontre. | 34. Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib. |
| 15. Sir James Simpson. | 35. " T. M. Moidu Sahib. |
| 16. Mr. T. M. Ross. | 36. " T. N. Bava Ravuttar Muhammad Sahib. |
| 17. " P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nadar. | 37. Janab Muhammad Qadir Mohidin Sahib. |
| 18. " N. Devendrudu. | |
| 19. Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan. | |
| 20. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | |

24 voted for and 37 against. The motion was lost.

Motion No. 88.

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I move that motion No. 582 may be taken up and the intermediate motion passed over. I believe it will conduce to the convenience of discussion if this motion is taken up."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, I beg to second it."

The motion was put to the House and carried and motions Nos. 542 to 581 were passed other.

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I move—

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,67,300 for Special Police by 1,00,000.'

"Mr. President, Sir, I move this motion for the purpose of expressing the opinion of the House that this special police force ought to be done away with eventually and at least a beginning made in the current year to reduce it by one-third. So, I have given notice for a substantial reduction

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of one lakh. I understand that this special police is posted in two districts—Vizagapatam and Malabar. True we had the Mappilla rebellion two or three years ago, but in the present conditions of Malabar and from what I learn from newspapers, if my information is correct, I do not think there is necessity for maintaining the special police in Malabar. I am told there are three places in North Malabar and South Malabar where full military battalions are kept for the purpose of preventing trouble and for the safety of the country if any emergency arises. They are at Malappuram, Calicut and another station north of Malabar. Besides these, we have territorial forces and there is the reserve police in various places. Now, this special force in Malabar is posted at Tirurangadu, which is within 12 miles of Malappuram, which is a military station near Kottakkal which is 4 or 5 miles from it and Perintalmanna which is 5 miles from Malappuram. So these three special forces are posted within 10 or 15 miles of Malappuram where there is a military contingent, and, according to me and my Friends from Malabar, I think there is no necessity for these special forces."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I differ from my hon. Friend altogether."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, some of my Friends from Malabar say that this military contingent at Malappuram is quite sufficient for meeting any emergencies. As regards the other places, Mr. Krishnan Nayar says he does not associate himself with me in the ideas I have given expression to, probably he entertains a different opinion; but at any rate I have the support of some members from Malabar who agree with me in thinking that this special force is not needed in the three places, as they are very near the military station of Malappuram. Then there are two other places where the police force are stationed at Ariakodu and Karuvarankundu. Whether in these places, a special police force is necessary I am not in a position to say. What I now move is not the total abolition of the special police in Malabar. Besides the ordinary police, there is also reserve police. As regards Vizagapatam, where I am told there is another special police force for the purpose of utilization for the whole of the East Coast when emergency arises, my impression is that the reserve force in every district is enough for any contingency, and if the reserve force in a particular district is not enough, the reserve force in the other districts may be requisitioned. So, I think this special force either in the East Coast or West Coast is unnecessary, and I beg to move for the reduction of a lakh of rupees from this allotment."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, the total amount for the special police allotted in this budget is Rs. 3,67,000. Out of this the amount for the special police force in Malabar is Rs. 2,87,000 in round figures and that for the East Coast police force is about Rs. 79,000. I find on reference to the budget figures of current year which ends on the 31st March that the amount allotted for the special police force in Malabar is Rs. 2,57,000 and for the next year 1925-26, I find there is an excess amount of Rs. 30,000 provided for. As I took the opportunity of interrupting my friend from Tanjore, I believe that some at least of my hon. Colleagues from the district of Malabar are for the retention of the special police force in Malabar. As a matter of fact, my Friend Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar comes in contact with members of the Mappilla community who are highly cultured, educated and public spirited. But it will be dangerous to form any notion of the Mappilla

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population in the Ernad and Walluvanad taluks, particularly the Mappilla population inhabiting the hilly regions, from the ideas that we gather from our association with our learned and respected Mappilla Colleagues in this Council from Malabar. They of course are an ornament to the community, and would be an ornament to any community. But the uneducated, illiterate and the ignorant and sometimes highly fanatic Mappillas of Malabar, living particularly in the taluks of Ernad and Walluvanad, when their passions are aroused are extremely dangerous, and let us not have a repetition of the year 1921 in 1926 or 1927 or in any near future year. I am afraid that if this special police that is stationed now in Malabar be abolished and taken away, I don't say that a rebellion will at once arise, but at any rate, we shall be taking very serious risks. I am not in such matters as this for taking any risk at all. A railway is now being constructed through the heart of the Mappilla country in South Malabar—that is the dangerous zone in the Mappilla country—from Shoranur to Nilambur. The earthwork is being completed. When that line is opened—I believe it will be opened in the course of three years—it will be time to consider the desirability or otherwise of abolishing this special police in Malabar. So that I am for reducing this extra amount of Rs. 30,000 that has been provided for in the budget for 1925-26. There is no need for increasing the expenditure. I am firmly of opinion that the time has not come for disbanding the special military force.

"Then, as to the other amount included in this Rs. 79,000, reference has been made to the East Coast special force. If my hon. Friends coming from the East Coast districts, Guntur or Vizagapatam, are of opinion that this force should be taken away, I shall be guided by their opinion and attach considerable weight to it. So that if my hon. Friends from the East Coast are of opinion that the East Coast force should be abolished, I am prepared to vote in favour of it."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, Sir, regarding the special police, we have got two items, one for the East Coast special police and the other for the Malabar special police. I think the item for the East Coast police is Rs. 79,000, and there is the extra amount of Rs. 30,000 for the Malabar special police in revised budget for the current year. Regarding the East Coast police, I believe there are two companies, and one temporary company belonging to the Malabar police, and perhaps it may be accounted that the Rs. 30,000 is due to the transfer of the temporary Malabar special force from the East Coast to the West Coast. Regarding the maintenance of the East Coast Force, I can assure my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar that it was not at all established at the request of the public of the East Coast, and from the beginning the representatives of the East Coast did raise a protest as to the necessity for a special police."

12.45 p.m. "We have got the ordinary police and the reserve police. The special police was brought into existence only during the operation of the fituri. Even there I believe it was not at the request of the inhabitants of the fituri area that the special police was introduced. Therefore it stands on a quite different footing, and even if there was any necessity for this force at the time, it no longer exists and therefore there is now no necessity for the continuance of the special police on the East Coast. Since that is the case the sum of Rs. 79,000 provided for it can certainly be omitted."

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"Then there is the question of the maintenance of the Malabar special police. Since the Government managed for more than one year with the limited number that was in existence, there is no reason why the temporary force that was operating in the East Coast should be drawn back to Malabar and maintained there. This may be an additional reason to omit Rs. 30,000, viz., that my hon. Friends, Messrs. Krishnan Nayar and Prabhakaran Tampam were able to have peace without this additional force."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Only two of us."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"I have no objection to add Mr. Madhava Raju to the list. They had peace with the existing police. Therefore I do not think they should insist in having the Malabar special police being brought there and maintained extra. They may easily consent to the omission of Rs. 30,000 as well, viz., the provision for the special police in Malabar. They are vehement in asking for the maintenance of the Malabar special police there. In the near future they must be prepared to pay for it if they want it for their protection. This question stands on a quite different footing. I do not want to mix it with this maintenance of the force there now. We shall take another opportunity to discuss the question whether the inhabitants of Malabar should pay for the special police which they wish to maintain there, or the general tax-payer. I shall be very glad to raise that issue on a suitable occasion. For the present even Mr. Krishnan Nayar, I think, would agree to reduce Rs. 30,000 for the Malabar special police stationed in Malabar and Rs. 70,000 for the East Coast police."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, when this question of the special police was raised originally the Government thought that there was necessity for it then and they undertook to have the question examined later on. Even when the East Coast reserve was first started several of us were not prepared to accept it, but the Government said that there was special need for it then and that at the end of the year they would re-examine the question. I do not know if that re-examination has been made. The result of it has not been communicated to any of us here."

"When the Government wanted us to vote money for the construction of quarters for these people we did not agree, thereby showing that we were not prepared to accept the decision of the Government in the matter of the East Coast reserve. It seems to me, Sir, that a reserve like this is quite unnecessary for the East Coast. I am not particularly acquainted with the conditions in the East Coast but from all that we can gather it seems that the East Coast is not in a dangerous condition now to require this force to look after it. Probably at the time of the fituri they thought that there was some necessity for keeping a special police there. Now that is over and therefore there is absolutely no necessity, so far as one can see, for the East Coast reserve."

"As regards Malabar, it was stated by the Government on a previous occasion that there were six companies there and that the question of locating them would be examined after some time. It was on that understanding that the provision for those six companies was granted by the Finance Committee. I believe in this case also it was definitely undertaken that after the trouble was over the matter would be examined and that only such special police as was found absolutely necessary would be retained. I do not know

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whether anything has been done with reference to this also. So far as Malabar is concerned, there was a military force at Malappuram and one at Cannanore. Both those forces are available for emergencies in Malabar. I believe it was represented at one time that the Government of India did not agree to the military at Malappuram and Cannanore being made use of in Malabar and that they wanted the Madras Government to pay for it if they wanted the aid of the military. It was particularly on account of this that the question of the special force in Malabar was raised and it was definitely promised that after the difficulty was over all these questions would be examined and some definite scheme put forward. We are still waiting for that definite scheme.

"So far as I can see, none of my hon. Colleagues in the House is aware of it. Well, Sir, instead of re-examining the question and reducing the strength of the special police to what is absolutely necessary, we now find an attempt made to increase it. It is a serious matter which should be looked into and I for one would not allow any increase in this grant. So far as the East Coast reserve is concerned even the hon. Members coming from there are not anxious to have it there."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, this is a matter on which I cannot possibly consent to the vote either in the form as suggested by the Mover of the original motion or in the form suggested by the hon. Member from Malabar, viz., to reduce Rs. 30,000 so far as the increase in the Malabar reserve is concerned and Rs. 70,000 from the East Coast reserve. I may say, Sir, that Mr. Stokes was appointed special officer for the purpose of investigating the whole matter and he has very carefully considered this question. On his report, the matter has been carefully looked into by the Government and the result is that we have resolved—

- (1) to abolish the Tuticorin Force;
- (2) to maintain the Koraput Reserve as an Agency Force, re-arming it with 303 magazine rifles;
- (3) to retain, as local forces, the Kamudi and Sivakasi forces;
- (4) to constitute the Cannanore and Russellkonda Reserves as local forces.
- (5) to abolish the Parvatipur Reserve;
- (6) to abolish the Rajahmundry Reserve;
- (7) to drop the question of a separate Armed Reserve on the Nilgiris and
- (8) generally to reduce the district armed reserves on the scale given in the report.

"This is the order which the Government have passed on the report. The net result of the re-organization of this special force which we have carried out is a total economy of something like four lakhs of rupees."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Out of a total amount of what?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"One hundred and fifty-three lakhs. That is the saving we have effected. It seems to me that this is a matter on which it is impossible to give facts and figures in any particular sense. Here, we are with the Malabar representatives, none of whom willing to reduce that force. As a matter of fact. . . ."

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Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB:—"I am willing."

Mr. T. M. MOIDU SAHIB:—"I am willing too. Not only that, I would go to the extent of saying that sometimes this police force itself seems to be the cause of trouble."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I dare say we shall listen to what the other hon. Members also bailing from Malabar, have to say on this matter. At all events, we know as a matter of fact that not only a large number of hon. Members of this House coming from Malabar are in favour of retention, but that we are constantly receiving petitions and letters saying that by no means should we reduce the strength of that force or prevent that force functioning as usefully as it is now functioning."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Was there any trouble in Malabar when a portion of the Malabar force was detailed for the fituri?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"When a portion of the Malabar force was sent to fituri it was suggested that it was a wrong thing to do, because we did not know when the Mappilla rebellion would break out. As a matter of fact two newspapers having circulation in Malabar have been writing about a probable rebellion in 1926. But I do not mean to say that that is accurate. I will repudiate the possibility of any such thing taking place. If only hon. Members will realize what a number of letters and petitions the Government have been getting from time to time that conditions in Malabar are not yet normal, that the force must be kept in full strength, and that no diminution of that strength ought to be attempted, they will see that opinion so far as the Malabar force is concerned is fairly clear that the force must be preserved in its present strength and that there cannot be a diminution. It is all very well for the hon. the Leader of the Opposition to say: 'Well, Malabar may pay for it!'"

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"I distinctly stated that I am going to raise the issue at a later stage."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"As that remark has been made I am entitled to make use of it for the purpose of debate as I am now doing."

"If the smallest territorial portion of the Presidency feels insecure without this force, it is the duty of the Government to see that this force is kept in full strength so that the people in the locality may feel easy and sure that the Government is adequately and rightly functioning."

"Now, Sir, it seems to me that the East Coast reserve has been disposed of somewhat lightly. Sir, the policy of the Government in the matter is to abolish all other reserves excepting the minimum of men at the headquarters for escort and other duties of that kind and to concentrate all their attention upon two centres, namely, Malabar and somewhere near the Agency tracts, so as to be ready for any possible difficulties that may arise there. I may say that very recently within the last two or three weeks we have had to send a batch of these special men to one of the Agency tracts, because it was apprehended that there would be a disturbance. I think my hon. Friend, the Revenue Member, will bear witness to the fact that, we are getting petitions and reports from our local officers and others to the effect that disturbances may be apprehended."

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Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"May I know the name of the locality, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"It is a place called Kalnamsingi."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"Is it not a fact that two people were claiming a zamindari and that the Maharaja of Jeypore put in a petition to the Government to aid him in order to oust those people from the zamindari?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"It may be that the Maharaja of Jeypore is acting rightly or wrongly; or it may be that there is an opposite faction which is creating disturbance.

1 p.m.

But the fact remains that we got authoritative representations from persons in high position, of respectability and of status saying that you must send an armed force. We are apprehending a big riot. Are we going to accept the statement of an hon. Member that there is nothing going on there? The question is: are we going to insure ourselves against these risks?

"There are two places, Malabar and Agency tracts, where, or near where, there are always these apprehensions. The question is whether the Government are bound or are not bound to take adequate precautions to prevent such things happening. I submit that there can be no two answers to that question. It is the imperative, fundamental and elementary duty of the Government to see that people in any part of the Presidency do not feel apprehensive regarding their property. So long as there are such centres—I do not mean to say that this state of things will continue too long and I hope that there is no real ground for apprehension—and so long as there is apprehension in the minds of a considerable section of people that there is danger to property, it would be criminal, and it would be foolish on the part of the Government to avoid taking any precautions in the matter. I may add that the policy of the Government is to aim at getting rid of all this special force excepting in these two localities of Malabar and the Agency tracts. I may say that the total number of the police in Malabar was till recently 597 men and 89 other ranks and in the Malappuram special police, 91 men and 13 other ranks. Altogether there were 810 people. The Government have ordered that the force should be reduced to 600 men and this reduction amounts to a saving of Rs. 45,000 a year."

Mr. T. M. MOIDU SAHIB:—"The appointment of a Muhammadan Deputy Superintendent of Police who is acquainted with the manners and customs of the Mappillas will be very helpful."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"It is said that there will be no disturbance if a competent Muhammadan with an adequate knowledge of the manners of the people of Malabar is appointed there. Well, Sir, I will take that suggestion and see whether this will alleviate the matter. But it is not a matter which can be improved by small means like that. I do not mean to say that the appointment of a person who is conversant with the manners and habits of the persons in the locality will not be a palliative; it may enable the authorities to get a more accurate and more thorough knowledge of what is going on there. These are suggestions which will be thankfully and courteously received. But it cannot be said that the appointment of a Deputy Superintendent with a knowledge of Malabar

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is going to prevent outbreaks. But these are matters which will receive attention.

"Let me go on. We have ordered the reduction of the Malabar special police. In regard to the East Coast special police, that was reduced to two companies at the end of 1924. My submission to the House, Mr. President is that you cannot without any regard to safety go back upon it. It seems to me that in a situation of this kind—I do not mean to say that there may not be some small reduction—the provision for these two special reserves is absolutely called for and necessary and it is not possible for the Government to give up this provision to any extent."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB:—"I do not wish that my hon. Friends from Malabar should live in fear for ever. I wish that they should live very happily. I tabled a motion to omit the whole amount and to abolish the force. But when I saw that some of my hon. Friends were against the abolition of the special police force, I withdrew it. This motion is for reduction of the allotment. I wish to show to the Government and to the hon. Members and try to convince them. There are three fixed stations in Malabar—one at Tirurangadi, another at Kottakal and a third in Perintal-manna. These stations can be controlled by the strong military force stationed at Malappuram, and there is no necessity to keep this special police in these three places and terrorise the people. The history of these special police during and after the rebellion has been quite atrocious and if an enquiry had been made with regard to the conduct of the special police during and after the rebellion, it would have been a blot on the fair name of the British Government."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Has the hon. Member or any one else given us any definite information on which to proceed and has that information not been acted upon by the Government in any particular manner? If my hon. Friend gives me the names of any men of a company who behaved as they ought not to, there will be no compunction in proceeding to the utmost limits of discipline in these matters."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB:—"As regards that point, I have to refer to a meeting held by the Hindus and they passed resolutions. I do not know whether they were forwarded to the Government. They urged for an enquiry committee with regard to the conduct of the police. But nothing came out of it. Moreover lectures were delivered in Madras by a well-known and eminent lawyer, Mr. Manjeri Rama Ayyar, with regard to the conduct of the police."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr Manjeri Rama Ayyar mentioned one or two names and enquiries were made into these cases as hon. Members may know."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"While Mr. Manjeri Rama Ayyar was delivering lectures in Madras, he referred to not less than a dozen cases."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB:—"I am not accusing anybody."

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"With reference to the several speeches made by Mr. Manjeri Rama Ayyar, did he complain about the conduct of the special police or of the ordinary police?"

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Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB:—"He complained about the conduct of the whole police."

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"I wanted to have that information because the special police was stationed after the Malabar rebellion."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB:—"It was the military police that was converted into the special police. You may give it any name you like. There are three stations where the police are maintained, Tirurangadi, Kottakal and Perintalmanna.

"It has been stated from house-tops by every officer from the highest to the lowest that the cause of the rebellion was due to the utter ignorance of the Mappillas. Four lakhs of rupees are spent for the upkeep of the special police. A large amount is spent for sending them to Andamans. The Government are spending a lot of money for the convicts in the Alipuram Jail. They have been able to provide only Rs. 13,000 for the education of the Mappillas.

"They want to maintain this special police. Instead of keeping special police, let them keep the military force there. We are spending for the military force. Let them be removed from Cannanore. They can look after the work of the special police: There is the military force, there is the ordinary police and there is the reserve police. All these are there. Why do you want special police and spend lakhs of rupees? They can reduce the three stations which can be controlled by the military. There is reserve police at Calicut and Malappuram. That can very easily be removed to those places. Let Hindu friends from Malabar who are afraid of the Mappillas have the military force instead of the special police."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Hon. Members are probably aware that this debate must come to an end at a quarter past one. It began at 3-15 yesterday and continued for one hour and a quarter up to 5 o'clock. It was resumed at 12 noon to-day; and it will come to an end at a quarter past one. I presume that this motion is pressed."

The motion was put to the House and declared carried. A poll was demanded and the House divided thus—

Ayes.

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| 1. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 18. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. |
| 2. Mr. J. Kuppuswami. | 19. Mr. K. Koti Reddi. |
| 3. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 20. C. Maruthavannar Pillai. |
| 4. P. N. Marthandam Pillai. | 21. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar. |
| 5. C. Muttayya Mudaliyar. | 22. Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo. |
| 6. B. Ramachandra Reddi. | 23. Mr. M. R. Seturathnam Ayyar. |
| 7. P. Sagaram. | 24. J. A. Saldanha. |
| 8. J. D. Samuel. | 25. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 9. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 26. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 10. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 27. Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai. |
| 11. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 28. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 12. C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 29. K. Suryanarayanamurti |
| 13. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | Nayudu. |
| 14. Mr. Kottal Uppi Sahib. | 30. Mr. K. Venkatachala Padavathi. |
| 15. P. C. Venkatapathi Raju. | 31. Khan Bahadur Haji Abdullah Haji Kasim |
| 16. S. Satyamurti. | Sahib. |
| 17. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar | 32. Mr. T. M. Moidu Sahib. |

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Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 16. Mr. T. M. Ross. |
| 2. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 17. P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nader. |
| 3. the Raja of Panagal. | 18. N. Devendrudu. |
| 4. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 19. Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan. |
| 5. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagranam Pillai. | 20. Mr. V. Mathava Raja. |
| 6. Mr. R. A. Graham. | 21. T. Mallesappa. |
| 7. N. E. Marjoribanks. | 22. Hony. Lieut. Madurai. |
| 8. Mr. G. T. H. Bracken. | 23. Mr. K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai. |
| 9. P. L. Moore. | 24. K. Prabhakaran Tampan. |
| 10. Dr. John Mathai. | 25. Rao Bahadur O. M. Narayana Nambudripad. |
| 11. Mr. Abdulla Ghatala Sahib. | 26. Mr. B. Obalesappa. |
| 12. S. Arpudasmami Udayar. | 27. Rao Bahadur P. Raman. |
| 13. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai. | 28. Rao Sahib P. V. S. Sundaramurti. |
| 14. Mr. A. E. Rencontre. | 29. Mr. R. Veerian. |
| 15. Sir James Simpson. | 30. Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib. |

Neutral.

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | 3. Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. |
| 2. P. Anjeneyulu. | 4. Janab Muhammad Qadir Mohidin Sahib. |

1-15 p.m. 32 hon. Members voting for the motion and 30 against it, the motion was carried.

Four hon. Members remained neutral.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"As the time allotted for the discussion of the demand has expired, I have to put the grant to the vote of the House."

The question that Government be granted under Demand XIV—Police a sum not exceeding 153.97 lakhs minus the reductions made by the House was put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XV—SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS (OTHER THAN HYDRO-ELECTRIC SURVEYS).

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I beg to move
"that Government be granted under Demand XV—Scientific Departments (other than Hydro-Electric Surveys) a sum not exceeding Rs. 55 lakh."

The motion was put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XVI—EDUCATION (RESERVED).

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Sir, I beg to move
"that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 9.07 lakhs under Demand XVI—Education—Reserved."

Motion No. 89.

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"Sir, I beg to move
"to reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,800 for Government Secondary Schools—European—by Rs 10."

"It is as seen a token motion, for eliciting some information from the hon. Member. In answer to some of my questions regarding the reduction of school fees of Indian boys and girls reading in European schools the hon.

[Mr. P. V. Gopalan]

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the Home Member gave me an assurance that he would consider the question. I wish to know whether the hon. the Home Member has heard definitely from the Director of Public Instruction or any other officer concerned that arrangements have been made to charge the same fees both for Indian and European or Anglo-Indian boys and girls.

"Secondly, Sir, I am informed that some of the Indian boys and girls who pass very creditably in the examinations and even stand first in rank are refused scholarships purely on the ground of their being Indians. I shall be very glad to hear from the hon. the Home Member if there is any such rule barring such bright Indian boys and girls from getting scholarships."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Sir, I am glad to have this opportunity of explaining the points referred to by the Mover of this resolution. In the first place, the hon. Member is under a misapprehension if he thinks that the general practice is to charge Indian boys and girls double the fees that are charged to the European boys and girls. According to the reports we have received, 34 European schools charge the same fees for both classes of pupils, while in 21 the fees for Indians are higher. I can only find one instance where the fees are actually double. That probably is the case which my hon. Friend had in mind when he moved the resolution. This matter has been discussed in this House more than once largely in the form of questions and answers. I may tell the House what the latest stage is. It was pointed out on a previous occasion that the order which we passed in December last was likely to lose a good deal of its effect owing to the fact that the great majority, if not actually all the European schools with which we are dealing, had endowments earmarked for the benefit of certain communities. Government therefore have had to issue further instructions to the Director of Public Instruction. I may mention at this stage that I recently held a conference on the subject of European education. A preliminary survey of the present condition and requirements of European education is being made by the Inspector and as soon as his report is submitted a committee will probably be appointed. And one of the questions that is going to be considered by the committee is the question of fees. Pending further inquiry Government have issued an interim direction that if the management of an European school desires to levy from any non-European pupil fees higher than those demanded from Indian boys in the same standard they should report the matter to the Inspector of European schools and obtain his specific approval for their action. That is to say, the management will have to make out a sufficient case to the Inspector or the Director of Public Instruction or if necessary to the Government.

"With regard to the other point regarding the scholarships, the question has not, so far as I know, been raised before. The fact is that there are a certain number of scholarships which are tenable for European schools and there is a very much larger number of scholarships tenable in Indian schools. I do not think that the question has ever arisen regarding an Indian pupil reading in an European school. Now that it has been raised I shall ask the Director to report on the matter."

* Rao Sabib P. V. GOPALAN :—"I beg to withdraw my motion, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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Motion No. 90.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, I beg to move
*'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,04,300 for European education—
 Secondary by Rs. 100.'*

"I want to raise three specific points, one of which has already been raised by my hon. Friend. With regard to the question of fees, I hope that Government will take steps to see that the inequality is abolished as soon as possible. Sir, speaking on a similar motion last year, I expressed the opinion that such special schools ought not to be maintained. I am still of the same opinion. But I have since learnt that the education of Anglo-Indian boys and girls would suffer in this Presidency, unless some special provision is made for them. On that matter, Sir, I was sorry to hear from the hon. the Home Member the other day, that there was one school in our Presidency, which is aided by the Government, I presume, to which Indians are not admitted. Sir, it is wholly wrong that you must have separate schools even as a temporary evil. I think we ought to try and eliminate the evil effects of such separation at the most impressionable age of our future citizens, by admitting boys and girls of all races and classes inhabiting this Presidency, so that they may betimes learn to cast off their angularities and to look upon themselves as citizens of a common motherland. I do hope the hon. the Home Member will see to it that such separation is not carried out in our schools.

"Thirdly, Sir, there is the vexed question of grants, which I see is being raised by two other motions. I really want to know why the principles of grant-in-aid to secondary schools should be more favourable in the case of European schools, than in the case of Indian schools. I do not think, Sir, it is justified, and may I add—I do not want to import any racial considerations into this—that the Government cannot forget that it is largely or mainly European in origin and is largely European in direction and that it is up to them to eliminate the possibility of a suspicion that European schools receive more favourable treatment than Indian schools? It is for raising these three specific points, Sir, that I move my resolution."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Sir, if my hon. Friend will allow me, I should like to say that I am very grateful to him for the way in which he has addressed himself to this motion. I entirely join with him in the view that there should be as little separation as possible in the schools between the various classes so that the angularities may be rubbed off. They are all jointly citizens of India and on that point I fully agree with him. But I should like to point out that the grounds for maintaining the European schools, at least so far as Government are concerned, is not altogether racial. I do not deny that the racial element must come in. But it is also largely a matter of temperament, and tendencies. What we see is that the average European boy is as a rule better qualified to use his hands than his brain and he requires rather a practical than a literary education.

"It is that, I think, Sir, to a large extent which leads to the maintenance of separate schools. Moreover the question of vernacular also comes in. So long as certain boys can only be taught in English it is obvious that separation must exist. If boys who do not know English and boys who only know English were forced into the same school, both of them would not be profited

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by it, because the former would not be able to follow the instruction if it was in English and the latter would not follow if it was in vernacular. This alone would be a ground for maintaining separate European schools.

"On the question of the Breck's Memorial School at Ootacamund, that is rather a different subject. The school is entirely in the hands of a trust on terms which have been laid down by a definite scheme, and I do not quite see how the Government can interfere with the school. It is not open to the Government to say 'we are not going to give you any grant because the school is under a trust and bound by the terms of a trust.' For the benefit of education certain trusts have been endowed and it would be bad policy for the Government to discourage such contributions from private persons towards the general expenses of education. While on this point, I would like to refer my hon. Friend to an interesting fact of which he may not be aware namely that the amount of public money spent in proportion to private donations and private funds is very much larger in the case of Indian schools. I have some figures and I shall read them. European schools spend something like 12 lakhs of which 5 lakhs are made up from public funds and 7 lakhs from endowments and fees. The corresponding figures for the general schools are 263 lakhs of which 155 come from public funds and 108 lakhs are made up from donations and fees. Probably it is roughly the reverse. I do say, Sir, that it would be a great pity to divert from education the 7 lakhs which at present is available in the form of endowments to assist the Government in the task of educating the people of the country.

"These are two points. The third point with which my hon. Friend has dealt is racial discrimination within the schools in the matter of fees. From the first time the matter came to my notice I have been doing my very best to try and remove a distinction which the Government have definitely told the school authorities they are not prepared to tolerate any more. Unfortunately there were some difficulties in the way and we discovered that although our original order was very well intentioned it was not going to have any great effect. As I have already explained, we have now passed a temporary order which is going to put on the manager of the school the onus of giving substantial reasons if in any particular case he desires to charge the Indian boy more than the European boy. Later on when the Committee on European Education has sat and considered the whole matter, I hope it will be possible to pass orders which will put an end to this practice of discrimination which my hon. Friend has raised."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Grants, Sir."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"On the question of grants it has been explained more than once in this House that while the system of grants does differ as between the general and the special or European schools, the net result so far as the proportion of grant is concerned, is the same in both the cases. The European schools are given fixed grants, the others are on the half net cost system. When recently we had occasion to examine this question we found that these European schools were practically getting half net cost. To be more precise we find that the European Secondary Schools are getting slightly over and primary schools slightly

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under half net cost. Of course it is true that the amount paid per head by the Government for European schools is higher than that which is paid to general schools but that is due to the fact that the buildings are more elaborate and the pay of teachers is very often higher in European schools. How that is to be remedied I am not prepared to say at the present moment, but all I can say is that if general schools arise which are run on the same lines and with the same expenditure as the general schools and I do not see any reason why the Government should refuse the half net cost to the former merely on the ground they are run on a comparatively elaborate scale provided of course that there is no money wasted. I do not understand my hon. Friend suggesting that we should insist on the pay of the teachers of these European schools being cut down: That would mean that the teachers now employed would have to leave and go elsewhere and their experience would be lost to us. I do not think it is waste of money. As long as we are getting a certain amount of money being brought in from outside for the purpose of education and as long as our general policy is to give rupee for rupee against money which comes from private sources. I do not see any reason why we should cut the grants given to these schools. Sometime ago the Director of Public Instruction promised to submit proposal for assimilating the two grant-in-aid codes and until I get his proposals it is not possible for me to say anything more on this subject."

1-30 p.m.

At this stage the House adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-22 p.m.)

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I beg leave to withdraw my motion, Sir."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand XVI was then put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XVII—EDUCATION (TRANSFERRED)

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"If you will permit me, Sir, on behalf of my hon. Colleague, Sir Parasuram Patro, I move

'that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 131.11 lakhs under Demand XVII—Education—(Transferred)'"

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I take it, Sir, that the hon. Member, Sir Arthur Knapp, in making this motion makes himself responsible for the policy of his Colleague, the Education Minister?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"His Excellency the Governor has made the recommendation in respect of the budget grants and he need not employ any particular member of the Government on his behalf."

Motion No. 91.

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I move the motion standing in my name which reads:

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 67,300 for grants to Universities by Rs. 100.'

[Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar]

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"My object in doing so, Sir, is to raise a debate on the need for establishing a Kerala university in the near future. We know, Sir, that a provision to the extent of about Rs. 11,000 has been made in the budget for the appointment of a special officer to investigate the question of the Andhra university and I believe a draft Bill has also been prepared in connexion with the founding of this university. As I said at the time of the general discussion on the budget I am glad that attempts are taken in this direction. We hear that there are also insistent demands from the South for the establishment of a Tamil university either at Trichinopoly or at Madura or at any other Tamil centre. The scheme of the University Act itself contemplates ultimately the establishment of different universities in different parts of the Presidency. And I believe, sooner or later, the sooner the better, it will be necessary to establish universities on a linguistic basis in the different parts of this Presidency. So far as the need for a university on the west coast—I would call it the Kerala University or by the broader term West Coast University—is concerned, I think very strong reasons exist for its creation. The West Coast, I include within the term South Kanara and Coimbatore as well, has a culture of its own and it is necessary to establish a university to develop and improve it. The Kerala province in its particular sense consists of Travancore, Cochin, Malabar and South Kanara. Travancore has already moved in this direction. About six years ago the Travancore Government constituted a committee for going into the question and submitting a report. And I believe that committee consisted as it did of many educationists, both from Travancore and outside it, went into the whole question and recommended in their report the formation of a unitary type of university. Subsequently two years ago, another committee which included in it some members of the previous committee with members from Travancore and even from Madras was constituted and they also, I believe, have finished their deliberations and submitted their report. So that, Sir, the Travancore Government are really very earnest in the matter and have been making serious attempts in the direction. The Cochin Darbar also, I believe, are very eager in establishing a university. They are raising some of their second-grade colleges to first-grade ones and I believe one of the Government colleges of the State will at the beginning of the next University year, in July, be raised into a first-grade one. Missionary colleges are also similarly raised to first grade. I may say also that in Travancore there are already some first-grade colleges and a large number of second-grade ones. Coming to Malabar itself, there is a very large number of colleges. So in point of literacy, whether we take the Native States or the British province, Cochin, Travancore or Malabar, we find the highest percentage of literacy in the whole of India. With regard to Malabar, though I have not got the actual figure, the percentage of literacy must be very high and if this Government from the past had followed the educational policy followed by the Native States of Travancore and Cochin it should have been far higher.

"Then again, Sir, as a matter of fact Travancore particularly—and in fact my knowledge of Travancore and Malabar is much greater than that of Cochin—is really a network of educational institutions, both vernacular and English. I believe there is an elementary school for an area of one square mile throughout the State. With reference to the number of secondary schools, I mean schools teaching up to the sixth form

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—I am speaking from memory—there are about 30 of them there. There are about four second-grade colleges, which is a decent number. And, so far as female education is concerned, the west coast, I submit, stands very high. I have not got the exact figures, but I believe that I am not wrong when I say that a very large, probably the major portion, of the girls studying in the colleges here in Madras—the Queen Mary's College and the Women's Christian College—come from the west coast, firstly from the Syrian Christian community and next from the Nayar community. I have referred to these circumstances for the purpose of showing that if there is any place in the whole of Southern India, I may say even in the whole of India, where a separate university should be established, it is the west coast, which may be called the Kerala province, and in this I include the South Kanara also. Having regard to the pecuniary capacities and also the area of Cochin and Travancore, British Malabar and South Kanara, I am afraid it would not be possible for either Cochin or Travancore State to establish or found a university of their own. So that if these three Governments combine, namely, the Governments of Madras, Travancore and Cochin, it must not be very difficult to establish an efficient and satisfactory university. And Sir, as the most important and the most powerful of the three Governments, it is, I believe, the interest and the duty of the Madras Government to take the lead and the initiative in this matter and to approach the other Governments, namely, the Governments of Travancore and Cochin, urging on them the need and the desirability of establishing a Kerala University. I need not dilate on this matter. In Malabar itself there are four colleges. In Mangalore there is a first-grade college, and I do not know whether there are second-grade colleges there or not."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"There are two colleges."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"So that on the west coast there are now, I believe, some first-grade colleges and a number of second-grade colleges, and a very large number of higher grade secondary schools, not speak of the vernacular educational institutions either recognized by Government or not. Having regard to all these circumstances and particularly the scheme embodied in the recent University Act, I hope my hon. Friend Sir Patro will in the near future take a lead in the steps that are necessary for founding a Kerala university."

Dr. JOHN MATHAI:—"Mr. President, I should like, if I may, to reinforce the appeal that has been made by my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar with regard to the question of forming a university for the Kerala area. I think most people have gone into this question carefully and have, I think, come to the conclusion that the conditions which now prevail upon that coast are really ripe as far as the formation of a separate university is concerned. We have got a very highly educated population on that coast, and then we have got what I believe is really a more important condition, we have got the educational tradition and there is a very distinctive culture, which are practically all the conditions you want for a university. Now I am also in agreement with my hon. Friend in suggesting that we would all be furthering the intentions of the new Act under which the Madras University is now functioning if we should be able to make university centres. As far as possible, we would be helping these areas and also the Madras University by this proposal. All this is more or less, I think, common place to all people

[Dr. John Mathai]

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who have thought about the position. But the point which I particularly wish to raise and which I want to invite attention to is the fact when you are trying to create a new university in any area, you are up against a circumstance which has caused difficulties over and over again. You will soon find that the question of finding a common location for the university is a question that will present a number of difficulties. It has been so not only in this country, but it has been so in every country where local universities have been formed. So I beg to make an appeal to my hon. Colleagues here who come from Malabar that with regard to the question of the Kerala university, it is their duty to address themselves to the task of educating public opinion with regard to the selection of a suitable centre. You will find from an immediate and practical point of view that that is the biggest difficulty. My hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar referred to a committee appointed by the Government of Travancore recently. I have the honour of being associated with that committee as one of its members. The report is not yet published and so I am not at liberty to disclose the recommendations of that committee. But from an authoritative statement made on behalf of the Government of Travancore, I am entitled to say this that as far as the Government of Travancore is concerned, I think they are going to move on the lines of making Trivandrum, at any rate one of the centres of the new university which may come into existence there. I may say I am very much in sympathy with that position, because Trivandrum admittedly, whatever may be the committee's recommendation, occupies a rather very peculiar position in regard to the selection of the centre than some other place, though it may be some other place may be selected for the university. Therefore supposing you are going to take the line that Trivandrum is to be the centre as a settled fact, we will find that the real question is for Malabar and Cochin to agree on having a common centre. And I think this is a matter with regard to which my hon. Friends from Malabar can do very much indeed. Now, I want to point to them that although we have got such a difficulty in practically every area, the question is going to be particularly difficult on the west coast, because, to my mind there is no part of the Presidency where you have such sharply differentiated communities as you have in Malabar, and the fortunate or unfortunate circumstance is that every one of those communities is very deeply interested in the question of education and maintaining its own separate educational institutions. So you will find the question from a practical point of view is likely to present serious difficulties. I do not consider that they are insuperable difficulties, but it is a matter in which the leaders of Malabar have a very serious responsibility resting on their shoulders. With these few remarks I have great pleasure in supporting Mr. Krishnan Nayar."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Sir, I wish to associate myself heartily with the previous speakers. It is well known that Kerala stands first and foremost in respect of education, in respect of both the number of educated people and the number of schools and colleges. Even in respect of boys that go outside the country seeking education, Malabar stands first not only in this Presidency, but perhaps in the whole country. It is the duty of the State to afford facilities for education and the fact that so many of our youths are going abroad, not only to England but to Germany, Japan, America and other places is sufficient reason for the Government to take a step forward in this

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[Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampam]

direction. My hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar said that we have got a culture of our own. Sir, the main characteristic of our culture is simplicity. Mahatma Gandhi said the other day that even with regard to royalties he has never seen such simplicity anywhere in India. Sir, our ways of life and thought and aims are so simple that that culture ought to be preserved and developed in its own direction. It is too early at this stage to chalk out the lines on which the university should be modelled. It may be on the model of the old federal system or it may be a unitary university. It is too early to decide these things. The difficulties with regard to the financial contribution from the two Native States and the location of the university are not insurmountable. If once we decide to have a university for the Kerala, the details can be decided afterwards. I should, however, at this stage, request the Government to appoint a committee to go into the whole question and see what steps should be taken for the achievement of our object."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, the hon. Mover has raised a question of great importance to the spread of university education in the future. When the Madras University Bill was under the consideration of this House this question of future universities was brought to the forefront and the hon. the Minister somehow shirked the issue, without coming to any definite conclusion on the matter, because he had many contending interest to meet and he thought probably that it would be very much better to leave this question to settle itself in the future rather than facing it at that time. Well, Sir, the present University Act provides for recognition of university centres first and those university centres are to be developed later on into future universities. That I thought was the policy of the Government. Now, Sir, we do not find a proposal for recognizing any area or any institution in Malabar as a university centre, but we are face to face with a proposal for a Kerala University, embracing whatever Kerala may mean. Of course the hon. Member who moved the motion was kind enough to say that South Kanara was included in it (A voice:—"And Coimbatore also.") Now he says that Coimbatore may also be included. The position will be this. We will have three languages, Kanarese, Malayalam and Tamil to deal with, if Coimbatore is also to be included, and the position will become very complicated indeed.

"Well, Sir, in Travancore you will have an institution. You will have another in Cochin. Then you will have institutions in Malabar, South Kanara and Coimbatore, and all these will be brought under the new university. Now, Sir, how could that university be different from the present Madras University which you yourselves say is not up to the standard? It was thought that the present Madras University should continue also as an examining university not because it was thought to be the best arrangement but because the historical circumstances required that. It was thought that there would be a number of universities in this Presidency in the future on the more developed lines of a modern university, with the result that Madras will also develop into a residential university itself. It thought that that was the object. If that was not the object, what is the use of bringing into existence new universities? They will be doing the same work which the present Madras University is doing, but only over a limited area. I do not think, Sir, that any object will be gained by that. Then again, my hon. Friend from Malabar has not told us whether he is

[Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar] [27th March 1925]

going to have the Kerala University at Travancore or at Cochin. Or is he going to have the University of Malabar in some place in Malabar? I am sure, Sir, that if they are going to have a Kerala University either in Travancore or in Cochin, they are not likely to develop British Malabar very much. It is not likely that many institutions can come into existence in Malabar itself. University life will have to be more and more concentrated. I do not know whether it will gravitate towards Travancore or Cochin. I do not know whether the Government of Madras would be justified in spending a lot of money for an institution which will be located either at Cochin or at Travancore. There is another question to be decided. The Government will have to take stock of all things and they will have to come to a definite conclusion as regards the progress of university education in this Presidency. They will have to decide whether they are going to have the new universities, as mere examining bodies as the present Madras University or whether they are going to have really teaching residential universities in different parts of the country. So before forming a university they have to take stock of all these things that are found at the present moment. That is the question which the Government will have to tackle and decide upon before they make up their mind to accept this motion or any other motion. Then, Sir, taking Malabar itself, I do submit that there is not even a single centre where there is a single first-grade college in the whole of the British Malabar, and I do not know whether any one can demand a university without even having a single first-grade college. It is out of mere patriotism I think that my hon. Friend Dr. Mathai does not seem to have realized it. Of course in his patriotism, in his anxiety to have a university in his own native land he might have overlooked this fact."

Dr. JOHN MATHAI:—"I may say, Sir, that the absence of a first-grade college in a particular area does not at all stand in the way of starting a university, as my hon. Friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, seems to think. On the other hand really the circumstances would help for it."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Without even a first-grade college my hon. Friend wants to have a university in Malabar. But I do not know whether hon. Members in this House would be prepared to accept a position like that; whether they are going to vote for a grant of 40 or 50 lakhs for starting a university with all subjects introduced and with good laboratory and other things and thus make a new university, when people who have got the first-grade colleges of good status, and who have done work for years and years or even for centuries together, e.g., Trichinopoly, have not got universities of their own. I do not know whether Members of this House will be prepared to grant large sums of money for bringing into existence a new university like that. I may say that we will have to consider that question. Well, Sir, this question of the Kerala University comes too early. As I said, there is not a single first-grade college in the whole of the British Malabar. If it is a question of encouraging educational institutions, that is quite a different matter altogether, and that will have to be considered when the report, to which references have been made by my hon. Friend Dr. Mathai, has been published. It has not yet been published and he himself says that he is not prepared to give out what the committee has recommended. It is only after knowing the report the Government will be able to consider whether with

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the co-operation of the Travancore Government or the Cochin Government they could bring into existence a university. The question is one which ought to be decided after Government considers the university education as a whole and not in a haphazard way."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"I quite appreciate the enthusiasm of the hon. the Mover of this resolution for a Kerala University. As far as I am concerned, I have every sympathy with the desire for the formation of a new university. But according to the Act itself the first thing that should be done is the development of university centres and then only new university will be formed. There are certain conditions laid down for the creation of new university centres and thereafter to develop them into new universities. Before discussing the merits of the Kerala University outlined by my hon. Friend and of entering into the details of the report of the committee appointed by the Travancore Darbar and before discussing the position of the Kerala University, I would submit to the House that under sections 16 and 27 of the Act, in order to form a university, centres should be recommended to the Government, so that Government may recognize those centres. The university centre is defined to be a 'local area outside the limits of a university recognised by the Local Government on the recommendations of the university as containing one or more colleges competent to engage in higher teaching and research work and to promote university life in a manner calculated to prepare for the institution of a new university.' Therefore, before a new university is started, it is necessary that the Senate should have to decide whether a particular locality would be treated or recognized as a university centre. The Act further provides that the Senate, by the end of five years from the passing of the Act, shall submit a report to the Local Government on the condition of the affiliated colleges and on the desirability or otherwise of establishing other universities outside the limits of this university. That is section 53. Thus this university has got the power of recommending a particular locality as being suitable to be recognized as university centre. We have not yet received any recommendation from the university on this matter and I understand from the correspondence that the Academic Council has appointed a committee in order to examine the question of the Tamil and the Kerala Universities. The resolution of the affiliated colleges was that the question might be taken up with a view to recognise university centres. The committee has not yet submitted its report to the Senate, nor the Government have received any report from the committee. Then Government will have to accept the recommendations or modify them according to the circumstances. Therefore I submit that when the report of the affiliated colleges is received by the Government, I may assure you that it will receive every attention which the subject deserves. It will not be for me now to say that the Kerala University will be formed in a year or two. But it depends upon the circumstances of the time, and as I said the university will have first to recommend university centres and thereafter it is to develop into a university. When these conditions are satisfied, I will be very glad to examine the conditions of the Kerala University."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Mr. President, Sir, my hon. Friend the Education Minister has thrown cold water, as it were, on the enthusiasm of those of my hon. Friends who are for the formation of a Kerala University. I am not

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one of those who are in favour of the multiplication of cheap imitations of the Madras University. But at the same time I am not one of those, like my hon. Friend the Minister for Education, who throws cold water on the enthusiasm of hon. Members of this House. I do not know why he found it expedient to reorganize the University of Madras, with a view to establish a teaching and residential university at Madras. I submit, Sir, rightly or wrongly, in my humble judgment, wrongly and prematurely, the hon. the Minister got the Legislative Council to commit itself to a policy of founding as early as possible, a teaching and residential university at Madras. He has also put in the Act 'that whereas it is desirable by the concentration and co-ordination of the resources for higher teaching and research at suitable centres outside the limits of the university to prepare for the institution of new universities' and so on. This Act was passed in the year 1923. We are now in the year 1925. I want to know what is the momentum which the hon. the Minister has given to the finding of university centres, with a view to their being formed later on as new universities. I know the state of the Andhra University project. But so far as the Kerala University is concerned, I cordially agree with my hon. Friend Dr. John Mathai that Kerala has a cultural history or cultural tradition behind it, which deserves encouragement. I know as a matter of fact that all those who are in Kerala love higher learning. I therefore suggest to the Minister that there is no use of throwing the burden upon that amorphous body, if I may call it, the Senate which cannot and does not function; because there are too many Members in it. My hon. Friend the Member for Chingleput himself knows, that when we met on Tuesday and Wednesday last, there were fewer than 100 members present. That is the Senate we have got. Therefore I want now some move in the matter of initiation. There is no use of saying that the Senate has got the power to make the recommendations. It is for the Government to take the initiative. Now, Sir, it seems to me that the Minister should take the initiative in the matter in order to promote the formation, as early as possible, of a university for Kerala. As regards the details of the university it is too soon to say anything. As my hon. Friend has said, a committee has sat and has reported to the Travancore Government. We do not know their recommendations. Whatever they be, so far as the selection of the centre is concerned it is left to the Governments of Travancore, Cochin and Madras to come to a decision.

"Then, Sir, I do suggest that if the hon. Minister wants a Kerala University, it ought not to be an imitation of the Madras University. But on the contrary it should have some ideas of its own, and try to develop all the culture which Malabar can boast of. And every one in the Kerala

University should specialise in the Malayalam or Sanskrit languages, because Malayalam in many respects is like Sanskrit. The study of these two languages should form a distinguishing characteristic of that university. May I suggest that the Kerala University should make it a rule that education should be given in the mother tongue of those boys and girls who go to the university? My hon. Friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, who is already obsessed by prospective responsibility doubts if the Kerala people would like it. I do not know what they would do; they may or they may not. I do believe, and even Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar will agree with me, that if this country is to make any progress towards real national education, it can be only when we

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are able to educate our children in their own mother tongue. Is there any country, modern or ancient, eastern or western, where there is this anachronism perpetrated of educating the sons of the soil through the medium of a foreign tongue? The English came here 150 years ago and they may disappear 50 years hence or five years hence. There is absolutely no justification for this English language being the medium, not after all a perfect or scientific language. It is for them (representatives from Malabar) to disabuse their minds and to make up their minds that this artificial language must go and it is really not for the hon. Member Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar. I remember having once read in history that the slaves in America kissed the chains they were bound by, when their chains were broken. If I am too radical for the hon. the Minister, I do suggest he may not take the responsibility of having the university that is suggested but for that purpose he may bring the scholars in Kerala together; they may meet together and discuss how best they can form the university and how best give life to it in that part of the country which will be benefited by higher education. I think I can claim to know the feelings of the graduates of Kerala. A majority of them are in favour of a Kerala University and I have great pleasure therefore in supporting this motion. And in doing so, I would request the hon. Mover not to withdraw it, with his usual courtesy."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"I am afraid that the hon. Member for the University in his enthusiasm lost sight of what the Act lays down in the matter. I drew attention of the House and pointed out that it was not for the Government to take the initiative in the matter. It is for the Senate of which the hon. Member is a distinguished Member to take the initiative and move a resolution for the appointment of a university committee. As a matter of fact the university has appointed a committee which has gone into the matter and when that comes before the Government I shall consider the matter carefully."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"While supporting this motion most heartily I wish to make a few observations. Our Education Minister waxes eloquent over his University Act; but so far as fostering new universities is concerned it is most preposterously conceived. The Act itself consciously or unconsciously in the matter of fostering new University centres has lowered the status of the mufassal colleges. In answer to a question I put once to the Education Minister as to the effect of the University Act on the mufassal colleges he was kind enough to refer me to the University Act itself. In that Act I find that the status of the mufassal colleges has been lowered. Therefore that is not a way of encouraging the formation of new centres."

"Then as to the Madras University itself, my question is whether it has formed into a full blown university according to the intention of the Act. It has been starved and the spirit of research in Madras is so little that one wonders whether there has been sufficient encouragement of it in the university itself. I was quite surprised that at the last Oriental Conference, the only institution which does so much to foster research work in this part of the country, the hon. the Education Minister was absent. I do not see how else he can give an encouragement to this. So far as the speculation on a theoretical basis of comparing the Andhra University with the Kerala University is concerned, Kerala is much entitled to a university from its historic

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development, traditions and progress in education. So far as South Kanara is concerned, I may point out that it has traditions and institutions of its own. We have now two colleges, one for boys and another for women. We have aided colleges and some six high schools. There is a seminary for theological and philosophical studies. So there we have got a nucleus of a university. But the difficulty for South Kanara will arise if the Kerala University is located somewhere in Trivandrum which is the best educational centre in the Kerala country. We have got the Mysore University and traditionally and historically our district is connected with Mysore. We can get ourselves affiliated with that university if we want. If the Andhra country is to have a university, I think Kerala has got an equal right to have a university. I strongly think that Kerala should have equal preference and support *pari passu* with the movements in other parts of the Presidency."

Mr P. ANJANEYULU :—"I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. Friend Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. In doing so I request permission to call attention of this honourable House to a small picture once painted in Punch. The picture represents all the Cabinet Ministers seated together and each Minister pointing to his neighbour in answer to a question by the people as to who is responsible for a certain crisis that had occurred. Similarly when questions are asked about the establishment of a Kerala University or the Andhra University, we see the hon. Minister for Education pointing his finger to the Senate. In the Senate we have them pointing their finger to the Minister and between these two one is at a loss to understand whether the Andhra or Kerala University will ever be an accomplished fact. It seems to me that the Minister is not very earnest in bringing into being either the university or any other institution which the people's representatives are very anxious that they should bring into being. And then the trouble comes in when any attempt is made they always speak about the 'nation-building departments'. Last year this day, if I remember the speech of the Education Minister aright, he was saying that if there was any reduction in the contribution he was sure to get us not only an Andhra University but also several other universities probably based on linguistic basis. Now we have the satisfaction of having 126 lakhs from the provincial contribution. I hope, Sir, that the hon. Minister will be able to fight, although there is a fear already that his fight will prove futile, still it is hoped that he will be able to get a large portion of the amount for education and to other transferred subjects."

"Now, Sir, emphasis was laid by the Mover of the motion that Kerala has a peculiar intelligence of its own, a tradition of its own. As I understand it the university must be one of a type suited to the people for whom it is intended. Therefore the type of university, with due respect to hon. Member Dr. Mathai, is more important than even the location of the university."

Dr. JOHN MATHAI :—"May I say by way of personal explanation that what I stated was that the question of type depended upon the location?"

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"If they are inter-dependent and if the type is to suit the location and the location proposed is to suit the type, then I have no quarrel with the hon. Member. As far as the Andhra University is concerned, I fear, the Minister, some years ago at an informal conference held

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at Vizagapatam, promised that he would take public opinion before he actually decided on the question of the location of the university. But I am sorry to say that no public opinion was taken. . . ."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"It was done, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"What was done?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"The consultation."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"Well, Sir, I may at once say that the hon. Minister was promising to some members who were invited and who fell out with him on the ground that the representatives of the Ceded districts were not invited to the conference, that there would be a meeting in Madras. There was no such meeting or at any rate to my knowledge as regards the type or the location of the University. But I understand that the location of the University has been settled. . . ."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"My hon. Friend is making all kinds of allegations without knowing the facts. The question of location is not yet settled."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"I request him then to deny it, Sir. I have heard it from gentlemen that are in the know of things that this question has been settled. And I am making the statement without taking the responsibility for it myself."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"It is very easy to make remarks of that type without taking any responsibility."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"The allegation is this: we are told that Vizagapatam is the place that is practically decided on for the location of the Andhra University (if I am wrong I shall be very glad to be corrected). If Oriya should be taken away from our Presidency—as my Oriya friends are making a protest to that effect—Vizagapatam will be the outermost point in the Andhra desa, and it will be practically useless for my hon. Friends in the Ceded districts. Besides, the Andhra University must be a university suited to the traditions and culture of the Andhra people. The Andhra people would rather have it on the banks of some river."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"May I know whether my Friend is speaking on the motion for the Kerala University?"

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"I am advancing my arguments for the Andhra University as well as the Kerala University, the basic principle being the same, namely, that the university to be started whether in Kerala or Andhradesa, should be a university suited to the cultural needs of the people for whom it is intended. We are fighting for Andhradesa on this basis so also we take it that our Kerala friends would fight out on the same basis. So in drawing this analogy, I am directly or indirectly supporting the Kerala University. (Hear, hear.) Sometimes indirect opinions have greater effect than direct opinions. Sometimes courtesy requires that certain suggestions should be made directly rather than indirectly. Anyhow, I was submitting to the House, whether Andhra University or Kerala University, it should be to suit the genius of the race for whom it is intended. As far as the Andhra University is concerned, most of the Andhras do not know where it is going to be located, except the vague suggestion I have made, we do not

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know the type on which it is going to be based. If the Kerala University also is to meet with the same fate, I would rather not have either an Andhra or a Kerala University, if they are merely, as my hon. Friend Mr. Satyamurti suggested, a duplication of the present university; we would rather not waste our time and labour over it. But if we should have a real university, which is to be useful in developing the cultural capacity of the race, then we have first to decide the type and then the location. With these words, I heartily support the motion of my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am in entire sympathy with the mover of the resolution. There is really a necessity, an urgent necessity to start universities in various linguistic centres of this Presidency so as to develop the peculiar traditions of the people concerned. But I am one of those who think that we ought not to waste money and energy on mere duplication of Universities which can only produce a number of unemployed graduates who probably cannot utilize their little knowledge either for themselves or for their country. We want universities which will develop the cultural traditions, which will impart sound education, which will not only propagate and spread knowledge, but also add to the sum total of the knowledge that we already possess. For such a university in the centre of this Presidency, there is a necessity and I sympathize with the movement of my hon. Friends to start a university."

"In this connexion I want to add one word. There is some consolation in the statement of the hon. the Minister that the location of the Andhra University is not yet decided. But at the same time, the hon. the Minister said that the opinion of the whole Andhra people has been consulted with regard to the location. I must say, Sir, so far as the Ceded districts and a number of other districts are concerned, their views have not been consulted and I have also tabled a motion in connexion with this, with regard to the appointment of a committee to select a suitable place for the Andhra university."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"With your leave, Sir, I shall make a statement with reference to the remarks that fell from my hon. Friend for Cuddapah. I propose to call a committee representing the Andhras in order to advise me on the location of the university."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"I am very glad for the statement. We are very keen in deciding the place after discussing the pros and cons. With these words, I entirely sympathize with the mover Mr. Krishnan Nayar."

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"I have great pleasure in supporting the motion which has been so ably moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar requesting for a university for Kerala. Sir, oftentimes, I have heard when Travancore came forward with a request for a university, on linguistic basis, the Government said they should consult Cochin and Malabar, and whenever Cochin came forward, they always gave the answer Travancore and Malabar ought to be consulted, and if Malayalees came forward, they said they wanted to consult Cochin and Travancore. Now, all these people are united in their demand for a university. Now the hon. the Minister says that he labours under a difficulty and that is the Senate has to be approached for fixing up the location of the university. Though we Malayalees personally represent our grievances and place definite schemes regarding a Kerala university, the

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hon. the Minister hesitates—I can use the word hesitates, because he has not found it convenient for him to tour in Malabar for the past 4 or 5 years, though we have been expecting his visit so that many of us may definitely place before him a scheme for a Kerala university. (Mr. Satyamurti: 'Why not here?') It is to enable him to personally discuss with the people on the subject. The Malayalees are rather very poor and many of them cannot afford to bear the railway expenses. He very seldom finds it convenient to pay a visit. Since Travancore, Cochin and Malabar are united in this demand for a University, I hope he would come to the rescue of the Kerala country during his regime and take steps to organize a university in Malabar."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I shall just say one or two words. I feel glad and I am grateful, Sir, at the general support found in the House. My Friend Mr. Mathai said, and said quite rightly, that difficulties are likely to be felt with reference to details, as to the type of university that we may require and also as to the location of the university. Certain difficulties are likely to arise and we have to face them. But I am sure that the difficulties with reference to the location of the university in Kerala, whether in Trivandrum or some place in Cochin or British Malabar or South Kanara, whatever these difficulties be, are not going to be anything like the difficulty that we now feel with reference to the location of the Andhra university. ('Hear, hear.') So far as I am able to understand, some of my hon. Friends from the Andhra province want a university to be established in Vizagapatam, others in Bezwada, others in some place in the Ceded districts. So that whatever the difficulties may be, there is not going to be anything like the difficulty that is actually felt by my hon. Friend Sir Patro and also my hon. Friends coming from the Andhra province."

"Then the hon. the Minister said that having regard to the provisions of the University Act of 1923, it is for the Senate to take the initiative. I perfectly agree with my hon. Friend Mr. Satyamurti, the Member for the University, when he said that though the provision is there the Minister cannot shake off his responsibility. (Mr. Satyamurti: 'Hear, hear.') As a matter of fact when a resolution is passed in this House or when a mandate is given to the Minister, certainly though the Senate has to make a report, it is for my hon. Friend to ask the Senate what it intends to do, so that if there is a provision in the University Act to the effect that the Senate must report and the report should be submitted to Government, it certainly does not take away the responsibility from the Minister of taking a fresh step in this direction. However, having regard to the fact that amongst my friends in this House who supported this motion are Dr. Mathai and my hon. Friend Mr. Satyamurti and seeing also that there are other members in this House who are also members of the Senate and who I know take a deep interest in this question, I feel confident that when this question goes to the Senate they will give their whole-hearted support to this proposal and will do everything in their power to give effect to it. With considerable respect to and against the advice of my hon. Friend on the left hand side (Mr. Satyamurti), I beg permission to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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Motion No. 92.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, I move

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 67,300 for grants to universities by Rs. 100.'

"I am very glad that on the last day of the budget demands, I have the good fortune of moving this motion. I had considerable misgivings as to whether we shall reach this at all. Sir, there are many spending departments of this Government but very few of them have representatives in this House. There are many anomalies in this Legislative Council. But I hope that as long as this legislature functions on behalf of the Madras Presidency, there will be always room for me or those who have the privilege to represent the University after me in this Council. I now speak specifically as the member for the University. I feel, Sir, that we have a very great grievance against the step-motherly treatment which the hon. the Minister has been giving to his own child. I do not suggest that he is altogether to blame. I hold the Vice-Chancellor responsible for the fact that the University has not been functioning properly—I want to speak with all respect to the Vice-Chancellor, because he was my teacher. But thanks to the fact that he has been long, too long in service, thanks to the fact that the Act has created so many bodies that in order to bring them into existence we have to devote three years, and thanks also to the fact that once these bodies are created their functions so greatly overlap that it is yet difficult to see the wood for the trees, thanks to all these circumstances, the University is yet in the process of being created. But one thing has emerged, and that has found expression in the Senate itself. My Friend is always fond of disowning his responsibility and doing that in a clever way saying 'I have not created the difficulties: not at all; it is for them to take the initiative'. He will sit with folded hands even though the child burns its fingers. (The hon. Sir A. P. Patro: 'Never') I am glad I shall say, even though the child is starved (The hon. Sir A. P. Patro: 'Never'). I am glad. But, Sir, the position is this: The University at its last meeting of the Senate on the motion of my hon. Friend who sits in the Sub-treasury Bench—Dr. Mathai—adopted unanimously a resolution recommending to the Syndicate to appoint a committee to look into the financial resources of the University and to suggest ways and means for making it function properly and efficiently. I am sure there is no one in this House, there is no one in the Senate, who does not agree with me when I say that this University cannot function unless more funds are placed at its disposal. I quite agree, Mr. President, that this University cannot really depend on the Government for all its funds. If our University is ever to take its place alongside the great Universities of the civilized world in being a centre of real education and culture, the University will have to depend more and more upon the public generosity of the philanthropic citizens of our Presidency. But, Sir, that consummation cannot be reached—I do not know who will take the initiative—unless the Minister or the future Vice-Chancellor or the future Syndicate develops a sense of responsibility and is willing to take a bold step—I shall use the phrase though it gives annoyance to the Minister—unless somebody takes the initiative and gives a national orientation to the University.

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"Now, Sir, if that is so and if our University begins to function as a real life-centre of national life and ceases to be a kind of parasite trying to give foreign culture through the medium of a foreign tongue, serving as no connecting link between the unfortunate masses and the new caste, the educated classes, unless this transformation takes place, this appeal to philanthropy would be absolutely futile. But that is neither here nor there. I am to-day trying to persuade this House to agree with me in voting for this motion that the Government have not been treating the Madras University fairly. I am not to-day discussing the question of grants, although even there I find the Government of Madras are not granting as much as they can or ought to. Looking at page 192 of the Budget Estimates, it will be seen that while in 1923-24 the provision for grants to Universities was Rs. 1,17,567, this year the provision is Rs. 85,500 under non-voted and Rs. 67,300 under voted. I agree the Rs. 25,000 more are provided roughly. But, Sir, I must say and even the hon. the Minister will grant, that considering the enormous expenditure by way of travelling allowances which the numerous bodies, created under the Act, entail upon our University, this sum of Rs. 35,000 is a bagatelle, a mere drop in the ocean. The University has got to meet the travelling allowances of the 300 members of the Senate, the Syndicate, the Academic Councils, the Council of affiliated colleges and so on when they attend the meetings of the Senate, Syndicate, etc. and the University has now passed a resolution which I commend to my hon. Friends here that a single second-class fare should be paid to the members. Therefore even this extra sum of Rs. 35,000 will not meet the travelling charges of the two statutory meetings of the Senate and the three meetings of the Academic Council. The very creatures of the Statute will swallow this extra sum of Rs. 35,000 and more, by way of the very limited travelling allowance for their actual meetings. Now, Sir, when the Act was passed by this House the House committed itself to this provision. I am reading section 44 of the Act:

'The University shall have a fund to which shall be credited—

- (1) its income from fees, endowments and grants, if any; and
- (2) any contribution by the Local Government.

The Local Government shall contribute annually towards the said fund—

(a) a sum equal to the amount of contribution by the Local Government in the financial year prior to the coming into force of this Act towards the recurring expenditure of the University';

"I should like to have some enlightenment as to how that Rs. 1,17,567 which was the grant in 1923-24 has dwindled into 67,300 in this year's budget. Sub-section (b) of 44 (2) runs:

'(b) a sum on such conditions as the Local Government may impose towards the salary, if any, of the Vice-Chancellor, the development of laboratory, library, museums and workshops and the salaries of such teachers of the University as are appointed for higher research and advancement and dissemination of knowledge in particular branches of learning.'

"No doubt, Sir, the Government took care to add the words

'on such conditions as the Local Government may impose . . .'

"I quite agree. But they definitely committed themselves to make

'grants for the development of laboratory, library, museums and workshops and the salaries of such teachers of the University as are appointed for higher research and advancement and dissemination of knowledge in particular branches of learning.'

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"I want to put it to the hon. Minister for Education that if really he contemplates a teaching university, he ought not to be satisfied with one half-time professor of Indian Economics and one professor of Indian History, which is practically the present professorial staff. I do not think we can really call the Madras University a teaching University, unless we have very many more professors and teachers who would be able to make it a real life centre of higher learning.

"Sir, apart from the largeness or smallness of the amount, there is one principle which the hon. the Minister willingly or unwillingly has been compelled to apply to the grants to the University. That is the principle which I will sum up in one word 'lapse'. They make grants every year, and if the grants are not spent in that year they resume the grants. Now, I do not think that is a principle on which any university or any learned or scientific body can be really asked to function. They have now made certain rules. In answer to a question of mine in the matter reported at pages 79 and 80 of the proceedings dated 18th August 1924, the Government placed their Government Order on the table of the House in the course of which they say that they will give Rs. 85,500 annually as non-voted. But as regards the second clause of 44 (2) they say:

'The grant towards recurring expenditure will be disbursed in quarterly instalments in the beginning of each quarter in advance on application. Any balance remaining unspent out of the grant paid in the previous year will not lapse but will be taken in abatement of the grant due for the quarter succeeding that in which the savings come to the notice of Government.'

"As far as I can understand English this is not very clear. It seems to me that the principle of lapse will not apply, only to the case of grants actually paid in the previous year. If they are not paid, they lapse. If this is a fact they will not lapse, even if they are not paid provided they are spent within the first quarter of the previous year and provided also I take it that they can be spent within that quarter. Therefore it comes to this that the whole principle of lapse still applies excepting in the case of small amounts which may have been paid in the previous year or may be required in the next quarter. Now, it seems to me that the principle is wholly unworkable in the case of learned societies like the University. Sir, on this matter I want to cite in my support the very high authority of the President of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. When speaking on this matter of grants which are resumed by the Government after a period if they are not spent in the meantime, he said this:

'Under a bureaucratic Government—and there is no form of Government so bureaucratic as democracy—the danger of officialdom is always with us. It is particularly great in a society subsidized by Government.'

"He adds:

'I know of nothing more liable to cause their waste than the system of resuming all grants made for science or literature at the end of each financial year—as if it were possible to spend the allotted amount for universal subjects honestly within a time-limit so brief as a year?'

I am not an expert in academic matters. But I would ask my hon. Friend Dr. Mathai and Mr. S. Arpudawami Udayar if he can speak of his convictions of his pre-official days, whether it is possible for any college or literary society to spend a grant within a year, and whether it is right to tell them that unless you spend it within a definite period the money will lapse. I do not think, Sir, that can work or will work. Sir, I may here refer to the very high authority of the Inter-Universities Conference which is to-day meeting

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at Bombay to which the Madras University has sent its representative. In their Conference in May last the following recommendation was moved by our own Vice-Chancellor and unanimously accepted by the Conference:

'That it be a recommendation to the local Governments that grants made to the universities be ordinary block grants and that the universities bureau, when established, be requested to consider the question of the financial relations of the universities with the local Governments.'

It seems to me, therefore, that expert opinion is strongly in my favour that these grants ought to be block grants. The opinion based on our own experience in the working of the Act also confirms us in this view. The University is in want of funds. Therefore I suggest that the hon. the Minister will be consulting the future of the University and, may I add, the future of his own Act, if he uses his position as the responsible Minister of the Government to see to it that these grants are block grants and that no rules are allowed to stand between them and the University. If there are rules which really prevent this being done, it is time to mend them. These rules can be only of two kinds, either made by the local Government or made by the Government of India. If these are rules made by the local Government the hon. Minister can and must mend them, but if they are rules made by the Government of India it is up to him to move that Government, and if that Government stands in the way of his doing so, this House would vote for it and strengthen his hands and get them mended so that the rational system of block grants may be introduced subject, of course, always to the check of public audit; and the University may function properly and efficiently in the years to come."

Dr. JOHN MATHAI:—"Mr. President, as one who is very intimately associated with the University I cannot let this occasion pass without saying a word about the very important issue which has been raised. I want to make a very strong appeal in common with my hon. Friend, the Member for the University, that this House should make a generous response to any appeal which may be made by the University of Madras with its enlarged functions under the new Act for financial support. I need not remind this House that in the very exceptional times through which we are passing now in this country, a University in the real sense of the word, that is to say, a University which really stimulates judgment, is a body which is building up the life of the nation. Therefore, it seems to me absolutely unnecessary for me to make any special case for the University on this ground.

"My hon. Friend, the Member for the University, referred to that very difficult question of the evils of the budgetary system under which we are working at the present time both in the Provincial Governments and in the Central Government and we in the University have had to suffer to some extent from the inevitable evils of the system under which grants voted by the legislature lapse at the end of the financial year. Now I want to say this on this question, that the University and practically all forms of higher educational work, from this point of view, stand precisely on the same footing as every kind of developmental work which the Government undertake. Now, in the Central Government they had to find a solution for the question of the Railway Finance. Indeed when you begin to look at it closely, I think you will find that the question of railway finance from a certain point of view is precisely on the same footing as the question of University finance. That is to say, you have got to make grants long ahead. You have got to

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watch things from a distance. So, unless you are in a position to count upon a certain sure supply of funds it will be very difficult for you indeed to do justice to the developmental work of Government, and I think the University is a very essential part of the developmental work of a nation. If we are going to find a satisfactory solution for this we will have to take a very comprehensive view of the whole financial system of the country. I do not altogether agree with my hon. Friend that the question is one which we can settle here and now. It is really a very big issue and an exceedingly delicate issue. But I am entirely at one with him in saying that under the system on which we are at present working the University which is an agency for national development is bound to suffer.

“Just one more thing I want to say. I am going back to the point with which I started that the University is badly in need of funds, that unless funds are supplied in abundance the University would not be able to justify its existence in the country. Now, I have had some experience of the machinery of the administration of the University both under the present Act and in the days before the Act; and there are various differences between those old days and now. There is one difference to which I want to invite the pointed attention of the House, and it is this. In the bodies that have been created under the new Act, you find that there is representation of the younger generation of the country. You find their enthusiasm for University reform which I did not find in the bodies and in the Syndicate of the old University. You are finding in all the bodies where the younger and the elder men join together, the younger generations are able now to make their voices heard in the councils of the University. You are finding a genuine enthusiasm and a genuine impulse towards the creation of new lines of University reform. What I want to say is this: If we are going to allow this new-born enthusiasm to run to waste, we shall be demoralizing the whole tone and life of the University. It seems to me that if we are not able to meet this enthusiasm with, not merely, sufficient but continuous supply of financial resources, we shall be creating a bad tradition for the University.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“May I ask whether there has been any instance in which the Government refused to offer money to any developmental scheme required by the University?”

Dr. JOHN MATHAI:—“I absolutely make no suggestion like that. I was referring only to the appeal which has been made on the floor of the House that the University is in need of funds and it is necessary that the University should be supplied with funds if the University is to justify its existence. I do not know whether the University has actually made an appeal for funds. I am not accusing anybody. My business in this matter is not to make an accusation. I want the House to be particularly sympathetic in any appeal that may be made by the University. We will not be able to make the new University of Madras what it ought to be, viz., a true embodiment of the best aspirations of the younger generation and educated peoples of the country.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“I fail to understand what exactly is the point which my hon. Friends are trying to lay stress upon, on this occasion.”

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“In order to enlighten our soporific friend, may I tell him the point raised is that once the vote of this House is given to a particular grant to the University, it ought to be a continuous grant; and it should not lapse at the end of the financial year? We want a system of block grants so that the University may spend them as and when they choose.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“I am thankful to my hon. Friend. I have been following his arguments because when he speaks nobody can sleep. Two points were urged. One was that the Government and the House should take a sympathetic attitude towards any demand made by the University for effecting development. So far as I have been able to see, as regards funds, I do not think the Government have in any case refused any grants that were asked for by the University in order to carry out any special scheme they had prepared. Two years ago a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs was provided in our budget and some of us then foresaw that it could not be utilized by the University because it was not prepared with any scheme of reform or of development. Since then, the University has been busy with what may be called the formal side of its activities in bringing various bodies into existence and has not had time to deal with what may be called the substantial work which, it is expected, it will soon undertake. With reference to this, the only demand that has been made is in the matter of travelling allowances which I understand the Government have refused. I am not justifying the attitude of the Government; but I may say the matter of travelling allowance is, in my opinion, not quite important as educational or other developments which may be undertaken.

“The second point that was urged was about this doctrine of lapse. The University should be able to use the funds whenever it likes: I speak subject to correction; but I do not think that you can do away with that principle of lapse with reference to special grants which are given to the University for specific purposes. I can understand my hon. Friend asking the Government to give a much larger sum than Rs. 85,000 as a fund for the University to be spent at its discretion. Two years ago, I did my best to induce the hon. the Minister for Education to increase that sum. But if grants are to be given for specific purposes, I do not see how they can be repeated. I do not see how a grant can be repeated if it is not utilized for the purpose; or if the particular scheme for which it was given is not carried out. To put up a concrete example: Rs. 12,000 is given for a new Chair in some subject, say, Sociology, and the professorship is not instituted. I can understand my hon. Friend saying repeat the grant for the next year because during the next year we may be able to establish the professorship; but I fail to understand what exactly is the point that is gained by saying that Rs. 12,000 has been endowed this year; if it has not been spent, do not treat it as lapse. Is that Rs. 12,000 to be given and another Rs. 12,000 to be voted for the next year so that the original Rs. 12,000 becomes a kind of reward for not instituting the professorship? At the most, it can be asked that the grant be repeated and the situation has not arisen in which we can accuse the Government of not carrying out this elementary duty on their part.

“Then the third point is this: I entirely agree that a good many of the developments will depend on the funds that the Government will be able to provide. I may say that there are educational developments which may be

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effected without any increase in the monetary obligations of the university, and though I may sympathize with the general feeling voiced forth by my hon. Friend the Member for the University and the hon. Member Dr. Mathai, I would request my hon. Friends and the University to take up seriously this question of further developments in the various directions aimed at and intended by the Act, confront the Government with actual schemes the cost of which will be specifically worked out and try to see what educational reforms they can introduce within the limits of the present Act and which would not, for their carrying out, require additional sums of money."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"My hon. Friend from Chittoor has anticipated me ('Hear, hear'); and I can very easily appreciate him because he knows the spirit underlying the University Act, and he has himself assisted in the framing of the Act. The point is this: The provisions of the Madras University Act empower the Government to give grants to the University on such terms as they deem proper. In the first place, when the University Act was passed, in the first year a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs was put into the budget so that the University might be able to utilize it on approved objects. It was not able to prepare the schemes necessary for utilizing the amount. Reminders were issued; but as the bodies were not constituted at that time it was not possible for the university to utilize the amount. Under these circumstances if the advice of the hon. the Member for the University is to be accepted, all the 3 lakhs should be credited to the university funds because the university has done nothing in order to utilize that amount. In the second year, again, a definite sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs was promised to the University provided it was prepared to inaugurate schemes so that the amount might be spent on approved objects of university development. Even then, it was not possible for the university to utilize that amount or any portion of it. If the proposition of my hon. Friend the Member for the University is to be accepted, this sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs should be credited to the university funds because the University had no approved objects on which the amount could be utilized. If to-day the university prepares schemes of development or finds it necessary to institute Chairs in order to attain the aim and object of the University Act, it will be possible for the Government to make provisions for meeting such demands. Therefore on the part of the Government there has been absolutely no laches. On the other hand the policy of the Government is to help university development as much as possible. Now that the university bodies have been constituted, all that we want is that the University should make proposals, and it will be possible for the Government to finance such proposals.

"As regards the financial rules which my hon. Friend the Member for the University referred to, I wish to say that they were not arbitrarily settled. Draft rules were prepared and were communicated to the Vice-Chancellor and the Syndicate. They considered these draft rules, and after they had sent back the rules to the Government they were published. The draft rules say that the university should be given funds, and if the university is not able to utilize the funds given for specific purposes within the quarter, it will be taken into consideration in the next quarter. Before November of any particular year the university has to send up estimates of its demands,

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viz., an estimate of the older demands for which contribution has been made and of demands which require further contribution and of demands for new development. Under these heads the university has to send in proposals to the Government and when these demands are received by the Government they will be looked into whether the amount allowed to the university under any particular head has been utilized fully or whether the university requires further consideration or further support from provincial funds. As regards new objects also, the Government will have to contribute for their development. But if the university has not been able to utilize any portion of the grant for a specific object, it must not lapse as the hon. the Member for the university said. But it will be taken into consideration in estimating the grant for that object for the next year. It may be that if there are good reasons for not utilising the grant fully, the Government may give it back. If the university did not take care to see that the money is not utilized, then it will be for the Government to consider how far they will be justified in giving back the grant plus any additional sum required. As an illustration, suppose the Government give a grant to the university for a particular chair for a certain subject and the University has not utilized any portion of it; the question arises whether it is justifiable that the university should be given that amount and that it should form part of the funds of the University. In all these matters of grants we are guided by the Devolution Rules

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under which the Finance Department is empowered to make rules as to how far these funds should or should not lapse. There was a good deal of discussion between the Finance Department and the Education Department and we of the Education Department pressed that whatever grant is made to the University should be made in the form of a lump sum grant. This interpretation of the Devolution Rule and the relevant section in the University Act was referred for legal opinion. The legal opinion was that though no conditions should be imposed upon the grant as is done in the case of a department of the Government yet it should be analogous to an independent corporation to which any subsidy is given on the condition that it would be taken back if it is not utilized properly for the specific object. Further if the grant could not be spent that year on that specific object it is reasonable that the amount should not be allowed to form part of the general funds of the University. The rule that has been ultimately approved is this:

"As soon as a grant under section 14(b) is voted by the Legislative Council this amount is intimated to the University with a statement of objects to which it should be utilized. The grant towards the recurring expenditure will be disbursed in quarterly instalments in the . . . each quarter in advance on application. Any balance remaining unspent out of the grant budgeted in the previous year will not lapse but will be taken in abatement of the grant due for the quarter succeeding that in which the saving comes to the notice of the Government."

"Any amount that is not spent on the particular object in the particular year will be resumed by Government. The suggestion of the hon. Member for the University that it should form part of the general funds of the University is not fair to the other departments and to the provincial Government generally.

"As regards the general appeal made by the hon. Member for the University I am in entire agreement with him. There are two ways in which the University may be financed: one is by endowments and the other by the State. As at present constituted the university cannot properly function

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unless it is properly financed by the State. We have at present very little in the way of endowments and it remains to be seen what endowments it will attract later on. I am sure, if, as the hon. Member for Chittoor remarked, proper schemes are prepared for university development, Government will be very glad to co-operate with the University and assist them in the development of education.

"My hon. Friend referred to the aim and scope of the University. I do not at all differ from him in the aim of the University. I believe in synthesising the cultures of the east and the west. The scientific culture of the west should be combined with the indigenous experience and culture of our own country. In the past we have not been emphasizing this part of the educational development. What happens to-day in the matter of Agriculture or Engineering? Experts come in from the western countries and make experiments with regard to our conditions. They apply their own methods to the conditions in our country. What became of the accumulated experience of our own countrymen, our ryots and landholders who for ages together have developed agriculture and engineering? It must be one of the functions of the University to co-ordinate the two cultures, the scientific culture of the west and the indigenous culture of the east, which has in the past enabled them to construct such magnificent buildings, temples, palaces, aqueducts and bridges. What became of the engineering skill of our people? We have to probe into these problems and find out the best in our culture and combine it with the culture of the west. As I said before the Andra University will have to emphasize this aspect of the indigenous culture and combine it with the western culture so that it may be a university of real usefulness. Similarly when several other universities are founded in Madras, the Madras University also will have to be a real teaching University. I therefore agree with my hon. Friend when he says that the University should pay more attention to the cultural aspect. The University will have to find various methods by which that aspect will be developed. If proper schemes for that purpose are proposed it shall not be wanting on my part as a Member of the Government to help the University in all possible ways."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I did not intend to take part in this debate, but I feel I ought to say a few words so as to erase an impression created especially by the speech of the hon. Member for the University. I gather from certain remarks that fell from the hon. Member that he was not pleased with the activities of the University in the direction of asking for grants from the Government; in particular he was not pleased with the activities of the Vice-Chancellor. Elsewhere I have not been a sparing critic of the Vice-Chancellor. But on this occasion a word has to be said in justification of the Vice-Chancellor and of the Syndicate in the matter of asking for grants from the Government. I was one of those who were enthusiastic that as large a provision as possible should be made by the Government for the development of the cultural side of the University. Therefore it was that in the first budget after the University Act was passed a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs was provided and in the next year a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs was provided. But considering the matter further, I am not at all sure whether I should feel sorry that these sums have not been utilized or that the Vice-Chancellor or the Syndicate have not come forward with any hasty ill-conceived plan of utilizing these grants. My hon. Friend is aware that when we discussed the question of the orientation of the University

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teaching we were of opinion that not merely the Academic Council but also the governing body of the University, the Senate, should have a voice in the matter. The matter is a very important one. For, if these new chairs are founded under the new scheme of development, then at least for the next fifteen or twenty years you would be liable to a recurring expenditure on account of these chairs once they were started. We therefore stated that we felt that these things should not be done in the happy-go-lucky fashion as in the past, but that they should be done with a great amount of deliberation. It is therefore that I say I am not at all sure whether I should be sorry that the Vice-Chancellor has not moved with greater haste in this matter. The maxim *festina lente* is one which may well be applied here. For, supposing in the year 1923-24 when the whole Senate was functioning in the person of the Vice-Chancellor, when the University had a grant of Rs. 3 lakhs, the Vice-Chancellor had come forward with proposals for establishing a chair on Experimental Psychology or a chair for Oriental Languages or for having a laboratory for Botany or Zoology or any of these subjects, it would have meant that, for a series of years hereafter, Government, University, and all the educational authorities in this Presidency would be committed to the policy of having these chairs and these chairs alone. Supposing my hon. Friend the Member for the University with his impulses for indianizing the culture of the University now wants to bring out a new orientation of the activities of the University, wherefrom would the money come if the recurring expenditure on account of those chairs comes to nearly two or three lakhs? What then would be the result? You cannot abolish these chairs once they have been founded. The professors would have been made life professors."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Why not?"

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"My hon. Friend from Coimbatore asks why not. I am only sorry that to his enormous activities he has not added some activity in the Senate of the Madras University."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"If not life-professors, we shall have professors appointed for short periods."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"My hon. Friend is at a disadvantage in not being initiated into the mysteries of University professorships."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I am not sorry for that."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Nor am I. My hon. Friend has enough activities elsewhere so that the Senate has been spared his activities."

"The Senate has got a scheme of life-professors. Anybody who knows the University and its activities will, I feel sure, think that the Senate has taken the right decision in asking for life-professors or professors for a period of fifteen or twenty years. If the Vice-Chancellor had come forward with these schemes in 1923-24 when he was completely unhampered by criticism from above or below, we would have been committed for a series of years. Last year during the discussions about the development of the University we came to the conclusion that the Academic Council should not have the last say in the matter of the founding of chairs. The Academic Council of course deserves the respect that is due to an educational council, but, after all is said and done, a certain leavening of the lay element will not

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altogether be unnecessary. We felt that the governing body of the University ought to have the last say in the matter. The Academic Council should propose the schemes and the governing body has to dispose of them. Rules also were framed to the effect that the proposals of the Academic Council should come before the Senate and should be approved by the Senate before action is taken on them. That is the reason why there has been delay in this matter. The application of the maxim 'Hasten slowly' has in this respect at least proved beneficial. While I feel sorry that no money has been granted to the University, I do not think it is impossible for the Government to come forward with a demand for supplemental grant for the University if that body comes forward with any new schemes of development of education."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, at the time of the introduction of the Madras University Bill several of us entertained various apprehensions whether the passing of the Act would in the immediate future bring about those reforms which we thought would be affected. The discussion to-day showing a desire that more liberal grants should be given to the University for developing education shows that we have not yet reached the desired goal. The hon. Member for Chingleput advises caution in pushing forward schemes of development. But, Sir, I am afraid, it so often happens that undue caution is an obstacle in the way of achieving substantial results in any length of time. In considering the question of grants to Universities we should make a distinction between recurring grants and non-recurring grants. The principle of giving recurring grants should be different from that of giving non-recurring grants."

"It will be remembered that some years ago the Government in making grants for non-recurring purposes to local bodies adopted this policy which for some time enabled them to have a clearer aspect of their financial position in order to carry on the schemes of development. It is true that subsequently other considerations prevailed and they were precluded from following such a course. And we find that grants given by the Government of India for education were distributed for a similar purpose. There is a feeling of security in the minds of the local authorities that the amounts granted—sometimes they amounted to lakhs of rupees—could be utilized for carrying on the various schemes of development, and it enabled them to have a clearer view of the financial position."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"The University is not a department of the Government; it is not run on the same lines as the local bodies; it is treated as an independent body."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"I quite realize that. A distinction ought to be made between recurring and non-recurring grants. If that is made, the University will be able to get at least the non-recurring grants. It is an autonomous body entrusted with very important functions, and I do not see why better consideration ought not to be shown in the matter of grants."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"A distinction has been drawn between recurring and non-recurring grants in the financial rules regarding grants to be made by the Government."

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Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"The hon. the Minister for Education has stated that if the amount is not spent within the course of a year, it is likely to be re-granted, and that it will be placed at the disposal of the University for carrying on other schemes. I draw a distinction between the two positions. He has told us perfectly well that if schemes for the satisfactory utilization of that grant were to be sent to the Government, that circumstance will be taken into consideration and the amount reallocated. While I quite realize the advantage of that circumstance, in the case of a body like the University, I cannot imagine of any such policy as placing certain funds at its disposal only for certain specific purposes. And a distinction has been drawn in the wording of section 44 of the University Act, viz., recurring grants and non-recurring grants. There is not much difference so far as the main object of the grant is concerned, but there is difference of opinion as to the way in which it ought to be carried out. The hon. the Minister has expressed his intention to be as liberal as possible in making grants to the University. The only question is how to make the University really feel beforehand that it has so much funds at its disposal."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Mr. Deputy President, it is a thousand pities that my hon. Friend, Sir James Simpson, was not in his seat to-day, especially when the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was speaking, because when the vote of No-confidence motion was brought forward in this House the other day, my hon. Friend Sir James said that one of the reasons why he could not support that motion was that none on this side of the House came up to his ideas of Ministerial perfection. I listened to the statesmanlike speech of the hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and at least so far as Sir James Simpson is concerned, I do hope that he will read it when it appears in the official reports."

"The hon. Member assured us of his sympathy. Sir, I was reminded when he said that of the historic occasion when the late Mr. Gopalakrishna Gokhale speaking in the Supreme Legislative Assembly in reply to a debate on his Elementary Education Bill referring to Mr. (now Sir) Maneckjee Dadhaboy, who said, I quite sympathise with my hon. Friend, but cannot vote', turning round to the Viceroy, said 'My Lord, I have no use for the sympathies of non-officials; unless they are going to vote. If officials sympathise, I can get a few rupees, annas and pies.' So I would repeat the same thing and say 'I have no use for non-official sympathies, unless they are going to vote on this side or the other.'"

Rao Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"Will you carry your temper a little further?"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I do not know what my hon. Friend in his solitary neutral glory means by this interruption. Anyhow I would not answer it. My hon. Friend referred to the University Bodies and said that they refused to function. May I remind him particularly of one fact, namely, that his visit to the Senate is as rare as his visits are frequent to this House? My hon. Friend Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar and myself spent days and nights to do something for the university, and it was up to him to have helped us. So may I not complain that if he really wants to help us he can come there and help us or if he cannot, can help us here when we ask for more grants?"

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"But, Sir, coming to the main point, I want to raise a specific question and that is this: my hon. Friend the Minister for Education has stated that he on his part looks with sympathy on the demands for increased grants and I am glad to be assured of his sympathies. My real complaint is this. I quite agree that the university should send up schemes before Government make their grants, but when the university has sent up its scheme, then I submit the Government should make the grant as a block grant and not compel the university to spend the amount in the course of 12 months, on the peril of the lapsing altogether of the amount to the Government, if it is not spent within that period. It may be quite allright from the Government point of view to ask the university to send up their schemes before making grants, but we really want to know whether my hon. Friend the Minister for Education wants to sit in judgment over the schemes approved of by the Academic Council or the senate."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"It is to approve the objects of the schemes which have been prepared by the university themselves, so that the Government may be convinced of the utility of the schemes sent up by the university."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am glad to hear that. What I want to urge is that if really we are to be an autonomous corporation, and really if we are approved as a body entitled to get funds, I really do not see why Government should not make these grants as block grants and allow us to spend them, as and when we can spend them most economically. As one of my hon. Friends said it may be that the university may not be able to spend the amount granted to it for a particular year in that year only, either because orders were not issued or due to other causes. I really do not see why a part of that grant should be resumed next year, and why the university should not be allowed to spend the grant on the library or some other schemes. That is the main point I wanted to raise."

"I should have very much liked to press the motion to a division, but since I am fired on both sides in the front and, in the back, I do not do so. But I do hope for better times and when my Friends will seriously think of the Madras University, I will press my motion. Meantime I withdraw it."

The motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

Motion No. 93.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"The motion which stands is:

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,18,200 for pay of officers by Rs. 100.'

"The reason why I want to make this motion is to urge the question of having a first-grade college in Coimbatore. I am not one of those who urge the creation of certain institutions in our place because other places want the creation of similar institutions in their places. I have no objection to Palghat having one. But what I urge is that that should not stand in the way of Coimbatore getting one also."

"So far as Coimbatore is concerned, the present college has a history for a century and over. It was managed for a very long time by a committee. With a view to convert the second-grade college into a first-grade one, the

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committee was reconstituted and a large sum of money was collected by way of donations. Thinking that the handing over of the college to the Government would facilitate the conversion of that college into a first grade, the college was handed over to the Government, and not on account of any difficulties that we felt."

"Sir, if we are unable to compete with eastern districts in the higher education, it is because of the absence of a first-grade college there. We have none in our parts. Bellary, Salem and Coimbatore are spoken of as the central Tamil districts and they must have a first-grade college in their midst. I do not know what attitude the Government is going to take in this matter. As I said, I do not say anything against the establishment of a college at Palghat. I am very strongly urging that, sooner or later I would say that it should come very soon, our college should be raised to a first-grade college. We have got several advantages. I do not press for a University being granted at once to Coimbatore. We have got a number of colleges. On the professional side we have got the Agricultural College, the Forest College and various other institutions and it would be great help if a University is established there. But that is only a dream and we do not want to press for it. So far as the establishment of a first-grade college is concerned, Coimbatore is an educational centre; it is an official centre and therefore it is highly necessary that the present college at Coimbatore should be raised to a first-grade college as early as possible."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I have also given notice of a similar motion. I may say that there are many advantages in establishing a first-grade college at Coimbatore, but I am sorry to see that they are not availed of by the authorities concerned. Now we have got a proposal to separate the Agricultural College from the Research Institute. The college has got a library and I believe the library is going to be added to. So, Sir, if a first-grade college is established in Coimbatore and if it is located somewhere near the Agricultural College, this library can be utilized both by the Agricultural College and by the Arts College. It seems to me that the raising of the Coimbatore College into a first-grade college can be achieved without much cost to the Government. There is also this additional reason, namely, that Palghat wants a first-grade college. If that college is raised into a first-grade college in arts, and if Coimbatore is raised into a first-grade college in science, the two together can supply the needs in the arts and science courses to the neighbouring districts and the cost would be the minimum. If, on the other hand, if we are going to have a new place, as the University centre, it would cost a good lot and the achievement of our object will probably be impracticable within recent times. It seems to be both in the interests of higher education in that part of the country and also in view of the facilities that are existing in Coimbatore and also the need for a college either in Coimbatore or Malabar—it seems to me—it is necessary and feasible, that the college at Coimbatore should be raised into a first-grade one along with the Palghat College."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, hon. Members from Coimbatore would have realized that, instead of having a
4-30 p.m. first-grade college, manufacturing more B.A.'s and M.A.'s, which is of no use it is better to encourage the young men from the second-grade college to go into the Agricultural and the Forest Colleges for

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practical work and for a profession. Because, so far as I can see at present, the advantage that could be conferred upon the locality by raising the second-grade college to first grade is absolutely none unless a practical turn is given to the education that we are imparting in the Arts Colleges. We have all been urging that from the secondary course there should be created a bias in the minds of the students for some professional course to be taken up in the later stages of their study. The young and intelligent men coming out from the second-grade college at Coimbatore will be better benefited if they go into the Forest and the Agricultural Colleges than if they seek to become M.A.'s and B.A.'s. Apart from this, Sir, as the hon. Members indicated already, there is a proposal for raising the Palghat College to a first-grade college. That will, I hope, serve the needs of Coimbatore very well. I said last year that it was not the policy of the Government to raise second grade institutions to first grade but to assist private agencies in starting first or second grade colleges as much as possible. In accordance with that policy of Government, if the college at Coimbatore was, as before the year 1915, managed by a private agency and if any such private agency supported by such influential and wealthy gentlemen as the hon. Members from Coimbatore in our midst were to take the management, subsidies will not be wanting for the institution. The Government are therefore not prepared to take the step suggested as it does not seem to be justifiable in the interests of Coimbatore itself, nor can I see that my hon. Friends have put forward a strong case justifying the demand for a first-grade college in Coimbatore especially as the hon. Members themselves said, that the college at Palghat is going to be raised shortly to a first-grade institution."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I must thank the hon. the Minister for Education for the personal compliment paid to me, Sir, and not for any encouragement that he has given so far as this question is concerned. We have absolutely no complaint of the Palghat College being raised to a first-grade college. I cannot, however, join with the hon. Minister in thinking that that will satisfy the needs of Coimbatore. As for the advice that we should send our children to schools like the Agricultural and the Forest Colleges, we feel thankful to the hon. Minister but only I would beg of him to extend that principle further and abolish all the first-grade colleges in the Presidency. That would, I think, be much better than asking us to have some feeling of self-sacrifice. So far as our request is concerned, the Government need not be afraid that they will have to find all the money. Probably the hon. Minister will remember that we collected large sums of money for helping the college to be raised to a first-grade institution and it was with that object that we handed it over to the Government. But the Government have not fulfilled our hopes and even now, if they are prepared to raise it, the local people apart from the Members representing Coimbatore in this Council will certainly be glad to make liberal contributions. Regarding the college at Palghat, what I said was that the Coimbatore college and the college at Palghat would be supplementing each other in satisfying the educational needs of the locality. So far as Coimbatore is concerned, with due respect to the hon. the Minister for Development I should say that we have got a large number of people in the Agricultural College who have not got much work. There are professors of Science who have not got enough work and whose services may be utilized for the first-grade college in Arts. That is why, as my hon. Friend,

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Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar suggested, it would be very well if the first-grade college is attached and located near the Agricultural College so that the laboratory and the lecturers could be found useful. However, with a view to give the Government a chance, and to enable the hon. Minister to consider the matter and in the hope that at least before next year, the suggestion will develop into a concrete proposal, I have no objection to withdraw the motion now."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 94.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"I beg to move

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,22,000 for pay of establishments by Rs. 100.'

"I have only a few words to say in commending the motion to the very kind and sympathetic consideration of this hon. House. It is common knowledge that of all professions perhaps till recently the teacher's profession has had very small emoluments to its credit. And of all the teachers, the pandits went for the smallest portion of the whole lot. We have been hearing, Sir, that at the present time, the Indian atmosphere is surcharged with a sort of national orientation, a phrase which once puzzled my hon. Friend the Minister for Education. These poor pandits are the custodians of all that is best in the Indian vernaculars and in the Indian culture, and their lives are generally wedded to poverty. Because, Sir, there is a proverb that Lakshmi and Saraswathi are always at loggerheads and never live together, these men of letters being the custodians of all that is best in the Indian culture are generally very poor. And though they teach the highest classes in the University course, the F.A., the B.A. and probably the M.A., the remuneration that they get month after month is very much limited. And especially in these hard times when the cost of living has very much increased it is really a pity that their case has not been sympathetically considered. But these pandits are mostly inarticulate and do not make out a case before the authorities. When they come out even with their half-suppressed and half-expressed words, sympathy, kindness and all possible considerations are not wanting for them. For, Sir, recently I had the privilege of listening to such sympathy and consideration from the hon. the Minister for Education in reply to the demands of a few pandits. But, Sir, it seems to me to be an unremitting kindness and an unremitting sympathy because not a pie is remitted towards raising the pay and prospects of these poor paid men. Much need not be said at this lag end of the day and I request the hon. the Minister to translate the sympathy of his heart into something tangible in the way of rupees, annas and pies and increase the pay and prospects of the poor paid lot of pandits."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I do not want to add to the load of sympathy which my hon. Friend has had on the shoulders of the poor paid pandits. The only difficulty that I feel is that the scales of pay for the pandits were fixed very recently along with those for the non-gazetted services. Therefore it seems to be impracticable to give effect to the intentions of my hon. Friend. On the other hand if any general revision of the pay of the non-gazetted services is to be taken up, the case of the

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pandits will be pressed to be reviewed generously. Beyond that it is not possible for me to say anything at present. The scales for the pandits, I may say, were fixed two years back and the following grades were adopted:—

‘Rs. 40 to 50 for secondary school pandits, Rs. 50—3—65 for pandits in second-grade colleges, and Rs. 75—4—95 and Rs. 100—5—125 for pandits in first-grade colleges.’

“The general principle followed in the revision of pay for all non-gazetted services was to round off the pay and temporary allowances drawn prior to the revision. This applies to the Government institutions. So far as the institutions of local boards and those under private management are concerned, it has not been possible for Government to interfere with their internal management, unless there be any apparent illegality in the agreements between the institution and the pandits, the former taking advantage of the latter's position. Otherwise the Government do not interfere with the contractual relations between the teachers and the management. We cannot therefore interfere with the scales of pay for pandits employed by the private management. So far as those in Government institutions are concerned, the scales are considered sufficient though the pandits have sent up memorials complaining that they are inadequate. If the question is to be considered, it may be taken up with any scheme for a general revision of the pay of the non-gazetted services.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—“I would like to add my sympathy with the views expressed by my hon. Friend, Mr. Anjaneyulu. In the field of education, among the numerous workers the most silent lot are the pandits and as a result probably of their silence and their uncomplaining nature, half a century has left them materially just where they were. Sir, one is at a loss to know the reasons which contributed to this stagnation in their material condition. Is it contended even by the hon. the Minister for Education . . .”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“Why, even?”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—“Because, Sir, I give the hon. Minister more respect than to others, is it contended even by him, that because they are pandits, the provisions and other necessities of life are sold gratis or cheaper for them?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“I do not at all intend to minimise the importance and the value of the work that is done by the pandits. I have great appreciation for their work in the field of vernacular education. And it is not to be understood that I minimise their importance.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—“What I wish to point out is that the abundant sympathy does not bring rice and dhal to their famished homes. It looks as if that time may change, increases may be given, changes may be introduced and the educational department may be reorganised; but that though things may come and things may go, the pandits' lot is where it was. Sir, fortunately the present times are such that even in India things Indian have begun to be respected, Indian art, Indian philosophy, Indian literature, Indian vernaculars. So much is being talked about the orientation of the system, but whatever may take place, the pandits' lot between the lip sympathy of the hon. the Minister for Education on the one hand, and the inexorable scales of pay as immutable as the laws

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of the Medes and the Persians, is far from consoling. Sir, the hon. the Minister for Education made reference to the scales very recently fixed. I would like to know whether the opinion of the pandits was ascertained in the matter of fixing the scales. So long as they had no say in the matter, the argument that the scales were only recently fixed will not hold water for a minute. Reference was made to the local boards and privately managed institutions, and it was said that there was nothing to prevent them from paying the pandits much more handsomely than they gave probably to the Honours Graduate or Master of Arts. But it is a well-known fact that the local bodies copy the methods of the Government good or bad. And therefore unless the Government take the lead and set the example, there is no prospect of the local bodies, famished and starved as they already are financially, doing justice to these set of people. Sir, many of these men are very very famous men noted for their learning. I may mention the late Mahamahopadhyaya Rangachariyar or the Mahamahopadhyaya Swaminatha Ayyar whose compeers cannot be found in any other country. And these men, I think, were paid not more than Rs. 50 or Rs. 60.

“I may point out, though it is unnecessary for me to do so, that in all the civilized countries of the world classical and literary education is not treated in the way in which it is treated here in this country. Whatever may be the various demands upon the Government and the state of their finance, the continuance of this exploitation of a poor set of learned pandits is a thing which stands as a blot upon the educational administration of this country. Therefore I appeal—this is all I can do within the limited powers which we now have—to the authorities to unfix the fixed scales of these pandits. Even the partition of Bengal which had been stated to be a settled fact was afterwards unsettled, and so it would not be very difficult to revise the already revised scales of these pandits and pay them if not adequately to their learning, at least a wage which will keep the wolf of hunger from their doors.”

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER:—“Sir, may I make a motion to omit all these motions up to No. 671, so that we may discuss about elementary education, as we have now got only a very few minutes before us.”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR (from the Chair):—“The hon. Member Mr. Anjaneyulu is in possession of the House with his motion and unless that is disposed of, I cannot take up any other motion.”

Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO:—“Sir, in this connexion, I just want to bring to the notice of the hon. the Minister for Education the matter of recruitment to the subordinate educational service. They are paid Rs. 125. . .”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR (from the Chair):—“I am afraid the hon. Member would be out of order. The question now before the House is about pandits.”

Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO:—“There are only a few minutes more, Sir, and I may be permitted to say a few words.”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR (from the Chair):—“I am afraid I cannot allow it.”

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—“Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful for the little ray of hope that the hon. the Minister has been pleased to advance to

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me, but just to strengthen his hands and also to show that the sympathies not only of the hon. the Minister but of the whole hon. House are on the side of these poor-paid pandits, I request your permission and that of the House to make this a token motion and reduce the Rs. 100 to Re. 1, and then press for a division (Voices:—"No, no".) The House does not wish to make it merely a token motion, and I would rather leave it in doubt, rather than press my motion. It is doubtful what a division now will disclose, and so I will rest content with the present position, and hope on a future occasion when perhaps better advocacy will be on their side, better results may be obtained. With these words, I beg permission to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER:—"Sir, I beg to move that all the motions up to motion No. 671 standing in the name of Mr. G. Ramoswar Rao be passed over, in order to discuss the policy of primary and secondary education."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I second the motion."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I oppose this very vigorously and very strongly. There is no reason why all the other motions should be passed over. The one next in order is one in which some of us are interested."

The motion of the hon. Member Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder was put to the House and lost.

Motion No. 95.

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Sir, I beg to move

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,88,500 for Arts Colleges—Men—by Rs 25,000.'

"I beg to move this motion, so that out of the money provided for arts colleges, a sum of Rs 25,000 may be allotted for raising the Government college of Palghat to the first-grade college. At the fag end of the budget discussion I do not propose to go into the details of the question and launch upon a full dress debate. Sir, the representatives coming from Malabar to this honourable House have availed themselves of every opportunity to raise this question and as the result of their exertions the Government were pleased to appoint a committee to enquire into that question and submit a report. Sir, the committee practically unanimously resolved to start a first-grade college in Malabar and locate it at Palghat. We are very anxious and I believe I am voicing the feelings of all the hon. Members of the Council coming from Malabar that we must have a first-grade college. (A voice:—"Why not others?") It is our earnest desire that effect should be given to that proposal immediately and I trust that the hon. the Minister will see his way to comply with our request forthwith so that we may have a first-grade college in Malabar with effect from the 1st July 1925."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, there is a first-grade Government college in the Andhra province at Rajahmundry. There is a first-grade Government college in the south of the Presidency for the Tamil tracts at Kumbakonam, and there is a first-grade college at Madras. The west coast including Malabar and South Kanara (the Malayalam-speaking

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country) is the only place where there is no Government first-grade college. And in Malabar itself though there are four second-grade colleges and a large number of higher grade complete secondary schools, there is no first-grade college. As a matter of fact, a committee was appointed by my hon. Friend the Minister for Education to go into this question of raising the Victoria College at Palghat into a first-grade college. The committee considered the question thoroughly, went into all details, into the pecuniary side of the question, into the structural side of the existing buildings and came to the conclusion that it was necessary to raise the second-grade college at Palghat to a first-grade college. I believe from the observations made by my hon. Friend in reference to one of the previous motions that my hon. Friend the Minister has practically made up his mind to raise this college into a first-grade college. That is the impression created in my mind and I hope my impression is right. I hope that in the beginning of the next term, at the commencement of the next University term by the end of June or the beginning of July, we may see the Victoria College, Palghat, raised to a first-grade college."

* Mr. V. MADHAVA RAJA:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting this motion. I have also tabled a motion regarding the raising of the Victoria College, Palghat, to a first-grade college. Some time ago I brought a resolution for the raising of this college to a first grade, and the hon. the Minister in charge of Education specially told me that he would try his best to raise it to a first-grade college, and asked me to withdraw the resolution; and on his promise I withdrew that resolution. The hon. the Minister for Education wanted to visit Malabar recently, but that also he postponed doing with the assurance that he would come to Malabar to declare the Victoria College of Palghat as a first-grade college sometime in July next. I hope the hon. the Minister for Education will at least now openly tell us whether he would raise the Victoria College to a first grade in July next. With these words, I support the motion."

* Rao Bahadur P. RAMAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I agree to the founding of a first-grade college in Malabar but it should be located in Tellicherry. I have always been advocating it. All facilities should be given to the depressed and backward classes to acquire knowledge and it is the policy of Government to give such facilities. Palghat is not the place for it. It is a very orthodox place as we have lately seen—as an instance I may mention the Kalpathi incident. There is undoubtedly an awakening among these classes and they have come to realize that it is only by education they can come to the level of, and cope with, the higher classes. No doubt, as to the college hostel there may be no difficulty so long as Mr. Lobo is the Principal; he is an amiable and nice gentleman with good tact, but Mr. Lobo may not always be the Principal and all the principals are not Lobos. Next, Palghat is in a corner of Malabar. Tellicherry is more central with no orthodox difficulty. The climate is good and living cheaper and all people will find it convenient. We could have considered Calicut but that is out of the question. There is no Government second-grade college there now, though it once owned a Government provincial school. I passed my F.A. there. I have already submitted my views on the question and I have no doubt they are now in the possession of Government. I would therefore urge that the college may be located at Tellicherry."

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Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO :—" Sir, in supporting this motion regarding the college at Palghat, I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. the Minister for Education the question regarding the pay and prospects of the subordinate educational service, I mean the teachers in the subordinate services. (Laughter.) This is the only chance I have got, Mr. President, as it is nearing 5 o'clock. This is a real grievance which I wish to bring to the notice of the House and I will not detain the House long. These teachers have submitted a memorial to the hon. the Minister for Education praying for an enhancement of their salaries, and I hope that he will consider their hard case and see that they are given what they desire. That is the only point that I want to press on the attention of the hon. the Minister."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, as far as the Department of Education is concerned, we have appointed a committee to enquire into the matter, both as regards the necessity and the desirability of raising the existing college at Palghat into a first-grade college. As Mr. Raman has pointed out there was rivalry between Tellicherry and Palghat, and some urged that a more central place should be selected for the first-grade college. Ultimately, the majority opinion in the committee seemed to be in favour of Palghat. Therefore the question was placed before the Finance Committee, and the Finance Committee has placed the proposal in class III, and said that it was not very urgent and pressing. However, we have taken the matter again and have pressed on the Finance Department because the administrative department considers that it is a case of urgency and it is a necessary one; it is for the administrative department to decide on such matters of policy. I have asked the Director of Public Instruction to visit Palghat and he is going to visit the place on the 8th or 9th April and the details as indicated by my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar can be discussed with him and when his report is submitted to the Government proper orders will be passed thereon. Further, the possibility of opening the college in July next will be considered and if the Finance Department agree to the opening of the college on the 1st July, it can be done. As far as the administrative department is concerned, they are agreeable to the proposal of opening a first-grade college at Palghat."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" I am delighted to hear that the hon. the Minister is agreeable to open the B.A. classes in July. We are grateful to him for this kindness. I hope the Finance Department will also come to the rescue and the proposal will be an accomplished fact at the beginning of the next collegiate year. I therefore do not press this motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Then the main demand, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 131.11 lakhs, under Demand No. XVII. Education (Transferred), was put and carried and the grant was made.

It being 5 o'clock of the last day allotted for the discussion of demands, the following demands that were left over were then put to the House under Rule 29 (3) of the Legislative Council Office rules and carried and the grants were made :—

DEMAND XVIII—MEDICAL.

Demand No. XVIII—Medical, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 51.46 lakhs.

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DEMAND XIX—PUBLIC HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Demand No. XIX—Public Health and Vital Statistics, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 30.08 lakhs.

DEMAND XX—AGRICULTURE.

Demand No. XX—Agriculture, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 14.15 lakhs.

DEMAND XXI—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES.

Demand No. XXI—Civil Veterinary Services, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 5.33 lakhs.

DEMAND XXII—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Demand No. XXII—Co-operative Societies, that the Government be granted a sum of not exceeding 6.71 lakhs.

DEMAND XXIII—CINCHONA.

Demand No. XXIII—Cinchona, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 0.92 lakh.

DEMAND XXIV—INDUSTRIES.

Demand No. XXIV—Industries, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 11.29 lakhs.

DEMAND XXV—FISHERIES.

Demand No. XXV—Fisheries, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 6.43 lakhs.

DEMAND XXVI—LABOUR INCLUDING FACTORIES.

Demand No. XXVI—Labour including Factories, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 11.24 lakhs.

DEMAND XXVII—CIVIL WORKS (GRANTS TO LOCAL BODIES).

Demand No. XXVII—Civil Works (Grants to Local Bodies), that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 37.63 lakhs.

DEMAND XXVIII—CIVIL WORKS (TRANSFERRED).

Demand No. XXVIII—Civil Works (Transferred), that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 82.82 lakhs.

DEMAND XIX—PENSIONS.

Demand No. XXIX—Pensions, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 54.64 lakhs.

DEMAND XXX—STATIONERY (FOR RESERVED DEPARTMENTS) AND

PRINTING.

Demand No. XXX—Stationery (for Reserved Departments) and Printing, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 18.52 lakhs.

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DEMAND XXXI—STATIONERY (FOR TRANSFERRED DEPARTMENTS).

Demand No. XXXI—Stationery (for Transferred Departments), that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 2.24 lakhs.

DEMAND XXXII—AGENCY.

Demand No. XXXII—Agency, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 12.63 lakhs.

B—EXPENDITURE ON DEBT HEADS.

DEMAND XXXIII—REPAYMENT OF LOAN.

Demand No. XXXIII—Repayment of loan, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 29.44 lakhs.

DEMAND XXXIV—LOANS AND ADVANCES BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

Demand No. XXXIV—Loans and Advances by the Provincial Government, that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 83.09 lakhs.

The House then adjourned at 5-10 p.m. to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 30th March 1925.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 663 asked by Mr. V. Pantulu Ayyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 27th March 1925, page 765 supra.]

(1)

*In the Court of the First-Class Subdivisional Magistrate,
Kumbakonam.*

PRESENT:

I. GREEN, Esq., I.C.S.,
First-class Subdivisional Magistrate.

DATED THE 21ST OCTOBER 1924.

Judgment in C.C. No. 53 of 1924.

Name of the accused—

1. Kolandaiswami (late P.C. 365).
2. Kandaswami (275).
3. Venugopala Pillai (885).
4. Gopalan Nair (1068).
5. Narayanaswami Nayudu (1371).
6. Desika Nainar (P.C. 1384).
7. Muthuswami Nayudu (P.C. 1282).
8. Karumbayiram Pillai (273).
9. Nataraja Pillai (527).
10. Panchanadam Pillai (561).
11. Govindaswami (1079).
12. Rangaswami Nayudu (1349).
13. Viraswami Nayudu (933).
14. Narasimbalu Vastad (984).
15. Kaliamurthia Pillai (1127).
16. Srinivasa Nayudu (657).
17. Muthu Padayachi (1265). Acquitted.
18. Panchanadam Pillai (Retired P.C.).

Pleader Mr. K. S. Srinivasa Ayyar appears for accused Nos. 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 10, 12, 13 and 16 to 18.

Pleader R. Athmanatha Ayyar appears for accused Nos. 2, 7, 11, 14 and 15.

Sentence.

Accused No. 18—3 months' rigorous imprisonment.

" 8—1 month's rigorous imprisonment.

" 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 13, 14 and 15—14 days' rigorous imprisonment.

" 5, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 16—to pay a month's pay as fine.

" 17—acquitted for want of sufficient evidence. Benefit of doubt was given.

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Judgment.

The charge against the first sixteen accused is that they being police constables, struck work as a protest against the arrest of a fellow constable and are liable to be punished under the provisions of section 44 of the Madras District Police Act. The charge against accused 17 and 18 is that they abetted the offence committed by the other accused. District Magistrate's sanction (Exhibit B) has been obtained to prosecute accused 1 to 17 inclusive.

Section 44 of the Madras District Police Act enacts that every Police officer who shall cease to perform the duties of his office without leave or without having given two months' notice as provided by the Act shall be liable on conviction before a Magistrate to a penalty not exceeding three months' pay or to imprisonment with or without hard labour not exceeding three months or both.

There are two Sub-Inspectors at Kumbakōnam Town Police station. The senior Sub-Inspector is P.W. 1. He gives evidence of the strike and of the circumstances which led up to it. His evidence is as follows:—

On 24th May 1924, he found neglect of duty on the part of a certain police constable No. 1073 who was on guard duty at the Imperial Bank. He directed the guard officer head constable No. 1285 to obtain the constable's explanation. The head constable reported that the constable assaulted him when he asked for his explanation. For this act, the Sub-Inspector suspended the constable on 3rd June 1924. The same day, this head constable No. 1285 came and reported to him that the constable had assaulted him with a slipper in the bazaar street. Thereupon the Sub-Inspector arrested the constable and locked him up. During that night, about 1 a.m. two constables came and reported to him that none of the night patrol men had come on duty. The general duty officer at the station sent a report to the same effect saying that none of the night patrol men had turned up for duty at 10 p.m. The Sub-Inspector then sent for head constable 518 and asked him if the day traffic men intended to go on duty next morning. The head constable replied that they also had decided to strike and that a party of constables was going round the police lines exhorting the constables there not to go on duty. Next morning, 4th June 1924, the Sub-Inspector went to the police station. Day traffic men had not turned up. None of the other men, except a few, turned up. He found some of the constables in a chavadi opposite the station and he went there and asked them to return to duty but they refused.

Among the constables in the chavadi were accused 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and other night patrol and day traffic men. Later on he sent head constable 518 to go and ask them to return to duty. They did not come. They left the chavadi. Subsequently about 9-30 a.m. he heard that the accused had gone to hold a meeting in the Kali Amman koil. He went there and found accused 8 and 18 addressing a meeting consisting of all the other accused and others. They were exhorting them not to return to duty as police constable No. 1073 had been locked up, to be united and the authorities could do nothing. The Sub-Inspector then gave a general warning to all to return to duty and specially called accused 8 and asked him to return to duty with the other accused. They did not return. About 1 p.m. he wrote a notice saying that the constables must return to duty by 3 p.m. on pain of prosecution and sent it to them by head constable 1077. The constables did not respond to the notice. About 6 p.m. the District Superintendent of Police came. He sent a warning to the accused through Sub-Inspector

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Duraiswami Ayyar and head constable No. 518 that they were to fall in at once. The District Superintendent of Police waited in the station till 8 p.m. As he was about to leave some of the accused came.

The District Superintendent of Police warned them that they were to fall in again at 9 p.m. and he would hear their grievances. He told them that, if they did not come, they would be summarily dismissed. The District Superintendent of Police then went away and came back again at 9 p.m. None came. Ghurry was rung. After sometime a batch of 14 or 15 constables came. Later on the accused came. The District Superintendent of Police asked what their grievances were. No one replied. The District Superintendent of Police excused the constables who turned in the first batch and suspended the people who turned up very late. An inquiry was held later on by the Deputy Superintendent and the accused were ordered to be prosecuted as ringleaders.

This witness states that the following accused were due for duty on the dates and at the times mentioned: Accused 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 due for night patrol at 10-30 p.m. on 3rd June 1924.

Accused 15 due for station sentry duty on night of 3rd June 1924. Accused 1, 4, 5, 13 and 16 due for day traffic duty at 6 a.m. on 4th June 1924.

Accused 6, 9 and 14 due for nuisance party at 6 a.m. on 4th June 1924.

He states that none of these men turned up for duty. As regards the men who were to come on duty on the night of 3rd June 1924, this statement cannot be used as evidence against them as the Sub-Inspector was not present in the station on the night of 3rd June 1924. But as regards the men who were due for duty on 4th June 1924 the statement is evidence as the Sub-Inspector went to the station that morning.

The Sub-Inspector proves a telegram Exhibit A. This telegram is said to be the original of a telegram sent to the District Superintendent of Police. The Sub-Inspector states that he got Exhibit A from the check office. This telegram is addressed to "Superintendent of Police", Tanjore, camp Papanasam, and runs as follows:—

"Police constables union in meeting resents unjust action locking up 1073 since yesterday. Union resolved continue strike till 1073 released. Pray orders releasing 1073. Resolutions copy follows."

This telegram is stamped and the stamps are cancelled.

The time of despatch is entered as 14 hours 22 minutes. The date is 4th June 1924. The Sub-Inspector identifies the signature of the sender as entered on the telegram as that of Karumbayiram Pillai, accused 8.

P.W. 2 is the Circle Inspector of Police, Kumbakōnam town. He states that there are 123 men in the Town station. He says that as a protest against the arrest of police constable No. 1073, 42 constables struck work from 3rd June 1924.

His evidence about the circumstances connected with the strike is as follows:—

At 1 a.m. on 4th June 1924, he got a report from the general duty head constable saying that the constables had gone on strike. Later on in the morning he went to the station and found that none of the night patrol,

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traffic party and nuisance party and sentry constables had turned up for duty. He then went and reported the matter to the District Superintendent of Police who was camping at Papanasam. He ordered a written warning to be sent to the strikers that they would be dismissed if they did not turn up for duty before 3 p.m. He remained in the station till 6 p.m., but none came. About 6 p.m. the District Superintendent of Police came. Sub-Inspector Duraiswami Ayyar (P.W. 4) was sent to inform the strikers. The Sub-Inspector reported having done so. No one came. Head constable 518 was then sent to warn the strikers again. No one came. About 8 p.m. as the District Superintendent of Police was about to leave, the strikers came in a body. The District Superintendent of Police told them to fall in by 9 p.m. and represent their grievances.

The District Superintendent of Police came back at 9 p.m. and the alarm was rung. Fourteen men fell in. Half an hour later 26 others fell in. The District Superintendent of Police asked them to represent their grievances. No one made any representation. All except nine were suspended then and there. An inquiry was then held. Sixteen constables were dismissed, nine were suspended for a month and the accused were ordered to be prosecuted as they were the ringleaders. The evidence of the remaining prosecution witnesses elaborates and corroborates the evidence of the above two witnesses (P.Ws. 1 and 2). The important points in the evidence are:

1. That the accused did not turn up for duty, that they were absent without leave and that they did not give the notice required by section 44.
2. That they were asked to return to duty and refused.
3. That a meeting was held at which speeches were made and it was decided not to return to duty until P.C. No. 1073 was released.
4. That they went round the police lines exhorting other constables to stay away from duty.

As regards point 1, P.W. 3 states that he was officer in charge of the traffic duty constables. The constables due for traffic duty on the morning of 4th June 1924 were accused 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, 13 and 16. When he went to the station on the morning of 4th June 1924 to march off the traffic party, the constables belonging to the party were absent. This witness explains that traffic party constables are on duty from 6 a.m. till 11 a.m. and again from 3 p.m. till 9-30 p.m. He states that none of the traffic party turned up at 3 p.m. on 4th June 1924.

P.W. 4 is the Junior Sub-Inspector. He states that he went to the station on the morning of 4th June 1924 and that none of the traffic party, nuisance party, sentry and process constables turned up for duty. P.W. 5, a head constable, states that he went to the station on 4th June 1924 and that no one turned up for duty.

P.W. 6 states that he was general duty officer on duty in the Police station from 8 p.m. on the night of 3rd June 1924 till 8 a.m. on the morning of 4th June 1924. He states that the constables due for night patrol on 3rd June 1924 did not turn up and that the constables due on the morning of 4th June 1924 for traffic duty, process service and nuisance party absented themselves.

This, with the evidence of P.Ws. 1 and 2, completes the evidence that the accused in fact did not turn up for duty.

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The different accused have raised various pleas and made various statements.

I shall first deal with accused 1, 4, 5, 13 and 14.

According to prosecution evidence accused 1, 4, 5 and 13 were due for traffic duty and accused 14 for nuisance party at 6 a.m. on 4th June 1924 and that they did not turn up, accused 1, 4, 5 and 14 allege that they went to the station on the morning of 4th June 1924 and were sent away by the Sub-Inspector who refused to give them duty. Accused 13 alleges that he went to duty on the morning of 4th June 1924 and was refused duty by the section officers H.C. 518 and P.C. 849 who said they were acting under the orders of the Sub-Inspector. These accused have produced evidence in support of their allegations. D.W. 1 states that he was passing by the Police station about 6 a.m. on 4th June 1924 and saw about ten constables there who asked the Sub-Inspector to give them duty, but he refused saying they might apply to the District Superintendent of Police. The witness says that he never saw the accused before and with the exception of A-4 has not seen them since until he entered the witness box. He identifies A-1, 4, 5, 13 and 14 as some of the constables he saw asking the Sub-Inspector for duty.

D.W. 2 states that one morning about four months ago at 6-30 a.m. he observed an altercation between some constables and the Sub-Inspector outside the police station. He states that the constables were asking to have duty assigned to them but the Sub-Inspector refused saying that the District Superintendent of Police would come and assign duty. He identifies A-1, 4, 5, 13 and 14 as some of the constables who were refused duty. The story which these witnesses tell is highly improbable. The insinuation is that the Sub-Inspector in order to get the accused into trouble, ordered them to stay away from duty. The only possible explanation for the Sub-Inspector's conduct would be that he had a grudge against the accused with the exception of A-4 and 14. None of these accused has attempted to produce proof of any enmity. P.W. 2, the Circle Inspector, has stated in cross-examination that a certain 775 (not an accused) put in a petition stating that he was kicked by the Sub-Inspector. Accused 6, 14 and 17 were witnesses in the enquiry he held. P.W. 1, the Sub-Inspector against whom the allegation was made, states that his explanation was not taken in connexion with this complaint by P.C. 775.

Exhibit II is the police station sentry book. There is an entry there that the Sub-Inspector called accused 4 (P.C. 1068) and told him that he would throw away his arms and get him into trouble. P.W. 2, the Circle Inspector, states that he made enquiries about the matter and found the allegation to be false.

He states that accused 4 is a Malayalee and that the Sub-Inspector has only a smattering of Tamil and that accused 4 has not properly understood what the Sub-Inspector said. The Sub-Inspector is a Muhammadan. In any case, I do not think that the enmity of the Sub-Inspector towards these accused is proved. The Sub-Inspector must often have occasion to find fault with constables and to take disciplinary action against them. As an explanation for the fact that he remembered the date on which he saw the constables outside the police station, D.W. 1 has said that he remembers it because that was the day he went to get medicine for his mother. Such an explanation cannot be accepted. D.W. 1 has identified the accused in a very ready

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manner in court, and for a man who only saw the accused on one occasion some months previously, I consider the identification highly suspicious. It is significant that both D.W. 1 and D.W. 2 have identified the same accused, though according to their story there must have been other constables demanding duty from the Sub-Inspector at the time.

I am unable to believe the evidence of these two witnesses.

There is ample prosecution evidence that these accused were due for duty on the morning of 4th June 1924 and were absent.

I find that these accused, viz., A-1, 4, 5, 13 and 14 were absent from duty on the morning of 4th June 1924 as alleged.

The next accused I shall deal with is A-6. This accused admits having absented himself from duty on 4th June 1924. He states that he was in hospital from 22nd to 31st May 1924. He was then discharged but was still unwell. On 3rd June 1924 he put in a leave application and also made an oral representation to the Sub-Inspector but the leave was not granted. He got ill that night and so could not go to duty on 4th June 1924. He heard on the evening of 4th June 1924 that he was included among the strikers so he went to the station thinking he might represent matter to the District Superintendent of Police. As soon as he got there the District Superintendent of Police was just leaving the station and he made no representation.

According to the prosecution evidence this accused was due for nuisance party at 6 a.m. on 4th June 1924.

D.W. 8 states that he heard about the arrest of the police constable on the day he was arrested and that at 10 p.m. that day A-6 came to his shop saying he was suffering from fever and remained there till lamp-light the following day. The witness says that his coffee shop is near the police station and that A-6 was in the habit of coming there when off duty.

This accused A-6 is one of those alleged to have gone round the police lines on the night of 3rd June 1924. The value of the evidence produced by him will be discussed in that connexion. For the present it is clear that he was absent from duty on 4th June 1924.

The Sub-Inspector, P.W. 1, has deposed that A-2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 were due for night patrol duty at 10-30 p.m. on 3rd June 1924. P.W. 6 states that no one turned up for night patrol duty. These accused have produced no witnesses. A-3, 8, 10, 11 and 12 state that they did not stay away from duty.

A-3 states that he went for night duty on 3rd June 1924 and that the Sub-Inspector refused to give him any duty. I see no reason to disbelieve the truth of the prosecution evidence that this accused absented himself from duty on the night of 3rd June 1924. A-8 states that he was on duty during the whole of 3rd June 1924 and went for duty again at 9-45 p.m. He states that the Sub-Inspector took him to his house where he remained for the night. Next morning he went to the station and found he had been marked absent. On his asking why this was so, the Senior Sub-Inspector required him to prepare a requisition for him to go to hospital as a sick man. This he did. The Junior Sub-Inspector (P.W. 4) then told the Senior Sub-Inspector that he might be given sentry duty. In spite of his representations, he was marked absent. P.W. 4 states that this accused came to him on the

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morning of 4th June 1924 and said he was sick and wanted to go to hospital. P.W. 4 found that there was nothing the matter with him and ordered him to relieve the sentry who had been doing duty since 1 a.m. the previous night. The accused said he would go away and get his uniform but he did not return.

The Senior Sub-Inspector (P.W. 1) states that he did not ask accused 8 to sleep in his house on the night of 3rd June 1924 and that he did not sleep there. P.W. 1 has stated that A-8 was due for night patrol on the night of 3rd June 1924. P.W. 6 states that he did not turn up. P.W. 1 has stated that A-8 was also due for sentry duty on 4th June 1924. He corroborates P.W. 41 story, that A-8 came to the station on the morning of 4th June 1924 and said he was sick. He states that he told A-8 he could do duty in the station. I see no reason to doubt the truth of the prosecution evidence about this accused. His story of the circumstances under which he was marked absent is highly improbable.

I find that he absented himself from duty with effect from the night of 3rd June 1924. A-10 states that he did not stay away from duty on 3rd June 1924. The prosecution evidence is that he stayed away.

I see no reason to disbelieve the truth of the prosecution evidence and I find that A-10 stayed away from duty with effect from the night of 3rd June 1924. A-11 states that as he did duty during the day on 3rd June 1924, he did not go for duty that night. The Sub-Inspector (P.W. 1) has stated that A-11 was due for night duty on 3rd June 1924 and P.W. 6 has stated that A-11 was due for night duty on 3rd June 1924 and P.W. 6 has stated that he did not turn up. When questioned after the close of the evidence, A-11 has stated that he was not due for night duty on 3rd June 1924. He states that he was due on the morning of 4th June 1924 and that when he went to the station, the Sub-Inspector prevented him from going in because he did not depose in favour of the police in a certain case. I do not believe his statement. His deposition in that case was taken after the proceedings in the present case had commenced. His explanation is that he was required to give a different version from that which he afterwards gave in Court and that he refused to do so. Even accepting his admission that he was due on 4th June 1924 and not on the night of 3rd June 1924, I cannot believe his evidence that the Sub-Inspector sent him away and he has produced no evidence in support of his allegation. I find that A-11 stayed away from duty.

A-12 states that he was refused duty at the station on the night of 3rd June 1924. He has produced no evidence though he states that some constables were present at the time. I see no reason why he should have been refused duty nor do I see any reason to distrust the truth of the prosecution evidence that he did not turn up. I find that A-12 absented himself from duty with effect from 3rd June 1924.

A-2 states that he stayed away from duty as a result of harsh treatment by the Sub-Inspector and Circle Inspector. He has produced no evidence of harsh treatment nor does his statement disclose any.

I find that A-2 stayed away from duty with effect from 3rd June 1924.

A-7 states that he stayed away from duty on the evening of 3rd June 1924 on account of the action taken against P.C. No. 1073. After the witnesses had been examined, he was again questioned. He elaborated his

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previous story by saying that he went a second time to the police station that evening and was refused duty by the Sub-Inspector. This story I do not believe. I see no reason to doubt the evidence of P.W. 6 that this accused did not turn up for duty. I find that A-7 absented himself from duty on the night of 3rd June 1924.

A-9 states that he went to the station on the morning of 4th June 1924 and was refused duty by the Sub-Inspector. I see no reason to doubt the truth of the prosecution evidence that this accused did not turn up for duty on 4th June 1924, and accordingly I find that he absented himself from duty on that date.

According to P.W. 1's evidence A-15 was due for station sentry duty on the night of 3rd June 1924.

A-15 has denied that he was due for duty on the night of 3rd June 1924, but he had admitted that he was due for duty on the morning of 4th June 1924. He originally stated that constables Nos. 849 and 238 told him he was not to go on duty when he went to the station on the morning of 4th June 1924. He has afterwards stated that when he went for duty on 4th June 1924 the Sub-Inspector refused to give him duty. I see no more reason to believe his story than that of the other accused who have stated that the Sub-Inspector prevented them from going on duty. Accordingly I find that A-15 absented himself from duty.

P.W. 1 has stated that A-16 was due for traffic party at 6 a.m. on 4th June 1924. The prosecution evidence is that he did not turn up. The accused states that he did not stay away from duty on 4th June 1924. He states that he has been charged because he is on bad terms with the Circle Inspector and Sub-Inspector. He has shown no reason why I should disbelieve the prosecution evidence. I find that he absented himself from duty on 4th June 1924 as alleged.

I have found above that the prosecution story that A-1—16 inclusive absented themselves from duty on night of 3rd June 1924 or morning of 4th June 1924. The Sub-Inspector (P.W. 1) states that no one was given permission to be absent and that no one gave the two months' notice required by section 44 of the Act.

The charge against A-17 and 18 is that they abetted A-1—16. The evidence against them will be discussed under the remaining points.

Regarding point 2 "that they were asked to return to duty and refused—"

P.W. 1 states that when he went to the station on the morning of 4th June 1924 and found that most of the constables were absent, he saw some constables in the village munisif's chavadi opposite the police station. He states that he went there and asked them to come to duty, but they refused. He states that A-1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 were amongst the constables there. He states that he then sent H.C. No. 518 (P.W. 3) to go and ask them to return to duty, but they did not come and left the chavadi. This statement is corroborated by H.C. No. 518 who states that he went and warned them to return to duty, but they refused. He states that he recognized A-3, A-5 and A-16 amongst the constables in the chavadi. P.W. 6, the General Duty Officer, on the night of 3rd June 1924 states that the night patrol men were in the chavadi opposite the police station on the night of 3rd June 1924, but they said they would not come for duty.

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The night patrol men are A-2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12. Thus there is evidence that even after they did not turn up for duty A-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 16 were specially warned to come to duty. There is further evidence that the accused were warned to come to duty even after they had stayed away and that they refused to do so.

I have mentioned above that P.W. 1 has stated that he went to the Kalamankoil on 4th June 1924 and asked the constables, amongst whom were all the accused, to return to duty, but they refused.

P.W. 2, the Circle Inspector, has stated that he sent a warning to the strikers to fall in before 3 a.m. on pain of dismissal. P.W. 5 states that about 12-30 p.m. on 4th June 1924 he was given written warnings to be posted up that constables were to turn up at the station before 3 p.m. He states that he posted a copy in the police lines. He states that, on his way, he found the constables holding a meeting in the Kalamankoil and that he read out the warning to them. He states further that A-18, who was there, took the warning from him and read it out and then said that they need not pay any attention to it as it did not bear the Deputy Superintendent of Police's signature. This witness states that all the accused were present on that occasion.

I now come to the discussion of the meeting said to have been held in the Kalamankoil on 4th June 1924.

The Sub-Inspector (P.W. 1) has stated that he went there and found A-8 and A-18 addressing a meeting consisting of all the accused and some others and exhorting them not to return to duty till P.C. No. 1073 was released. P.W. 5 states he found A-18 addressing the meeting and exhorting the others not to return to duty till P.C. No. 1073 was released. P.Ws. 7, 8 and 11 are all persons connected with the strike. They give details about what occurred at the meeting in Kalamankoil.

P.W. 7's evidence is as follows:—

On the day after the arrest of P.C. No. 1073, a meeting of protest was held in Kalamankoil. All the accused and some others attended. A resolution was passed that a Police Union should be formed and that they should all be united about P.C. No. 1073's arrest. A. 18 proposed that a union should be formed and A. 8 and A. 17 seconded the motion. A union was formed and A. 8 was appointed President. During the course of the day P. W.'s 4 and 5 came and warned them to return to duty. A. 11 went and brought a vakil. The vakil wrote the telegram Ex. A and A. 8 signed it. A. 2 took the telegram to despatch it. P. W.'s 8 and 11 corroborate P.W. 7 and the other P.W.'s about the meeting in Kalamankoil. They state that accused 8, 17 and 18 made speeches.

The accused have produced evidence to show that no meeting took place in Kalamankoil. This evidence is vague and I do not believe it. Moreover if the prosecution wished to concoct a story about a meeting of police constables, I do not think a temple would be chosen as the scene of action.

There remains the question of whether the accused went round the police lines on the night of 3rd June 1924, persuading the other constables to go on strike. The evidence on this point is given by P.W.'s 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11. P.W. 3, H. C. No. 518, states that he was in his house in the police lines on

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the night of 3rd June 1924 and that a party of constables including A. 2, A. 3, A. 4, A. 5, A. 7, A. 16 and A. 18 came round and told every one that they should not go on duty next day.

P.W. 5, H.C. No. 1077, states that he slept in his house in the police lines on the night of 3rd June 1924 and that a crowd of police constables, amongst whom he identified A. 1, 6, 14, 15 and 17, came and said that constables were not to duty till P.C. No. 1073 was released and that any one who went would be beaten.

P.W. 9 states that A. 3 came and woke him up on the night of 3rd June 1924. He got up. A. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 16 and some other persons were there. They all told him not to go on duty.

The remaining witnesses P.W.'s 7, 8 and 11 are all persons who were concerned in some degree or other with the strike. I do not consider the evidence of these witnesses about who went round the police lines as of any particular value.

A. 5, 16 and 17 have produced evidence to show that they were in a different place at the time the strikers are supposed to have gone to the police lines.

A. 5 and 16 were both due for duty on the morning of 4th June 1924. A. 17 is not alleged to have stayed away from duty but to have incited others to do so.

The evidence produced is that of D.W.'s 5, 6, 7 and 9. D.W. 5's evidence is as follows:—

He belongs to Mayavaram. He came to Kumbakonam four or five months ago to buy silk. He attended the play that evening. Alli-Arjuna was acted.

He saw A. 5 there. A. 5 came about 10-30 p.m. and remained till 2 a.m. He knew A. 5 when A. 5 was stationed at Mayavaram.

D.W. 6 states that he saw A. 5 at a performance of Alli-Arjuna on the night of 3rd June 1924.

D.W. 7 also states that he saw A. 5 at a performance of Alli-Arjuna some four or five months ago. He states that he went at 9 p.m. and that A. 5 came two nalgais afterwards.

D.W. 9 states that he saw A. 16 and 17 at a performance of Alli-Arjuna in Vaikasi last. He states that he went at 9 p.m. and that A. 16 and 17 came about 10 or 10-30 p.m.

According to the prosecution evidence the party of constables must have come to the police lines about 12 midnight.

I am content to leave the question whether A. 5, 16 and 17 went round the police lines in doubt.

The prosecution evidence clearly shows that there was a police strike in consequence of the arrest of P.C. No. 1073. This strike commenced on the evening or night of 3rd June 1924 and continued till the District Superintendent of Police's arrival next day. I am satisfied that a party of constables went round the police lines on the night of 3rd June 1924 urging their comrades to stay away from duty. I am satisfied that a meeting was held in a chavadi opposite the police station on the morning of 4th June 1924 and that, later on, another meeting was held in Kalamankoil at which

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speeches were made and at which some sort of determination was arrived at not to go on duty till P.C. No. 1073 was released. I consider the evidence of Exhibit A, the telegram, to be irrefutable. I have found above that accused 1-16 inclusive stayed away from duty. The question arises whether they stayed away in pursuance of the strike. I think there can be no doubt that they did so.

I consider the prosecution evidence that 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14 and 15 went round the police lines on the night of 3rd June 1924, urging the other constables not to go on duty, to be satisfactory. In this connexion, special reference must be made to accused 6. D.W. 8 has stated that accused 6 slept in his house during the night of 3rd June 1924 and remained there till the evening of next day. P.W. 5 has stated that accused 6 was one of the party which went to the police lines on the night of 3rd June 1924. I can see no reason for disbelieving P.W. 5's evidence nor can I see any reason for disbelieving the evidence of the other P.W.'s, who state that all the accused were present in the Kalamankoil next day. Further accused 6's statement that he was marked absent unjustly is highly improbable. The result is that I believe the prosecution story concerning accused 6. I do not consider that the evidence that he was a witness against P.W. 1 is sufficient to show that the case against him is false. I consider the prosecution evidence that all the accused were present at the Kalamankoil on 4th June 1924 to be clear.

In the result I find that there was a strike of police constables, that in pursuance of the strike accused 1 to 16 inclusive stayed away from duty on the dates alleged without permission and without giving the notice required under section 44 of the Act. I therefore find them guilty of offences under section 44 of the Madras District Police Act.

Accused 17 and 18 are charged with abetment. I have given accused 17 the benefit of the doubt about his presence with the party which went to the police lines on the night of 3rd June 1924.

The only evidence about accused 17's conduct at the meeting in the Kalamankoil on 4th June 1924 is furnished by three P.W.'s, who all had given their consent to the strike. I do not consider that such evidence is sufficient to warrant the conviction of accused 17. Further accused 17 has stated that he was on duty during the whole of 4th June 1924. Exhibit IX contains entries which tend to show that accused 17 served various processes on 4th June 1924. I acquit accused 17.

The evidence of the prosecution witnesses is strong against accused 18. The accused had already left duty when accused 18 made his speeches to them but there can be no question that he incited them to remain away from duty.

Further he instigated them to disobey the orders of the Circle Inspector and Sub-Inspector that the accused were to proceed to duty at once.

I find him guilty under sections 109 and 114, Indian Penal Code. The offence of staying away from duty is not in itself a serious one, but an organized strike in the police force is a different matter. I consider that accused 18 who is a retired police constable must take on his shoulders a considerable amount of blame for this affair.

I sentence accused 18 to three months' rigorous imprisonment.

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Accused 8 is the person alleged to have signed the telegram Exhibit A. The Sub-Inspector (P.W. 1) identifies the signature on Exhibit A as that of accused 18. I consider the identification satisfactory. I should also say that the signature on Exhibit A bears a close resemblance to the signature which accused 8 has made on his statement recorded in this Court.

Various prosecution witnesses have stated that accused 8 made speeches in the Kaliammankoil. I consider that accused 8 deserves exemplary punishment and I sentence him to one month's rigorous imprisonment.

The accused are not the only persons concerned in the strike. They are alleged to have been the ring-leaders. Apart from what I have mentioned above the prosecution evidence does not disclose any specific mention of the manner in which they were ring-leaders. The District Superintendent of Police is said to have made an enquiry but he has not been examined as a witness. It is quite probable that his examination as a witness would be of little help to me in determining in what manner the accused are to be regarded as ring-leaders. However, I consider that the persons who went round the police lines on the night of 3rd June 1924 urging their comrades not to go on duty, must be regarded as ring-leaders. These are accused 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 13, 14 and 15.

I sentence them each to 14 days' rigorous imprisonment.

The remaining accused are accused 5, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 16. The only evidence against them is that they stayed away from duty and that they were present at the meeting in the Kaliammankovil. I sentence them each to pay a fine of one month's pay in default to undergo rigorous imprisonment for fourteen days.

In awarding the above sentences I have taken into consideration that, with the exception of accused 18, the accused may be dismissed from the police force. In any case this conviction must weigh heavily against them. Accused 18 is a retired police constable and only stands to lose his pension.

I should also observe that the accused have taken certain objections to the legality of this trial. The first objection is that the accused ought not be tried together. Section 239 (d) states that persons accused of different offences committed in the course of the same transaction may be charged and tried together.

That the offence with which each accused is charged in this case is different is not open to doubt.

The whole gist of the evidence in this case is that the accused took part in a strike. The common intention in taking part in that strike is evident and in spite of the fact that some of the accused are charged with being absent on 3rd June 1924 and some with being absent on 4th June 1924. I hold that it is clear that the offences all took place in the course of one transaction. It is after all only an accident that certain of the accused due for duty on 3rd June 1924 and certain others on 4th June 1924.

It is alleged in argument that the accused were prejudiced and one of the reasons put forward is that it is impossible to go into detail because of the numbers. The accused have had every opportunity to examine whatever witnesses they pleased and they had a period of over two months during which a transfer application was pending before the High Court in which to prepare their case.

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It is further alleged that the admissions of certain of the accused are bound to prejudice the mind of the Court about the complicity of the other accused. No accused has made any statement implicating any other accused. Certain of the accused have admitted their absence. They were not convicted on their admission as I considered it necessary to examine the circumstances attending their absence.

It is pointed out that the accused are not stated to have absent at any specific time. This refers to the complaint or charge sheet. A police constable is not a person who is bound to appear at certain fixed times only. The various statements of the accused show that they were under no misapprehension about their duty.

The other objection relate to the complaint or charge sheet. The accused allege that the police have put in a charge sheet after having investigated a non-cognizable offence without the order of a Magistrate.

The police allege that they have put in a complaint under section 200, Criminal Procedure Code.

This document is in the form of a charge sheet. I do not consider that that necessarily means that it is a charge sheet. It is a form which is constantly used by the police in giving information to a Magistrate, e.g., it is used in proceedings under section 145, Criminal Procedure Code. In this particular case the document put in by the Sub-Inspector (P.W. 1) was treated as a complaint and his sworn statement was recorded.

The investigation by the police preliminary to these proceedings is not necessarily an investigation under the Criminal Procedure Code. The police allege that it was a departmental inquiry. I agree with them.

I can see no reason in the contention that an injury by the police into the conduct of certain subordinates must be an investigation under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code.

I should also remark that this contention that the police have acted illegally was not made till the close of the trial.

I do not consider that the contentions about the illegality of the trial deserve any consideration.

(Signed) I. GREEN,
21-10-24.

(2)

In the Court of Session of the West Tanjore Division.

PRESENT:

J. C. STODART, Esq., Sessions Judge.

TUESDAY, THE 2ND DAY OF DECEMBER 1924.

Judgment in Criminal Appeal Nos. 41 and 42 of 1924.

From what Court the Subdivisional Magistrate, Kumbakonam appeal is referred.

Number of the case in C.C. No. 53 of 1924.
that court.

[27th March 1925]

Number of the Appeal ...	C.A. Nos. 41 and 42 of 1924.
Name and description of the Appellants in C.A. No. 41 of 1924.	(1) Kolandasami (1st accused), son of Ponnusami Pillai, Vellala, P.C. No. 365, aged 32, residing at Gudalur. (2) Kandasami (2nd accused), son of Ayyathurai Pillai, Vellala, P.C. No. 275, aged 33, residing at Tanjore. (3) Venugopala Pillai (3rd accused), son of Krishnasami Pillai, Sholia Vellala, P.C. No. 835, aged 23, residing at Tanjore. (4) Gopala Nair (4th accused), son of Krishna Nair, P.C. No. 1068, aged 31, and residing at Palakkadu. (5) Desika Nainar (6th accused), son of Audimoolasami Nainar, Padayachi, P.C. No. 1384, aged 26, and residing at Tiruvilander. (6) Muthusami Naidu (7th accused), son of Vasudeva Naickan, Tholuva Naik, P.C. No. 1282, aged 28, residing at Kumbakonam. (7) Veerasami Naidu (13th accused), son of Lakshmana Naidu, Kavarai, P.C. No. 933, aged 31, and residing at Tanjore. (8) Narasimhalu Vastad (14th accused), son of Govindasami Vastad, Jetti, P.C. No. 984, aged 35, residing at Nidamangalam. (9) Kaliamurthi Pillai (15th accused), son of Ayyakkannu Pillai, shepherd, P.C. No. 1127, aged 23, residing at Natham. (10) Karumbayiram Pillai (8th accused), son of Muthusami Pillai, Vallala, P.C. No. 273, aged 40, residing at Tanjore.
Name and description of the Appellants in C.A. No. 42 of 1924.	Panchanatham Pillai (18th accused), son of Ramalingam Pillai, Ahamadaya, retired Police constable, aged 43, and residing at Tiruvadi.
The sentence and law under which it was imposed in the Lower Court.	Accused 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 13, 14 and 15 sentenced to 14 days' Rigorous Imprisonment each and 8th accused to one month's Rigorous Imprisonment under Section 44 of the Police Act XXIV of 1859. 18th accused to undergo three months' Rigorous Imprisonment under Sections 109 and 114, I.P.C., read with Section 44 of the Police Act XXIV of 1859.
Whether confirmed, modified, or reversed and if modified, the modification.	Dismissed under Section 423, C.P.C.

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Date of presentation ...	24th October 1924
Date of filing ...	Do.
Date of notice issued by Court to appear.	Do.
Date of appellant ordered to appear.	5th November 1924.
Date of hearing ...	25th November 1924.
Date of order ...	2nd December 1924.

These appeals coming on for hearing before me, upon perusing the petition of appeal, and the record of the evidence and proceedings and upon hearing the arguments of Mr. G. P. Subrahmaniam Ayyar, vakil for accused Nos. 2, 6, 7, 14 and 8, and of Mr. A. Somasundaram Pillai, pleader for accused Nos. 1, 3, 4, 13, 15 and 18, and the Public Prosecutor *contra*, I do adjudge and pass the following

Judgment.

All the accused were constables attached to the town station, Kumbakonam. They and other constables and the appellant in C.A. No. 42 were all tried together, the crime charged against them being that the constables stayed away from duty and the appellant in C.A. No. 42 instigated and abetted that act. The offence was committed on the night of 3rd June 1924 when appellants 2, 3, 6, 9 and 10 with the rest of the constables appointed for night patrol work or night sentry duty never came on duty at all: and on 4th June 1924 when appellants 1, 4, 5, 7 and 8 who were due for traffic duty in the town or "Nuisance party" never came on duty.

2. The offence is described in section 44 of the Madras District Police Act XXIV of 1859:

Every Police Officer who shall be guilty of any violation or wilful breach of any lawful orders and regulations not punishable under section 10 of this Act or who shall cease to perform the duties of his office without leave, etc., etc., shall be liable on conviction before a Magistrate to a penalty not exceeding three months' pay or to imprisonment with or without hard labour not exceeding three months or both.

3. Of the night duty men appellant 2 admits that he stayed away. Sixth appellant also admitted the fact, but subsequently said he went to the police station and the Sub-Inspector refused to give him work. Third appellant says the Sub-Inspector refused to give him any work that night. Tenth appellant says he slept at the Sub-Inspector's house under the orders of the Sub-Inspector. The 9th appellant denies that he was down to do night duty, but admits that he stayed away from work the next day. In addition to the evidence of the police officers, namely, the station-house officer, and the Sub-Inspector that these people and in fact the whole of the night patrol deliberately stayed away from the station that night, there is also the evidence that they did not report for duty next day either.

4. Of the day duty men 5th appellant admits the dereliction but says he was ill. Appellants 1, 4, 7 and 8 say they went to the station but the officers refused to assign them any duty.

[27th March 1925]

5. The case for the prosecution was that on the evening of the 3rd a constable had been arrested and put in the lockup for misconduct and that these appellants and others struck work in consequence. That there was a strike of constables is not denied. Exhibit A is the original of a telegram from the 10th appellant to the Superintendent of Police :

Police constables union in meeting resents unjust action locking up 1073 yesterday. Union resolved continue strike till 1073 released. Pray order releasing 1073 resolution copy follows.

Tenth appellant denied sending this telegram but the signature is clearly his. He wrote his name for me in this Court and the signature he made was the same as the signature in the telegram. There was evidence in the lower court of a man who saw him sign the telegram. As for the complicity of the appellants who did not admit the offence, not much has been said in appeal. There was a certain amount of defence evidence of a very poor standard. I think the lower court was right in holding that it did not rebut the prosecution case.

6. The main point on appeal is that the trial is bad for misjoinder in that the offence so far as each separate accused was concerned was not part of the same transaction as the offences of the other accused persons. This ground was urged in the lower court also and the lower court held that the offences were part of the same transaction, namely, the strike.

7. It does not follow that because offences are committed by strikers in pursuance of the objects of the strike they were all part of the same transaction. Here, however, the strike is simply the concerted act of the constables in abstaining from duty. The strike is the offence. Really, therefore, the trial was legal not because the offences were all part of a strike but because the offences were part of one plan carried out more or less simultaneously. The objection on the score of the illegality of the trial is overruled.

8. As regards the appellant in Criminal Appeal 42, he was found guilty of abetting the constables. On the 4th he was found to have addressed a public meeting of the constables exhorting them not to return to duty. The lower court observes that the evidence is strong against this accused and I agree. The defence was that there was no meeting; but I do not see why this appellant should have been dragged into this affair if he had not voluntarily mixed himself up in it.

9. I confirm the conviction in the case of all the appellants. The sentences are not severe. They too are confirmed. Ordered under section 423, C.P.C.

(Signed) J. C. STODART,
Sessions Judge.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 664 asked by Mr. V. Pantulu Ayyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 27th March 1925, page 765 supra.]

Extract from "Government Servants' Conduct Rules".

3. *Public demonstrations in honour of Government servants.*—A Government servant may not, without the previous sanction of the Local Government, receive any complimentary or valedictory address, accept any testimonial presented to him or attend any public meeting or entertainment held in his honour; nor may he take part in any similar acknowledgment of the services of any other Government servant, or of any person who has recently quitted the service of Government.

The rule admits of the following exceptions:—

(a) The head of any Government or Administration may receive an address.

(b) At the request of any public body a Government servant may sit for a portrait, bust or statue not intended for presentation to him.

(c) A Government servant may take part in the raising of funds to be expended, in recognition of the services of another Government servant, on the foundation of a scholarship or other public or charitable object, or on the execution of any portrait, bust or statue not intended for presentation to such other Government servant. He may not, however, solicit subscriptions for the purpose.

(d) A Government servant may take part in a private farewell entertainment, attended only by personal friends, as a mark of regard to himself when retiring from the service or quitting a district or station, or to another Government servant in similar circumstances.

Local ruling.

(1) The Government view with disfavour all similar manifestations in the case of retired Government servants when following immediately upon their retirement from active service and designed as an acknowledgment of acts done by them while in the service of Government.

(2) The prohibitions contained in this rule extend to complimentary or valedictory speeches made in open Court by members of the bar or others on the occasion of the retirement of judicial officers or of their transfer to other stations.

[27th March 1925]

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 674 asked by Mr. P. Anjaneyulu at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 27th March 1925, page 771 supra.]

Press Communiqué issued by the Government of India in the Department of Commerce, dated Delhi, the 19th February 1925.

The Government of India are now in a position to make the statement in connexion with India's participation in the British Empire Exhibition in 1925. The Government of India are not taking part officially. The building with its fittings and forestry exhibit is being sold to the Exhibition Board, and the Government of India are relieved of all responsibility in connexion with it.

The Exhibition Board have made the following arrangements for accommodating Indian exhibitors who wish to take part in the 1925 Exhibition. The rent charged to them for floor space in the Indian Pavilion is to be £1 per square foot, with discounts of 5 per cent on rentals between £250 and £500, ten per cent discount for amounts between £500 and £1,000 and twenty per cent discount for over £1,000. Special terms will be quoted for Government exhibits, Indian States and rents over 5,000 square feet. Fifty per cent of the rental for space applied for should be sent with applications or be paid into any Branch of Lloyds Bank in India whose receipts should accompany applications. Balances are to be paid on occupation. No commission will be charged on sales, but a selling licence based on stall frontage of £5 per linear foot will be granted subject to a minimum of £50. Numerous fittings for small stalls are available for hire by private treaty. Water, gas and electric light will be charged according to consumption. Applications are to be made to the Controller of the Indian section of the Exhibition.

These terms are very similar to those in force last year in the Indian Pavilion.

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to question No. 685 asked by Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 27th March 1925, page 785 supra.]

COIMBATORE WATER-SUPPLY SCHEME.

Agreement.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT made the fourteenth day of January One thousand nine hundred and twenty-five BETWEEN THE SOUTH INDIAN EXPORT COMPANY, LTD. (incorporated in England), Agents, The Bengal Iron Company, Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "the contractor") of the one part and the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN

27th March 1925]

COUNCIL (hereinafter called the Secretary of State which expression shall where the context admits include his successors and assignees) of the other part.

WHEREAS the contractor has agreed with the Secretary of State to supply to the Government of Madras hereinafter called the Government all such quantities of cast iron pipes and special cast iron pipes required for the Coimbatore Water-supply Scheme at the prices and in the manner and upon the terms and conditions hereinafter mentioned.

Now it is hereby agreed by and between the parties hereto as follows :—

1. The contractor shall and will within the time specified in the conditions annexed hereto supply and deliver the cast iron pipes and special cast iron pipes mentioned in these presents in accordance with the specification, conditions of supply, bills of quantities and schedule of prices hereto annexed and also in accordance with such further specifications and drawings and instructions as the Executive Engineer, Coimbatore division, or other Government Engineer duly authorized in that behalf (hereinafter and in the annexed documents referred to as the Executive Engineer) shall at any time in accordance with the said specification provide and give in the time and manner in such specification stipulated to the entire satisfaction of the Executive Engineer.

2. The Secretary of State shall and will during the period of supply and on the completion of the contract to the satisfaction of the Executive Engineer pay to the contractor according to the terms of this contract the prices or sum as due to the contractor under the terms of this contract, subject nevertheless to any deductions therefrom or additions thereto which may be lawfully made under the terms of this contract.

3. All certificates or notices or orders for time or for extra, varied or altered works which are to be the subject of an extra or varied charge shall be in writing and unless in writing shall not be valid or binding or be of any effect whatsoever.

4. The term "contract" shall include these presents, the specification, the conditions of supply, the bill of quantities and the schedule of prices hereto annexed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF J. W. Macfarlane, the duly-constituted attorney of the contractor, has hereunto set his hand and M. R. Kharegat, Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has hereunto set his hand the day and year first above written.

[27th March 1925]

Signed by J. W. MACFARLANE, the
duly constituted attorney of the
South Indian Export Company,
Ltd. (incorporated in England),
Agents, The Bengal Iron Com-
pany, Ltd., in the presence of
F. A. ADLARD.

J. W. MACFARLANE.

Signed by M. R. KHAREGAT, on be-
half of the Secretary of State,
in the presence of P. HAWKINS.

M. R. KHAREGAT.

ANNEXURE I.

Specification.

The pipes and special pipes shall all comply in every respect with Specification No. 78 of 1917 issued by the British Engineering Standard Association (Incorporated) for cast iron pipes and special castings of class 'B' referred to in that specification.

ANNEXURE II.

The Conditions of Supply.

1. The contractor shall deliver the cast iron pipes and specials F.O.R. Coimbatore. He shall obtain all instructions regarding the quantities to be supplied at a time from the Executive Engineer, Coimbatore division, to whom all railway invoices should be sent unless otherwise instructed by the Executive Engineer.

2. The delivery of the 18" pipes shall commence in March or April 1925 and shall be completed by the 30th September 1926 and the delivery of the balance of pipes of all sizes detailed in the bill of quantities and of all the bends, tees, tapers and collars shall commence in the month of January 1926 and shall be completed by the 30th day of September 1926, unless the supply of pipes shall have been delayed by strikes, accidents or other causes beyond the control of the contractor.

3. The pipes shall be tested at the Bengal Iron Company's Works in accordance with the hydraulic test described in paragraph 22 of the British Standard Specification for class 'B' pipes and test certificates shall be supplied to the Executive Engineer in respect of such tests.

4. The above condition No. 3 regarding hydraulic tests at the Bengal Iron Company's Works shall not exempt the contractor from all the tests provided for in the British Standard Specification, if required at any time by the Government.

5. The contractor shall give all facilities required by the specification for the engineering officers of the Madras Government or the Government of India to be present at the company's tests or to carry out the tests specified in the specification.

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6. In the event of the pipes and special castings not complying with the specification, the contractor shall on demand from the Executive Engineer in writing forthwith remove the same at his own charge and cost, and in the event of his neglecting to do so within such period as may be named by the Executive Engineer that officer may have such rejected materials removed at the contractor's risk and expense. The expense thus incurred in removing as also in unloading such materials from the wagons and demurrage charges incurred shall be liable to be deducted from any sum due or which may become due to the contractor.

7. That any ordinary straight pipe damaged in transit at the spigot end for not more than one-third of its length shall be accepted at a proportionate price, the contractor bearing the expense of cutting off the damaged portion and of the extra pipe joints involved.

8. The Executive Engineer shall not be under an obligation to take over the scrap cast iron resulting from broken or cut pieces.

9. That the pipes shall be delivered in Coimbatore in sound condition and properly coated with protective solution and that the contractor shall take all responsibility for damage or loss in transit and will deal directly with the Railway authorities regarding damage or missing pipes.

10. The contractor shall intimate beforehand to the Executive Engineer or his duly authorized assistant the number of pipes and special castings despatched, the date of despatch and the probable date of arrival at the station of destination so that the Executive Engineer may make arrangements for unloading them immediately upon their arrival. If, in consequence of the contractor failing to give such intimation, demurrage charges are incurred, the contractor shall be held liable for such charges which shall be deducted from the amounts due to him.

11. Should the contractor fail to deliver all the pipes and special pipes included in the contract before the dates for the completion of supply mentioned in these conditions of supply or before the expiry of any extension of the date as may be approved by the Government in writing, the contractor shall be liable to pay to the Government the amount of all losses, damages or expenses which the Government may be put to or sustain by reason of or in consequence of the contractor's breach of contract.

12. All payments for the pipes shall be made by the Executive Engineer to whom the contractor shall send his bills. Payments shall be made to the extent of nine-tenths of the value of the pipes and special castings delivered to and accepted by the Executive Engineer, the remaining one-tenth value being held as security for the proper fulfilment of the contract. The sum so withheld shall be paid to the contractor in the final bill after deducting any sum lawfully due from the contractor for recoveries or penalties leviable under this contract.

13. The contractor shall not assign or make over the contract or the benefits or burdens thereof or any part thereof to any other person or persons or body corporate. The contractor shall not underlet or sublet to any person or persons or body corporate the execution of the contract or any part thereof without the consent in writing of the Executive Engineer. The Executive Engineer shall have absolute power to refuse such consent or to rescind such consent (if given) at any time if he is not satisfied with the manner in which the contract is being executed and the Secretary of

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State shall not make any allowance or compensation either to the contractor or the sub-contractor upon such rescission. Provided always that if such consent be given at any time the contractor shall not be relieved from any obligation duty or responsibility under this contract.

14. In case the contractor shall become insolvent or in liquidation or shall make or propose to make any assignment for the benefit of its creditors or propose any composition to its creditors for the settlement of its debts or shall carry on or propose to carry on its business or the contract under inspection on behalf of its creditors or in case any receiving order or orders for the administration of its estate shall be made against it or in case the contractor shall commit any act of insolvency the contract shall thereupon after notice given by the Secretary of State to the contractor be determined and the Secretary of State may complete the contract in such time and manner and by such persons as the Secretary of State shall think fit.

15. In case the contractor shall fail to supply and deliver any of the said articles and things within the time hereinbefore provided for delivery of the same or in case the contractor shall commit any breach of any of the covenants stipulations and agreements hereinbefore contained and on its part to be performed and observed then and in any or either of such cases it shall be lawful for the said Executive Engineer (if he shall think fit so to do) on behalf of the Secretary of State by any writing under his hand to put an end to this contract so far as regards the Secretary of State and thereupon every article clauses and thing herein contained on his part shall cease and determine and in case the Secretary of State shall have incurred sustained or been put to any costs damages or expenses by reason of this contract having been so put an end to or in case any difference in price compensation loss costs damages expenses or other moneys shall then or at any time during the continuance of this contract be payable by the contractor to the Secretary of State under or by virtue of these presents it shall be lawful for the Secretary of State from and out of any moneys for the time being payable or owing to the contractor under or by virtue of these presents to pay and reimburse to the Secretary of State all such costs damages and expenses he may have sustained incurred or been put to by reason of this contract having been so put an end to as aforesaid and also all such difference in price compensation loss costs damages expenses and other moneys as shall for the time being be payable by the contractor as aforesaid.

16. In case any dispute or difference shall at any time arise between the contractor and the Secretary of State concerning the meaning of the contract or concerning the specifications the conditions of supply the bills of quantities or the schedule of prices or as to the instructions orders requisitions valuations measurements certificates or opinions of the Executive Engineer or the payment to the contractor or any other matters whatsoever arising out of the contract or the breach thereof every such dispute shall at the instance of either party be referred to and decided by the Chief Engineer for the time being of the Government of Madras whose decision shall in every case be final and conclusive and be parties hereto.

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ANNEXURE III.

Coimbatore water-supply scheme.

Detailed bill of quantities showing the sizes and quantities of cast iron spigot and socket pipes required.

Item number.	Internal diameter of pipe.	Thickness of pipe.	Length of each pipe when laid.	Weight of each pipe.	Number and length of pipe required.		Total weight. E. & O.E.	Remarks.
					Number of pipes with ordinary spigot and socket joints.	Total length of pipes.		
	INCH.	INCH.	FEET.	CWT. Q. LB.	NO.	FEET.	TON. CWT.	
1	24	80	12	23 1 0	220	2,640	255 15	All pipes to be in accordance with British Standard Specification for 'B' class pipes.
2	20	73	12	17 2 11	217	2,604	190 19	
3	18	69	12	15 0 5	10,087	121,044	7,687 15	
4	15	63	12	11 1 21	300	3,600	171 11	
5	14	61	12	10 1 15	167	2,004	86 14	
6	12	57	9	6 1 20	993	8,937	319 4	
7	10	52	9	5 0 6	448	4,032	113 4	
8	8	47	9	3 2 24	101	909	18 15	
9	7	45	9	3 0 9	1,720	15,480	264 18	
10	6	43	9	2 2 6	1,732	15,688	221 3	
11	5	41	9	2 0 4	921	8,289	93 15	
12	4	39	9	1 2 4	2,869	25,821	220 6	
13	3	38	9	1 0 17	6,080	54,720	350 3	

Detailed bill of quantities showing the sizes and quantities of cast iron bends, tees, standard tapers and collars.

Item number.	Description.	Internal diameter in inches.	Number required.	Remarks.
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(a) Cast iron bends (spigot and socket).

14	$\frac{1}{4}$ bends (90°)	..	24	1	All bends to be in accordance with British Standard Specification for 'B' class bends in all respects.
15	Do.	..	18	3	
16	Do.	..	12	2	
17	Do.	..	10	53	
18	Do.	..	8	4	
19	Do.	..	7	2	
20	Do.	..	6	4	
21	Do.	..	5	3	
22	Do.	..	4	14	
23	Do.	..	3	44	
24	$\frac{1}{8}$ bends (45°)	..	18	12	
25	Do.	..	7	5	
26	Do.	..	6	2	
27	Do.	..	5	5	
28	Do.	..	4	16	
29	Do.	..	3	30	
30	$\frac{1}{8}$ bends (22½°)	..	18	36	
31	Do.	..	6	6	
32	Do.	..	5	2	
33	Do.	..	4	16	
34	Do.	..	3	20	

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Detailed bill of quantities showing the sizes and quantities of cast iron bends, tees, standard tapers and collars—*cont.*

Item number.	Description.	Internal diameter in inches.	Number required.	Remarks.
(a) Cast iron bends (spigot and socket)—cont.				
35	$\frac{1}{2}$ bends (11 $\frac{1}{4}$)	20	2	All bends to be in accordance with British Standard Specification for 'B' class bends in all respects.
36	Do.	18	47	
37	Do.	14	2	
38	Do.	12	3	
39	Do.	10	3	
40	Do.	7	4	
41	Do.	6	4	
42	Do.	5	5	
43	Do.	4	8	
44	Do.	3	18	
45	Special bend for scour as per San. No. 23 of 1912 (modified).	10	26	
46	Do.	8	1	
47	Do.	7	1	
48	Do.	6	1	
49	Do.	4	2	
50	Do.	3	11	
(b) Cast iron tees (spigot and socket).				
51	Tees for sub-mains	24 × 15	1	The tees to be in accordance with the British Standard Specification for 'B' class standard tees in all respects.
52	Do.	24 × 8	1	
53	Do.	18 × 12	1	
54	Do.	18 × 10	26	
55	Do.	18 × 8	1	
56	Do.	18 × 5	1	
57	Do.	18 × 4	2	
58	Do.	15 × 8	1	
59	Do.	15 × 7	1	
60	Do.	14 × 7	2	
61	Do.	14 × 5	2	
62	Do.	12 × 8	1	
63	Do.	12 × 7	2	
64	Do.	12 × 5	1	
65	Do.	12 × 4	4	
66	Do.	12 × 3	3	
67	Do.	10 × 6	2	
68	Do.	10 × 4	2	
69	Do.	10 × 3	1	
70	Do.	8 × 4	2	
71	Do.	7 × 5	2	
72	Do.	7 × 4	3	
73	Do.	7 × 3	7	
74	Do.	6 × 5	2	
75	Do.	6 × 4	3	
76	Do.	6 × 3	8	
77	Do.	5 × 5	1	
78	Do.	5 × 3	7	
79	Do.	4 × 4	3	
80	Do.	4 × 3	12	
81	Do.	3 × 3	11	
82	Tees for hydrants	18 × 3	2	The tees to correspond with the British Standard Specification for 'B' class standard tees in all respects.
83	Do.	14 × 3	1	
84	Do.	12 × 3	2	
85	Do.	10 × 3	1	
86	Do.	7 × 3	3	
87	Do.	6 × 3	5	
88	Do.	5 × 3	1	
89	Do.	4 × 3	5	
90	Do.	3 × 3	12	

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Detailed bill of quantities showing the sizes and quantities of cast iron bends, tees, standard tapers and collars—*cont.*

Item number.	Description.	Internal diameter in inches.	Number required.	Remarks.
(b) Cast iron tees (spigot and socket)—cont.				
91	Tees for fountains	20 × 2	2	In items 91 to 94 inclusive the contractor may supply instead of T pipes plain pipes each with an hole drilled and tapped to suit a 2" ferrule.
92	Do.	18 × 2	5	
93	Do.	14 × 2	4	
94	Do.	12 × 2	9	
95	Do.	10 × 2	3	
96	Do.	8 × 2	1	
97	Do.	7 × 2	13	
98	Do.	6 × 2	9	
99	Do.	5 × 2	15	
100	Do.	4 × 2	31	
101	Do.	3 × 2	47	
(c) Cast iron standard tapers and collars (spigot and socket).				
102	Tapers	24 × 22	1	All the tapers and collars to be in accordance with the British Standard Specification for 'B' class tapers and collars in all respects.
103	Do.	22 × 21	1	
104	Do.	21 × 20	1	
105	Do.	20 × 18	1	
106	Do.	18 × 16	1	
107	Do.	16 × 15	1	
108	Do.	15 × 14	2	
109	Do.	14 × 12	2	
110	Do.	12 × 10	3	
111	Do.	10 × 9	3	
112	Do.	9 × 8	3	
113	Do.	8 × 7	5	
114	Do.	7 × 6	8	
115	Do.	6 × 5	9	
116	Do.	5 × 4	15	
117	Do.	4 × 3	23	
117a	Do.	3 × 2½	32	
118	Collars	24	2	
119	Do.	20	2	
120	Do.	18	104	
121	Do.	16	4	
122	Do.	14	2	
123	Do.	12	9	
124	Do.	10	4	
125	Do.	8	1	
126	Do.	7	14	
127	Do.	6	17	
128	Do.	5	9	
129	Do.	4	23	
130	Do.	3	50	

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ANNEXURE IV.

Coimbatore Water-supply scheme.

Schedule of prices f.o.r. Coimbatore.

Items.	Description.	Per	Rate.	Remarks.
1	For all cast iron pipes of 18" internal diameter and over.	Ton.	Rs. 180	All pipes and specials to be in accordance with the British Standard Specification for 'B' class cast-iron pipes and to be delivered f.o.r. Coimbatore.
2	For all cast iron pipes of less than 18" diameter.	Do.	* 200	
3	For all cast iron specials such as bends, tees, tapers and collars.	Do.	* 295	

* These rates are for delivery 'free on rails' at Coimbatore, and include Rs. 27-9-0 per ton railway freight from the manufacturer's works to Coimbatore and are subject to revision only if this rate of freight is changed.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 30th March 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI Avargal, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the chair.

I

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. P. F. C. JOURDAIN made the prescribed oath of allegiance to the Crown and then took his seat.

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Arms and Explosives.

Licences for muzzle-loading guns, etc., in Ernad, etc.

* 690 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate of Malabar has called upon all people holding licences for muzzle-loading guns in Ernad, Walluvanad, Ponnani and Calicut taluks to deposit their weapons and to take out fresh licences for breech-loading guns in their place;

(b) what is the object aimed at;

(c) whether the District Magistrate is competent to call upon a licence-holder to change his weapon;

(d) the number of such guns in the above four taluks; and

(e) the number of breech-loading guns imported into the Presidency during the last two years?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information as to what steps the District Magistrate, Malabar, has taken. But it has been decided that for the greater safety of the district only licences for breech-loading guns shall be issued in the four named taluks. In special circumstances licences for muzzle-loading guns will be renewed.

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(c) The District Magistrate cannot call on a licensee-holder to change his weapon but he can refuse to renew a licence for an old one.

(d) & (e) The Government have no information.

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"I wish to know, Sir, whether when a Member of this Council with a full sense of his responsibility asks whether a particular action taken by the Government has been a fact or not, it is not fair that the Government should enquire into the matter and give us a definite and unequivocal answer."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"With reference to what part of the answer is the hon. Member making this complaint?"

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"Clause (a), Sir.

"It is said 'for the greater safety of the district only licences for breech-loading guns shall be issued in the four named taluks'. May I know what he means by 'greater safety of the district'?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Sir, do I understand that the hon. Member is asking for a ruling on the general policy?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Does the hon. Member want an answer to the first question?"

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"Yes."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I thought the question was addressed to you and the hon. Member asked for a ruling from you. With regard to the second question, the answer is that it was considered that muzzle-loading guns were dangerous and therefore licences for breech-loading guns were asked to be issued in the four taluks named."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"It is said with reference to (d) and (e) that the Government have no information. Does it mean that as regards (d) the Government have no information with regard to the number of such licences in these four taluks and, as regards (e), they have no knowledge of the number of breech-loading guns imported into the Presidency?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"With regard to (d), we have no information here but the number of licences is available in the District Magistrate's office. As regards (e), we have no information as to the number of breech-loading guns imported into the Presidency during the last two years."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"Will they be pleased to call for the information?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I wish to know what public purpose it would serve."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"I wish to satisfy him that the breech-loading guns in the market are not sufficient to meet the requirements of the people."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"Sir, as regards (e), we have no information and it is not a matter in our disposal."

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Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"May I take it that the Collector has consulted the Government and that the Government have approved of the proposal that muzzle-loading guns have to be deposited and breech-loaders purchased in their stead?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"That policy, Sir, was decided upon three years ago at the time of the rebellion and it has been in force since then. That policy was decided upon at that time."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"It is stated here that 'for the greater safety of the district only licences for breech-loading guns shall be issued and that in special circumstances licences for muzzle-loading guns will be renewed'. May I ask if that fact was communicated to those people holding licences for muzzle-loading guns so that if they were so inclined they could apply for the other kind of guns they want?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I presume that it has been so communicated and that is probably the source of my hon. Friend's information."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"I may at once say that I got the information from newspapers."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"With reference to (c), Sir, the answer is 'the District Magistrate cannot call on a licensee holder to change his weapon but he can refuse to renew a licence for an old one.' If this answer is correct, I want to know how the decision to grant licences for breech-loading guns in preference to muzzle-loading guns was communicated to parties in advance."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid I have no detailed information. It appears that the hon. Member behind me had his information from the newspapers but he does not say that any one has complained. This alteration in the policy has been found necessary in the interests of peace."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"May I take it that it is the general policy of the Government to issue licences for breech-loading guns as far as possible and not for muzzle-loading guns?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"That is a special policy for the four Malabar taluks named in the question. Licences in the other districts are issued under the rules in force."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"With reference to clauses (a) and (b), may I know the amount of licence fees people have to pay in the case of breech-loading guns? Is it four annas for . . . ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"As to that matter, Sir, I am afraid I must ask for notice."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With regard to the question that the hon. Member Mr. Prabhakaran Tampam asked, I must ask for your ruling, Sir. We are actually running an obstacle race with our rules and standing orders and when questions are asked asking for certain information, it seems to me that the Government have no right to say that they will not call for the information, because it does not serve any public purpose. I can understand if they say 'we have no information.' But it seems to me that they are wanting in

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the courtesy due to this House, if they say they will not call for the information, unless they are assured that according to them it will serve any public purpose."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I understood the hon. the Home Member to say that he was prepared to call for the information if the hon. Member from Malabar would say what public purpose would be served."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" That is exactly my objection, Sir. My submission is, it is for us to decide whether a particular matter serves any public purpose or not and it is not for the Government Benches. In the matter of asking questions, there are certain orders governing the admissibility of questions. When we have passed this test, I ask your ruling, whether the Government can say that this is not a matter which is in the public interests."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I answer, that the Government are responsible for the manner in which public money is spent? Money has been committed to them and they are responsible for spending the money in proper directions. Regarding such instances as calling for information they involve expenditure of time and money and the Government are perfectly at liberty to say that they are not prepared to spend any money for the purpose of collecting certain statistics on this matter unless they understand that it will serve any public purpose."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I submit, that even under this system of dyarchy we too are here responsible to the taxpayer, much more responsible than those who occupy the treasury benches, in the matter of expenditure of moneys. I submit that the Government cannot claim a monopoly of responsibility to the taxpayer. We are here as much concerned with the proper spending of money and we have as much interest in the economic spending of that money, and even more than the Government can possibly claim to be."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" As I have already stated, I cannot compel the Government to give an answer to any question. I can only pass on any question that I admit and it is for them to say whether they will or will not answer it."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I add, Sir, that what is complained of in this case is that we have not accepted the suggestion for action? "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" No, Sir. The complaint is this, Sir. The question asks 'whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate of Malabar has called upon all people holding licences for muzzle-loading guns . . . to deposit their weapons and to take out fresh licences for breech-loading guns in their place.' That is merely asking for information. But the Government say that they have no information. I do not suggest any course of action there. The complaint is that the Government ignore the question altogether. We have not got certain information and that is why we ask the Government to say if they have got it and, if not, to call for it. It seems to me, Sir, if I may say so, that you are not really so powerless as you think you are. The Government are bound by your ruling, as much as any one of us is and you ought to come to our help and compel the Government by your rulings to make an answer to our questions and not to evade them."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, the hon. the Home Member said that this was a suggestion for action. I wish to know whether any question can be answered without taking some action or other."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The complaint of the hon. Member from Malabar is that having got the question we did not make a reference to the District Magistrate. So far as the answer goes it is perfectly true. His complaint is that we did not do something. As I said, we did not accept the suggestion for action."

Forests.

Terms allowed to ryots to take the tangedu bark from reserve forests.

* 691 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the ryots are allowed to take the tangedu bark from the reserve forests, and if so, under what conditions and terms ;

(b) whether there is any Government Order enumerating the terms subject to which the ryots are so allowed, and if so, whether that can be placed on the table of the House ;

(c) whether there are any local orders passed in the matter either consistent with the policy and the Government Orders on the point or inconsistent with the same in various districts ;

(d) whether the Government have made any enquiries in the matter or propose to make any enquiries in the matter ;

(e) whether the Government are aware of the fact that there is a local order in Anantapur district that no tangedu stem more than 10 inches long can be cut by the ryot for purposes of using leaf as manure from Government lands ; and

(f) whether there are any cases of cutting the leaf in accordance with the direction so issued, and whether there have been any cases of violation of the said rule resulting in prosecutions or any other disciplinary action, and if so, how many they were in the last year in the district ?

A.—(a) Ryots are not allowed to take tangedu bark from reserved forests.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) The Government are not aware of any such local orders.

(d) No.

(e) The order is to the effect that in removing tangedu leaves for manure, the whole stem should not be cut flush with the ground, but that only the leaf portion about 1 foot in length should be cut.

(f) No cases of violation of the order have been reported. There have been no cases of prosecution or other disciplinary action.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, with reference to clause (a), may I know whether the tangedu bark is sold by auction or let out to contractors? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I understand the right of taking the bark is sold to contractors."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" It is said that 'the whole stem should not be cut flush with the ground, but that only the leaf portion about 1 foot in length should be cut'. Am I to understand that the measurement applies to each twig of the tree or only to the trunk?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid that for such details I must ask for notice. I can only give the House the information that I have received from the Chief Conservator."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Do I understand the answer to mean that there are no conditions whatever for the removal?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. the Home Member has just now said that the right is sold by auction."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" That is to contractors. I am only asking whether it cannot be sold to individuals by cart-load or head-load and whether the cultivating ryots are not allowed to get it."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I understand, Sir, that they are not allowed. If my hon. Friend will put a separate question I shall consider it."

Jails.

Shortages in stores in Alipuram and Vellore jails.

* 692 Q.—Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there were defalcations or shortages in the stores in Alipuram and Vellore jails;

(b) whether a special officer from the Accountant-General's office was sent to audit the accounts;

(c) if so, what his report was;

(d) whether the storekeeper of one of the jails offered to pay half of the deficit; and

(e) the amounts of shortages?

A.—In regard to the shortages in stores in the Central Jail, Vellore, the hon. Member is referred to paragraph 6 (e) of section II of the Audit Report (Part I) for 1922-23, a copy of which has been placed in the Council Library.

The report of the Audit Officer on certain shortages in stores in the Alipuram jail is under the consideration of Government.

Irrigation.

Preventing water from flowing down the Cauvery to facilitate the closing of breaches in Kilikudu.

* 693 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that last year water was prevented from flowing down the Cauvery by bunding at the Upper Anicut to facilitate the closing of the breaches in Kilikudu, and if so, for how long?

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A.—An attempt was made in October 1924 to divert water from the Cauvery into the Coleroon in order to facilitate the closing of the breach at Kilikudu but it had little effect. The actual period is not known.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, it is stated 'The actual period is not known.' May I ask the hon. the Law Member to state the approximate period and whether it is not possible for him to get the information?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" It is possible to collate the information from various reports. I think I shall be able to give an answer if my hon. Friend repeats his question at another time."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Meanwhile, will it not be possible to get the information?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" If my hon. Friend will address a communication to the department, I shall see that the information is furnished."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I shall do so."

Stationery.

Typewriting machines in Government offices.

* 694 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

(a) to place on the table of the House statistics giving particulars of the various patterns with prices of the typewriting machines purchased for the past five years for use in Government offices; and

(b) to state—

(i) the department that is responsible for the purchase of the typewriting machines and whether tenders are called for from different companies before purchases are effected;

(ii) if so, whether the prices quoted in answer to clause (a) are the most favourable; and

(iii) whether the Government are aware that there are other patterns of machines now in the market which can compare very favourably with those now in use in Government offices?

A.—(a) The information is given in the appended statement.^a

(b) The Superintendent of Stationery is responsible for the purchase of typewriters. It has not been usual hitherto to call for tenders when typewriters are wanted. The demand is often for a particular kind and, if that make is on the list of typewriters approved by Government and there is no reason why it should not be supplied, the demand is complied with. In view, however, of the large number of types on the approved list it is proposed to see whether any advantage can be obtained by calling for tenders when next typewriters are needed.

Vendors of different patterns are not slow to bring to the notice of Government the merits of their machines.

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Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"Sir, it is stated in answer to (b), 'In view, however, of the large number of types on the approved list, it is proposed to see whether any advantage can be obtained by calling for tenders when next typewriters are needed.' May I ask whether the service given by a typewriter and the facilities afforded by the agents for repair are not the main considerations in the choice of typewriters?"

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"Undoubtedly these are matters for consideration."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"In that case, would it be advantageous to call for tenders?"

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I am not sure of that."

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Alleged scarcity of drinking water in Virudunagar, etc.

* 695 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the scarcity of drinking water in Virudunagar and Sivakasi municipalities; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken in the matter?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The investigation of a scheme for the supply of water to Virudunagar from the Tulukapatti river has been sanctioned by the Government. The Sanitary Engineer is carrying out the investigation. The question of including Sivakasi in the above scheme was under the consideration of the Government in 1923. The Sivakasi Municipal Council was not prepared to finance it and the proposal was therefore dropped.

Medical.

Supply of medicines to rural dispensaries.

* 696 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that medicines were not available recently in the Government medical stores to meet the demand of local boards to supply to the new rural dispensaries started by them;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, the reason for the supply running short; and

(c) whether the Government have completed their deliberations regarding the advisability of allowing local boards to make their own arrangements to purchase medicines or of supplying to local boards medicines for the same cost at which Government hospitals are supplied?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) The question of supply of medicines to local bodies is still under consideration.

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Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"May I know how long have these proposals been under the consideration of Government?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"They have been under consideration for a fairly long time. It is a matter on which this Government have to correspond with the Government of India."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I know if the local bodies have at any time purchased medicines elsewhere?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"They cannot under the existing rules."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"If the Government have not enough stock in the Government Stores, could they not allow local bodies to purchase from private firms?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"The reply has already been given that the whole question is under consideration."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I am sorry. The matter has been under consideration for five years. Until it is disposed of, I want to know whether the local bodies may not be allowed the right to purchase from private firms."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"The difficulty of the matter is that there is no guarantee that the local bodies will be able to get drugs of standard efficacy."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Supposing some standard is guaranteed or the District Medical Officer is satisfied, under such conditions the right may be given to purchase elsewhere."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"The question can be considered, if at the same time Government think that it is not worth their while to supply local bodies from their own Medical Stores the constitution of which is now under consideration."

Privilege of the Medical Practitioners in the City to grant Medical Certificates.

* 697 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the privilege accorded to the Registered Medical Practitioners in the city and in the mufassal to grant medical certificates to Government servants for purposes of leave, etc., without the counter-signature of the District Surgeon has been withdrawn by a recent Government Order;

(b) if so, whether there have been any specific instances of abuse of power on the part of the Registered Medical Practitioners in the matter of granting certificates to Government servants, justifying the withdrawal of that power;

(c) whether the attention of the Medical Council was drawn to the breach of faith by any Registered Medical Practitioner or Practitioners in the matter and if so, when and with what result; and

(d) whether the Government will place on the table of the House the correspondence, if any, between the heads of departments and the Government on the one hand and the Government and the Medical Council on the other, that led to the issue of the Government Order in question?

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A.--(a) The answer is in the negative. Even under the old order heads of offices had full discretion to require the countersignature of the district surgeon in doubtful and special cases. The recent order only emphasized this by declaring that the head of an office will be at liberty to decline to accept without the countersignature of the district surgeon any medical certificate unless it has been issued in compliance with a requisition from him. The order does not withdraw from medical practitioners their right to grant certificates.

(b) The Government had reason to believe that the privilege which Government servants enjoyed of obtaining leave on medical certificates granted by registered practitioners was being abused. As an instance in point the attention of the hon. Member is invited to paragraph 17, clause 3, of the annual report of the Superintendent, Government Press, for 1923-24 which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(c) In the nature of things it is almost impossible to prove that a false certificate has been given, for medical practitioners can always maintain that the fact stated in a certificate is a matter of opinion. One suspicious case was however recently brought to the notice of the Medical Council on 14th February 1925.

(d) Copies of letters^a from the President of the Madras Medical Council and the Surgeon-General are laid on the table.

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, are the Government aware that, after the recent order emphasizing the original order was passed, most of the certificates given by Registered Medical Practitioners are sent to the District Surgeon for countersignature now ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, the heads of departments have the discretion to do so. "

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" This makes a difference between the private practitioner and the district surgeon. Does it not discourage private practice as much as possible, when it has to be encouraged now ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I do not know what my hon. Friend means by private practice. If he means that a private practitioner shall have the privilege of issuing certificates, I do not know whether it is really the idea of Government to encourage private practice in that sense. "

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Yes, Sir. A patient is under my treatment for a number of months. I can give a certificate now, that is, as a registered practitioner. He is sent to a district surgeon who sees him for a single day, and says the patient should not be given leave. What happens ? I am discredited, and nobody will come to me for a certificate or even for treatment. "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The question has arisen on complaints made that in many cases private medical men who issue the certificates do so under no great responsibility. The Government thought that it would be better that the heads of departments should whenever they feel doubtful insist on the countersignature of the district surgeon. "

^a Printed as Appendix II on page 945 infra.

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Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" As the registered medical practitioners are approved by the Medical Council, will it not be better, if there is anything in the report unwarranted by circumstances, to send it to the Medical Council for their opinion ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I understand that the whole question was considered by the Medical Council and a majority of them were in favour of the step taken by the Government. "

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Here is the opinion of the Medical Council: 'that in the matter of granting certificates by registered medical practitioners to Government servants that G.O. No. 989, dated 22nd May 1916, be so amended that all medical certificates granted by Registered Medical Practitioners as defined in section 3 of the Madras Medical Registration Act be accepted without countersignature.' That is the recommendation of the Medical Council.

" It is stated 'that the privilege which Government servants enjoyed of obtaining leave on medical certificates granted by registered practitioners was being abused'. Who abused that ? The medical practitioner or the clerk in office who gets the certificate ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, the opinion quoted is that held in 1916. I have already stated that there have been various complaints in the matter. The heads of the departments thought that most of the certificates granted by some of the practitioners were not bona fide ones. "

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" The heads of departments have no business to think otherwise than what the medical practitioner thinks. We are here to relieve human suffering. Our opinion is the highest and that should rule the opinion of the head of the department. We, members of the Medical Council, should take care of the health of the employees too. Is it not a fact that Government servants by not taking leave at least for one month in eleven months have deteriorated and in their 45th year die of diabetes ? What happened to the Deputy Collector at Chingleput recently ? "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask the hon. the Minister whether he is not the employee and ourselves the employers ? That is only asking a supplementary question. But apart from that, with regard to the letter of the Surgeon-General at page 945 (App. II), may I draw his attention to the table at the bottom ?—

" Certificates not countersigned in 1921 (1).

Do. in 1922 (2).

Do. in 1923 (6).

" The percentages were 5.8, 2.0 and 6.6 respectively.

" In view of these statistics and in view of the statement made by the Surgeon-General—these statistics do not prove much,—may I ask the reason why suddenly Government thought it necessary to emphasize their previous order and thereby create legitimate dissatisfaction among the private medical practitioners ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I do not think there is any room for dissatisfaction among private medical practitioners. "

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Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"There is dissatisfaction. We are discredited; we are nowhere, Sir. Then, Sir, they suspect us. Are the Government certain that district surgeons will not abuse their power and give certificates against their conscience?"

Education.

The raising of the status of the Government College, Mangalore.

* 698 Q.—Mr. K. RAGHUCHANDRA BALLAL: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government College, Mangalore, was originally raised from the status of a Provincial High school, and established in the interest of higher education with the aid of money collected from the people of South Kanara;

(b) the amount of money collected; whether it is invested on behalf of Government and if so, where and at what rate of interest;

(c) how the interest is utilized;

(d) whether the Government undertook to appoint always a European Principal to the college and if so, why they have now departed from the undertaking; and

(e) whether the institution has always been self-supporting and if so, the objections, if any, to raise it to the status of a first-grade college?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The amount originally collected was Rs. 65,000. Of this, Rs. 8,000 was utilized on the construction of a building for the school. The present capital is Rs. 58,700 and it is invested in $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Government securities.

(c) The interest is utilized towards the maintenance of the college.

(d) There is no obligation on Government to appoint a European as head of the institution. They usually appoint a graduate of an English University as Principal.

(e) The institution is not self-supporting.

Agriculture.

Agricultural schools in Tamil districts.

* 699 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether any proposal has been made by the Government to open agricultural schools in Tamil districts; and

(b) whether the District Collector of Ramnad has recommended the opening of a school in Sattur taluk?

A.—(a) The question of opening an agricultural school in the Tamil districts is under consideration. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to select a suitable place for the location of the school in consultation with district officers and local bodies.

(b) Yes.

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Co-operation.

Cash balances in co-operative societies.

* 700 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether co-operative societies are bound under rules not to keep cash balances in their hands under ordinary circumstances; if so, whether the rule is strictly enforced in the case of all societies in the Salem district; if not, how many societies have been found to be not following this rule; and

(b) whether it is fact that it has been found that in several societies in Salem district the cash balances are not sent to the District Central Bank at once but are detained in the societies themselves; and what action, if any, the Government have taken to prevent such things?

A.—(a) The Government are not aware that any precise rules have been laid down on the subject but the unnecessary retention of idle cash balances by societies is obviously neither prudent nor businesslike.

(b) The Government have no information. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies will deal with any specific cases brought to his notice.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I ask the hon. the Minister to communicate this answer to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"Not necessary; but of course, if necessary, I shall do so."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Apart from specific cases, it is better that the attention of the Registrar is invited to this answer."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"I have no objection."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Criminal Tribes Act.

Alleged arrest of a depressed class family by Tiruvallur Police.

701 Q.—Mr. L. C. GURUSWAMI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that a family of 10 or 12 members including women and children belonging to a section of the depressed classes was arrested while they were going from village to village in Chingleput district for the purpose of earning their livelihood entertaining the village folk by their acrobatic feats, etc., about the 1st of December 1924 by the Tiruvallur Police; and

(b) whether the said family has been included among the criminal tribes on mere suspicion and also without giving an opportunity to this family to prove their innocence?

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A.—(a) Yes.

- (b) The family belongs to the tribe of Nokkars declared a criminal tribe in Notification No. 330, Judicial, dated 18th November 1924, published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 25th November 1924. Under section 8 of the Criminal Tribes Act, any person may make a protest to the District Magistrate, if he considers that he has been registered wrongly.

Forests.

Free removal of grass in headloads from forest reserves.

702 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the districts in the Presidency in which free removal of grass in headloads is normally permitted from forest reserves, including closed areas, except those under cultural operations; and

(b) the districts from which grazing permits are held to cover

(1) all forests in a particular range, and

(2) forests in all the ranges in the district respectively?

A.—(a) Free removal of grass in headloads is normally permitted in the following forest divisions:—

Kurnool East and West, Anantapur, Mangalore North and South, Cuddapah North, South and West, Chittoor and Vellore North.

In Guntūr and South Kurnool divisions free removal is permitted except in closed coupes and areas.

(b) (1) In the following divisions permits are held to cover all reserves in a particular range:—

Kurnool South and East; Mangalore South; Kollegal, Ganjam, Gooty range in Anantapur; all ranges in Guntūr except the Bezwada and Bandar ranges; Sigur and Mudumalai ranges in the Nilgiris; Bolampatti range (excepting two blocks) in Palghat; Satyamangalam, Talamalai and Bhavani ranges in North Coimbatore; and Pollachi range in South Coimbatore.

In Kurnool West permits are held not to apply to coupes closed to grazing and hill areas far from villages. In South and West Cuddapah divisions, permits issued for one grazing block are in exceptional cases made applicable to any other block with the permission of the District Forest Officer.

(2) In no case are permits issued to cover the forests in all the ranges in a district.

Irrigation.

Nilayur Channel Ryots' Conference.

703 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether he has received a copy of the proceedings of first Nilayur Channel Ryots' Conference held at Tiruppankundam on 29th December 1924 and what action the Government have taken or propose to take thereon?

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- 4.—The proceedings of the Conference referred to have not been received, but certain ryots have submitted petitions asking for better supply in the Nilayur channel. The question of arranging for better supply in the channel and the Nilayur tank is engaging the attention of the local officers.

Legislative.

Standing Advisory Committees for the 'reserved' departments.

704 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state how many Standing Advisory Committees have been appointed for the 'reserved' departments of the Government; if none, what are the reasons for not appointing them; and if any have been appointed, for what departments in particular and who are the members thereof?

A.—(1) The following Advisory Committees have been appointed for the Reserved departments:—

Finance Committee;
Forest Committee; and
Depressed Classes Committee.

(2) No Standing Committees have been appointed for the Law and Revenue departments as the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Revenue Member have not so far felt any need for such committees.

(3) A statement^a showing the names of the members of the committees is appended.

Motor Vehicles Act.

Speed limit for light motor vehicles.

705 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what action Government have taken or contemplate to take to fix the speed limit of light motor vehicles to which no trailer is attached within municipal towns and populous village-sites; and

(b) in view of constant accidents taking place or risk or dangers or dread of accidents to pedestrians and other vehicles within municipal areas and populous village-sites, what speed limit Government contemplate fixing for light motor vehicles?

A.—On the recommendation of the District Magistrates the Government have issued notifications limiting the speed of motor vehicles running over certain roads in the Nilgiris, Madura, Chingleput and Godavari districts. With their approval, a few local bodies also have framed by-laws fixing the speed limit of motor vehicles plying for hire within their jurisdiction. The speed limits vary from 5 to 15 miles an hour according to localities.

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Appointments.*Number of applications to the Staff Selection Board caste-war.*

706 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. M. M. MURUGAPPA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state the number of applications to the Staff Selection Board caste-war—Brahmans, Non-Brahman caste-Hindus, Christians, Muhammadans and members of the depressed classes—as also the number selected, caste-war?

A.—The Government have no information as to the number of applications received from persons of each caste and do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by calling for this information. A list of candidates approved by the Staff Selection Board will be found on pages 101 and 102 of Part I-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette* for the 3rd March 1925.

Public Works.*Water-supply in Coimbatore.*

707 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: With reference to the supplementary answer that the file connected with the water-supply in Coimbatore is pending with the Government, will the hon. the Member for Finance, the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether orders, and if so, what orders have since been passed thereon?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 685.

Medical.*Treatment of leprosy in the Presidency.*

708 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government of Madras have placed themselves in communication with the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association with a view to taking steps to combat the disease of leprosy in this Presidency;

(b) what are all the various measures being, or contemplated to be, taken by Government for that purpose, e.g., establishment of hospitals, grant in aid to private hospitals, extension of the Lepers Act to several places, ensuring segregation of lepers, etc.;

(c) what steps are being taken to remove and segregate the lepers who worry passengers in the tram-cars of Madras and in the thoroughfares of towns like Mangalore;

(d) when the projected Government Leper Asylum in the Chingleput district is likely to be completed and at what cost;

(e) whether the Government have decided to hand over the management of that institution to any missionary body; if so, on what conditions as to payment of grants for expenses of management and so on;

(f) whether more than one and, if so, which Christian or other religious bodies or orders or associations have applied for undertaking such management and nursing, or either, and on what terms as to grants, etc.; and

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(g) in view of the appeal made by the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, what extra grants are contemplated by Government to be demanded in the Budget Estimate for 1925-26 and for which specific purpose?

A.—(a) A provincial branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association (Indian Council) has been formed for promoting the Viceroy's appeal for funds in aid of leprosy relief. The Indian Council will design the general plan of operations in which the interests, the contributions and needs of each Province will receive due consideration.

(b) The various measures contemplated are indicated in the Viceroy's speech delivered on the 27th January 1925 when the Indian Council of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association was inaugurated.

(c) No effective steps can be taken until the Lepers Act is put into force. This question awaits the completion of the new Leper Settlement at Tirumani.

(d) It is expected that the essential buildings required before the settlement can be occupied will be completed by the 1st May next. The total estimated cost of the settlement is about five lakhs.

(e) The Government have offered the management of the settlement to the United Free Church of Scotland Mission, Chingleput, on certain conditions. A final agreement has not yet been arrived at.

(f) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question 649.

(g) No provision has been included in the Budget Estimate for 1925-26.

Agriculture.*Travelling allowance to Agricultural demonstrators.*

709 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether Agricultural demonstrators are not permitted to travel every month beyond the limit imposed by a fixed sum set apart as their travelling allowance;

(b) the amount so fixed;

(c) whether owing to this 'limit' they are not able to visit villages and do any useful work there;

(d) how many days, on the average, they remain in headquarters or visit only places within five miles of their headquarters, every month; and

(e) the average area assigned to agricultural demonstrators?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The amount varies according to the extent of the area to be visited by the demonstrator.

(c) The number of villages to be visited by each demonstrator is limited. There is sufficient work to occupy them within the limits fixed.

(d) Fifteen to 20 days.

(e) On the average about two taluks.

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[Note.—An asterisk * at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

III

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I move, Sir, that item No. III on the agenda be taken after item No. IX. The reason is that items Nos. IV to VIII may not take long, but the discussion of item No. III may take a long time. I have no doubt that the Council would be inclined to meet the convenience of my hon. Colleague, the Home Member, who is in charge of some of the earlier matters and may not be here till they are reached if No. III is discussed."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I second it."

With the consent of the House, item No. III was allowed to stand over till after item No. IX was disposed of.

IV

EXCESS GRANT FOR 1923-24.

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" Sir, I beg to move

'that an excess grant of Rs. 29,50,869 be voted by the Council to regularise the expenditure incurred in the year 1923-24 in excess of the voted grants of that year.'

"The excess expenditure is explained in Chapter V of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know from the hon. the Finance Member whether he is moving it as a total grant or whether he is moving it as four different grants? We find that this item is composed of four different grants which are specified in page 28 of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee for 1923-24."

11-30 a.m.

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I understand that the procedure is to put the total motion and give an explanation for the different items of which the grant is made up. The details of this total grant are: Rs. 4,852 under Stamps, Rs. 1,34,852 under Pensions, Rs. 34,558 under Stationery and Printing and Rs. 27,76,607 under Repayment of loan. I do not know if the House expects me to give a further explanation beyond what is contained in the Public Accounts Committee Report. If any more details are wanted I shall be glad to give them."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" In view of the statement of the hon. the Finance Member, may I ask your ruling as to whether these four grants should not be moved as four different grants? At page 28 of the report, Sir, you will see that they come under four different heads of grants, viz, Grants III, XXX, XXXII and XXXV. The hon. the Finance Member is now moving for a total grant for Rs. 29,50,869. Now, this year, I have no objection to any particular item included in that grant. But, as a matter of general convenience, and considering our Rules and Standing Orders, I should like to have your ruling as to whether these grants should not be moved separately under the different heads to which they relate and voted upon. This seems to me consistent with our rules, which require that these excess grants should be moved separately under the different heads of grants. I think it would be convenient to conform to the general practice also elsewhere in this matter."

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* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" My impression is that last year the total amount was voted in one lump sum; but if it would be more convenient to the House and if you think likewise, I have no objection to move the grants item by item."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I certainly think that if the House insists upon it, the excess grants should be moved separately for each grant which has been exceeded. But I understand that the hon. Member for the University only raised this issue with reference to future excess grants and not with reference to this particular year's grants. The point will be borne in mind in future audit reports."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I may read rule 31 which covers the excess grants. It says :

"When money has been spent on any service for which the vote of Council is necessary during any financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service and for that year, a demand for the excess shall be presented to the Council by the Finance Member

"I mention that merely to show the procedure prescribed, if I may say so. I am not likely to take advantage of your ruling in order to raise objections seriatim in this case. I am only submitting this point for your definite ruling, consistent with rule 31. Different considerations may arise, if not this year, next year, with regard to the different grants. It seems to me the rule is clear in the matter."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I do not think the rule necessarily means that. But, as a matter of convenience, if the House prefers that the grants should be moved separately I have no objection to doing so. In moving a total grant instead of one single grant I merely followed the precedent of last year."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Certainly we should come to an understanding in a matter like this and have the rules strictly fulfilled. The Government agree, I understand, to observe the rule in the sense desired by the hon. Member for the University in future. If he wants the present demand also to be moved separately, item by item, we must see about it, but in this case I understand he has no objection."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" If there is any undertaking to that effect which will go down in our journals, I would not press my objection this morning."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" I find, so far as this motion is concerned, there are not satisfactory explanations given for moving it just at this part of the year. It will be found from the Report of the Public Accounts Committee at page 29, with reference to Grant XXXV—Repayment of loan, that the 'revised estimates indicated that a surplus of 18'97 lakhs would be secured and it was announced in the Legislative Council that the surplus would be utilized for the repayment of the outstanding revenue deficit. The surplus, however, instead of amounting to Rs. 18,97,000 actually amounted to Rs. 33,30,771.' In the first place I wish to know why it was not possible to move for this excess grant to the extent to which it was anticipated at the time of the revised estimate before the close of the last year. Again, Sir . . ."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" It was entered in the revised estimate of last year as repayment of loan up to that amount."

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Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"That is one point regarding which information has been given.

"Again I find that the actual surplus of the year became known in the month of October 1924. The present demand, I understand, is made owing to the fact that the actual surplus which amounted to Rs. 26,30,771 was in excess of that shown in the revised estimate. So that if the actual surplus of the year became known in the month of October 1924, what prevented the Government from coming forward for the purpose of legalizing the procedure earlier than now?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"The reason is that the accounts of the year are not closed till October and it does not make very much difference whether the figures are brought before the Council in October 1924 or in March 1925. The usual procedure is to move for these excess grants when the report of the Accountant-General on the Appropriation accounts is received and when we know exactly what the figures are. Though we knew in October that the surplus was something like Rs. 36-30 lakhs it was not until we got the Appropriation Report a month ago that we could say what the exact figure was."

The motion was put and the excess grant was made.

V

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1924-25.

Grant II.

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"Mr. President, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move

"that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 600 under "Land Revenue Department" for 1924-25."

"Sir, this item represents the amount which has been recommended to be given to the personal assistant to the Director of Survey. This official was getting an allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem on the analogy of the party allowance granted to officers in charge of independent survey parties and also Rs. 100 as presidency allowance. He was in receipt of the former since 1911 and of the latter since 1890, but both these allowances were disallowed by the Legislative Council,—the presidency allowance from 1922 and the charge allowance from 1923. Later, in October 1923, the Finance Committee advised the grant to him of a charge allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem without any presidency allowance and this was restored to him in March 1924 with the approval of the Legislative Council which was obtained by moving a supplementary demand. This put him in the position of a party officer. It was then thought that he ought to get something for being in the Presidency town and the Finance Committee advised that for that reason this Rs. 100 may be raised to Rs. 150 from 1st March 1924. If the House agrees this year to this motion the required amount for next year will be met by reappropriation. I may say, Sir, that the explanatory memorandum for this grant as well as Grant IV was by oversight not circulated."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I understand from what my hon. Friend said that he wants this House to restore a particular grant which was disallowed by it on a former occasion. I was listening very carefully

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to what my hon. Friend said. He referred to two allowances, charge allowance and presidency allowance. He stated that both these allowances were on a former occasion disallowed by this House. He said that one of these was restored by the House, but I have not known the circumstances under which it was restored. I understand that the present motion for Rs. 600 relates only to the restoration of the presidency allowance which was disallowed by the Legislative Council."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"The Finance Committee recommended that the allowance of this officer which the Council refused may be raised to Rs. 150 after consideration of the circumstances; and it is that extra Rs. 50 per month that I am now asking the Council to sanction."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"That makes the matter very much worse. As a matter of fact the presidency allowance he was getting on a former occasion was only Rs. 100. Now, my hon. Friend wants that it should be raised to Rs. 150 per month."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"He was getting two allowances, the presidency allowance and the charge allowance. Those two amounted to Rs. 200. An allowance of Rs. 100 was agreed by the Council to be granted to him as special pay in lieu of those two. Now, after further consideration, the Finance Committee recommended that it should be Rs. 150. Even with this Rs. 150 he would still be getting Rs. 50 less than what he used to get before."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"In any case it comes to this; whether it is Rs. 50 less or Rs. 50 more than before, the trump card of my hon. Friend is that he has the advice of the Finance Committee on his side."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"Also the merits of the case." (Laughter.)

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"On the merits of the case, it would not stand. Therefore, the only support the hon. Member has in this case is the recommendation of the Finance Committee. I do not want to discredit or disregard the advice of the Finance Committee. After all, the Finance Committee's advice is only a recommendation. It is perfectly open to this House to either accept that advice or reject it. I am unable to say that sufficient reasons have been shown for the restoration except the fact that there is the advice of the Finance Committee. I would request this House not to accept this particular advice of the Finance Committee and not to allow this grant."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"In this case, the officer in charge, the Assistant Director of Survey, gets Rs. 100 as charge allowance as other party officers are getting. That sum of Rs. 100 is his; that was not disputed by the Council as other officers were getting the charge allowance of Rs. 100. When the hon. Members of the Council wanted to take away the presidency allowance of all the officers, they took away the presidency allowance of this gentleman also. Of course, there are many officers who are getting presidency allowance. What the Finance Committee did was to reduce the presidency allowance from Rs. 100 to Rs. 50. We should not take into consideration the charge allowance he was getting. The only question is whether this officer should get Rs. 100 or Rs. 50 as presidency allowance. The Finance Committee recommends

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Rs. 50. I request the House to decide whether he should get presidency allowance and if so, how much, Rs. 50 or Rs. 100. He may be given Rs. 50."

* Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO :—"I entirely agree with the hon. Member for Madras that the officer was getting presidency allowance of Rs. 100. The Finance Committee thought that Rs. 100 was too much and they reduced it to Rs. 50. After scrutinizing everything they reduced the presidency allowance to Rs. 50. The House may take this fact into consideration and give this officer Rs. 50. I cannot understand what my hon. friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar says, because while other officers are getting the presidency allowance why should not this particular individual get it?"

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I have, on principle, to object to this grant because it is a revival, in another form, of a grant which was refused by the Council. I think the whole question was gone into and decided. Some officers are not getting any presidency allowance at all. For instance, the Director of Public Instruction is not getting the allowance. Some other people also do not get the presidency allowance. I think the pay of such officers was fixed with reference to their appointments and the town in which they were to work. There is no special reason for us to go behind the arrangement we have come to with regard to these allowances."

The demand was put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

Grant IV.

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"We have not been supplied with any note explaining the necessity for this grant."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"As I said, it was due to an oversight that the notes connected with these two items were not circulated."

"I beg to move on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor *that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 84,000 under Stamps for 1924-25.*"

"This sum, Sir, is made up of two items, one of Rs. 67,000 and the other Rs. 17,000. I will deal first with the item of Rs. 67,000. When we were negotiating to get our stamp papers from the Government of India Security Press they cautioned us that they might not be able to supply the stamp papers till the end of 1925-26, and they advised us to get extra stamps from the contractors in England before the contract expired. Accordingly, provision was made by the Superintendent of Stamps to get a larger stock of stamps. He estimated the cost at Rs. 2,09,000. He calculated at the rate of £1=Rs. 10. An addition had to be made owing to the loss in exchange. As the sum which the Superintendent of Stationery asked for was larger than the usual amount, it was understood that he had already added the amount due to loss of exchange while such was not the case. The amount that ought to have been provided in the budget was Rs. 2,96,000 to include an estimated loss by exchange. However, that was not done and we have been advised by the High Commissioner that the cost of stamps during the past year comes to Rs. 2,76,000 and the excess expenditure on that head is therefore Rs. 67,000."

"The second item of Rs. 17,000 is under the head of carriage charges and discount for the sale of stamp papers. It is found that the provision

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made in the budget is inadequate with reference to the actual requirements. A sum of Rs. 17,000 will be required under that head. It is a fluctuating item and it is difficult to estimate it correctly. These two sums, Rs. 67,000 and Rs. 17,000, make up the total of Rs. 84,000."

The motion was put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XXI.

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I beg to move

that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 9,200 under "33-B. Public Health—Grants for Public Health purposes—Contributions for Public Health purposes—Grants to local bodies for Public Health purposes" to regularize the grant disbursed to the Ootacamund Municipal Council towards the expenditure incurred by the Council in connexion with the campaign against relapsing fever in the town. The expenditure will be met from an equivalent sum surrendered from Grant XXVIII—47-C. Miscellaneous contributions—Transferred—Contributions to Municipal funds.

"The Accountant-General objected to the grant having been disbursed from Grant 47 and the Auditor-General confirmed this objection. Under these circumstances, I request the Council to pass the grant. The expenditure will be met from 47-C."

The motion was put to the House and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XXI.

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I move

that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 10,660 under "33-D. Public Health—Bacteriological laboratories—The King Institute of Preventive Medicine.

to provide for the excess of expenditure under non-contract contingencies."

"The details are as follows :—

	RS.
Cost of calves, including feeding charges	5,000
Pay of menials	1,385
Other contingencies	4,200
Rent	75
Total	10,660

"A note on the grant has already been circulated to hon. Members."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I wish to discuss the system of calling for tenders and accepting them. I may be permitted to raise the point, Sir. Of course, the papers were received by us very late and there was no time to give notice of amendments. I gave notice of my amendment to the Secretary this morning."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I presume the hon. Member has the leave of the House."

The House signified its assent.

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* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I move

'that the grant be reduced by Re. 1 to discuss the system of calling for tenders and accepting them and who is the proper person to accept tenders.'

"The provision in the budget is varying mostly on account of the varying prices of food stuffs and other things. There is an impression, Sir, that the tenders are not called for in proper time and that the lowest tenders are not accepted. I was told that the superintendents of the hospitals in Madras were asked to meet in the Secretariat and that all of them unanimously reported to the Government that the hospital superintendents themselves should call for tenders and accept them. But, for some reason or other, the Government have not accepted the recommendation; and the Surgeon-General himself accepts the tenders. If the superintendents are allowed to accept tenders, there is a possibility of a gain owing to competition and there is a possibility of comparing the rates of one superintendent with the rates accepted by another; and a sort of check and control can be exercised if unreasonable rates are given. There is no sufficient reason why the Government should not accept the unanimous recommendation of the committee and should insist upon the Surgeon-General accepting the tenders. I was told that only in regard to six or seven principal articles the Surgeon-General is calling for tenders whereas the superintendents call for tenders for the remaining 16 or 18 articles. I was informed that in the case of tenders called for by the superintendents there is a fall in the amount to the extent of 10 or 15 per cent as compared with last year whereas in the case of tenders called for by the Surgeon-General there is a uniform increase of 30 or 40 per cent. Of course, we know there was much retrenchment effected last year in the matter of dietary charges and the amount so saved would have to be spent this year on account of these charges. I was told that one superintendent, Major Wright of the Ophthalmic Hospital, complained that on account of the higher rates accepted by the Surgeon-General a sum of Rs. 11,000 more would be required for his hospital alone. The Government should see that much of the tax-payer's money is not lost on account of the high rates being accepted. There must be some system of control exercised by the Government in the matter of these tenders."

Mr. P. L. MOORE :—"Sir, I wish to say a few words with reference to one or two remarks made by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. 12 noon. I quite agree with the hon. Member that there is a good deal to be said for calling for tenders by each superintendent of the hospitals in Madras. It is a difficult question and has exercised the minds of those concerned for many years. I may say that the hon. Minister is quite prepared to consider the advisability of each superintendent calling for tenders on the next occasion. As the hon. Member said, Major Wright and other superintendents of the hospitals pointed out that there were objections to the system of the Surgeon-General calling for tenders for all the hospitals. For instance, if one morning there is no fish in Major Wright's Ophthalmic Hospital then it is necessary that he should be in such a position as to place orders immediately with the contractor near at hand so that he might supply something else. That is the sort of difficulty that arises. He is in favour of smaller contracts entered into by the superintendents themselves. I hope

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[Mr. P. L. Moore]

I have satisfied the House by informing them that Government have exercised their mind in this matter. If the rates are reasonable, they are certainly prepared to try the system of each superintendent calling for tenders. But if the contractors take this opportunity and raise the rates too high, we shall not accept them. We shall simply go back to the system of having one big contract. Anyhow we shall certainly give a chance to this system for some articles."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I beg leave to withdraw the motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The motion is by leave withdrawn."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, I have got a token motion in connexion with the main grant for this year for the King Institute. I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the neglect of vaccination. I have known of many cases, and I have heard of many more where vaccination has proved disastrous. Government for a long time had no settled policy in this matter. From the latest administration report we see that they have new and improved methods of lymph manufacture and distribution. That system is in an experimental stage. The report says that the year under report has seen a number of changes which have had a profound influence upon the methods of vaccination in this Presidency. Government in their order of 1922 sanctioned the issue of glycerine lymph instead of lanoline lymph. The reorganization of the Public Health Department has resulted in the appointment of district health officers. I wonder why the system of supplying glycerine lymph was not introduced earlier."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Sir, may I know whether my hon. Friend the Member for South Kanara takes objection to the grant being made for vaccination or objects to a further grant being given. I do not know whether the objection is relevant."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"It is in connexion with the King Institute, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I presume the hon. Member does not want to make the grant for the Bacteriological laboratories because he thinks that there has been something wrong about the bacteriological system. I do not suppose that the motion is seriously made, because the hon. Member did not ask for permission."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"It is serious, Sir." (Laughter.)

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"If the hon. Member wanted to make a motion, permission of the House should have been obtained because he has not given notice of it."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"The token motion was allowed in the previous case."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. the Leader of the Opposition wanted leave of the House to make a motion and the leave of the House was obtained. The hon. Member in the present case did not ask for leave and I did not insist upon it because I thought the hon. Member was going to speak generally on the grant. If the hon. Member wants to speak on his motion of which notice has not been given he must take the leave of the House."

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* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I shall then speak on the general motion, Sir. The lymph that has been supplied and injected has resulted often in disastrous consequences."

Mr. P. L. MOORE :—" Sir, this is not the first time that the hon. Member has referred to the disastrous results of vaccination. It is a serious charge. If the hon. Member means that the vaccination at present is inefficient, I entirely agree with him. We know it to be a fact. If on the other hand he means by it that there has been loss of life on account of vaccination or anything of that sort I shall be very glad if the hon. Member would give us some details. The hon. Member has used this phrase 'disastrous' so often in this House that I think that we have a right to ask him what exactly he means by that."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, in view of what has fallen from my hon. Friend and the possibilities of the discussion on the whole theory of vaccination I raise this point, Sir, merely as a point of order. The motion for the main grant in regard to the King Institute and vaccination and all that are necessary for vaccination has been made and the House has agreed to that grant. The rule concerned says that in the same session we cannot repeat in another motion a motion once substantially already made. In this case the main grant was duly passed. Unless there are new points not involved in the main grant already passed by the House, I submit, Sir, my hon. Friend will be irrelevant."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" According to my hon. Friend the Law Member, even this very grant ought to be out of order. The hon. Minister has already brought forward a motion for a grant on this subject and there must be some rule on this matter."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, I am afraid I was misunderstood. When a Member of Government wants further money he moves a grant. When the question under discussion raises the same matter, which either has been or is presumed to have been the subject of decision by the Council my submission is that it cannot be raised again."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I am not pressing my token motion, Sir. I am asking the Council to refuse this grant altogether, because the present vaccination system has produced disastrous results in many cases. I am not using the language of exaggeration when I say that it has produced disastrous results."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" May I ask my hon. Friend what he means by 'disastrous results'?"

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I shall explain it, Sir. I may not be using the scientific language, but I shall describe it in correct English. If vaccination results in excessive suppuration, sores all over the body rash or other ailments and as a consequence loss of health, this must surely be considered as a disastrous result. I have come across several cases even in Madras where vaccination has resulted in such serious consequences."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Does the hon. Member want that the system of vaccination should be put a stop to?"

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Not at all, Sir, I am for vaccination. But it should be carried out under proper supervision and with proper care. The vaccination that is done in the mufassal is not at all satisfactory and has

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[Mr. J. A. Saldanha]

resulted in serious consequences. I wish to draw the attention of Government first of all to the issue of lymph and secondly to the method of vaccination and the qualifications of the vaccinators, the supervision of vaccination and its results by expert medical men. As Government have not paid due care to all these things till now, I oppose the grant."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think we have to dispose of the point of order raised by the hon. the Law Member. I am not quite clear as to what the hon. the Law Member wanted to raise as an objection. I understood that the hon. Member for South Kanara was speaking against this grant because he felt that there was something wrong in the system of vaccination. Does the hon. the Law Member wish to suggest that the hon. Member for South Kanara is not entitled to do so because the grant for vaccination has been passed already?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, my point was misunderstood. Supposing the question is whether vaccination is properly carried out or not, if the grant for vaccination has already been made and if no motion raising this question was brought forward then and passed, afterwards when the Member of Government comes forward with a demand for supplemental grant it is not open to any hon. Member to bring forward in the same session a motion practically raising the same question which might have properly been raised on the motion for the main grant."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" If I may say so, Sir, the principle which the hon. the Law Member states corresponds to what in a court of law is called *res judicata*. But we here are not bound by the general law of *res judicata* but by the Standing Orders. The Standing Orders say that if a matter has been discussed in this House and if a vote were taken on that particular matter only that motion cannot be put before the House again during the same session. There is no question of the matter being decided in an implied manner. It would only mean that if by any chance we allot a certain sum of money to a particular department we cannot then raise any questions concerning that department for one full year."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I should not be made a party to that statement. I understood that the object of the hon. Member Mr. Saldanha was to raise the whole question of vaccination, whether vaccination was properly done, and why the new system was not introduced earlier. These larger questions have been raised before the House. Whether, if a few rupees have been granted to a particular service of State, defects in the performance of that service cannot be pointed out during a demand for supplemental grant is not a question which is akin to this at all."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" The result of the hon. Member's statement will be this. Suppose a token motion or a reduction of Rs. 100 in the grant for vaccination is tabled. Then the hon. the Minister may accept the whole grant minus Rs. 100 and say that he has got whatever is necessary for vaccination and therefore the grant for vaccination has been made."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" Sir, is there any point in discussing the point of order? Mr. Saldanha has concluded his speech."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Somebody else may wish to continue the discussion. I think we should arrive at a practical decision on this point.

" I certainly think that whatever may be the hon. the Law Member's point of view on the general question, an hon. Member of this House has as much right to object to any additional grant being made as he had to the original grant and he may do so on general grounds. It will be for the House to consider, after having listened to and taken part in the budget debate, whether any general considerations now pressed should be allowed to weigh against its previous decision. No doubt the proper place and time for the discussion of this subject was during the discussion of the budget. But I think the hon. Member had a right to revert to the general issues again if he wanted to do so, and it is for the House to say whether he has used his right properly or not. He has not traversed beyond the subject of bacteriological laboratories. The hon. Member from South Kanara could very well say ' I was a party to a grant of Rs. 92,000 but I will not grant one rupee more. ' It is quite open to him to say that and it is for the House to consider whether he should have his way."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I am very glad to be told that the hon. Member from South Kanara is not against vaccination and I hope he will not, when his turn comes, refuse to be revaccinated. My hon. Friends think that there are many defects in the system of vaccination. They say there is no dispute about these defects. On the other hand our experts hold the contrary view. When we have paid experts, I daresay qualified experts, we have to take their advice in carrying out our policy in regard to vaccination. My hon. Friend from South Kanara may communicate his doubts to the Director of Public Health who will certainly examine them and do the needful."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" I am very glad to hear that my hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha does not dispute the advantages of vaccination. Neither do I, nor most of the Councillors. However I may say that it is no denying the fact that no sufficient supervision is bestowed over those who vaccinate. Vaccination is a very simple procedure. The effects are very slight and they are not attended with septic poison as some Members think at least if the cloth is cleaned properly. Then there is another trouble. They do not clean the part well. The superior officers and experts are not instructing other people who are below them. The most important thing they should attend to is cleaning. Thousands of people are being vaccinated and they wash them with spirit and then wipe off the whole thing with a dirty towel. The Government took exception to ' disastrous results ' referred to by my hon. Friend Mr. Saldanha. Supposing in the actual vaccination a child is affected by titanus, then the child suffers from lung complaint. I know of cases where children died owing to these causes. If death is not disastrous, what else is disastrous ? "

Mr. P. L. MOORE :—" May I ask my hon. Friend the number of children that died on account of titanus ? "

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask you, Sir, whether, except for a personal explanation or on a point of order, whether an hon. Member can rise up and interrupt another hon. Member when he is speaking ? I am afraid we are getting into a sort of debating society as it were."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I should be very glad indeed if a convention could be established that no hon. Member should be interrupted in the middle of his speech by another hon. Member."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I am an advocate of vaccination and revaccination. I may inform the Government that vaccination is at present done very carelessly, so much so the suffering of humanity is enhanced by people who do not do their work properly.

" As to the hon. Member Mr. Moore's question, I may say—I will not say all of them—that two children died of titanus after vaccination."

Mr. P. L. MOORE :—" I quite agree with my hon. Friend the Member for the University that these interruptions are undesirable. He referred to the two interruptions that I made, viz. (1) about the disastrous results of vaccination and (2) about the deaths caused by vaccination. These statements were made several times and if they are to appear in the public press they are very serious things indeed, and I thought that I should call the attention of the House to take notice of those statements before they appeared in the press without any contradiction. Regarding death, the hon. Member from South Kanara has been quite clear that there is no charge that death is caused, by vaccination and he has gone back on his terms to which I objected and said that disastrous results are produced.

" Coming to the other point, namely, bad and careless work, many hon. Members have said that vaccination work is done most inefficiently. I should like to say that I entirely agree with that view, and I am very sorry to say that there is no question that a large amount of work is being done very carelessly and inefficiently. The department is always fighting against this state of affairs. I may say that the Director of Public Health has very much heard about this and he has issued very careful instructions that as much supervision as is possible should be exercised. One hon. Member said that we must have greater supervision but I do not know what the House will say if we are to come up with a bill asking for more funds for the appointment of the necessary staff which would be required for this purpose. I can only say that Government very much appreciate the criticism that there is good deal of careless work in the department. I may assure hon. Members that very careful instructions will again be issued to the department to see that the work is done very efficiently. I may inform the House that the discussion has not been useless, but I do not think that the cutting out of this grant a small sum would prove effective."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—" Sir, we are minimising the difficulties of vaccinators in villages. Some of us who know the work of vaccinators do really sympathise with their difficulties. A vaccinator has to face tremendous odds while vaccinating children. Go to any village, you will find that the children run away soon after they hear of the vaccinator's coming to their places. The mother of the children comes forward with so many excuses, calamity or some sort of trouble. These are the sorts of difficulties they have to encounter in regard to vaccination work. I do realise that they are not experienced like sub-assistant surgeons and certain other medical officers, but at the same time you will have to realise the difficulties of the local boards. In view of the financial stringency of these local bodies you should not insist upon them that they should employ

[Mr. Biswanath Das Mahasayo] [30th March 1925]

only experts. They cannot indent upon experts. In these circumstances I do not find any reason to support the fact that vaccinators are not up to their mark. With these few words I support the Grant."

The motion that the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 10,660 under 33-D. Public Health—Medicine—Bacteriological Laboratories—the King Institute of Preventive Medicine to provide for the excess of expenditure under non-contract contingencies was put and passed, and the grant was made.

Grant XXXIV.

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I beg to move
*'that Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 10,100 under
 "Stationery and Printing"—Transferred.'*

"Sir, the reasons are given in the memorandum. The value of stationery supplied to Transferred Departments is calculated with reference to the price list issued by the Stationery Office each year. The prices for the current year have been enhanced owing to the inclusion of customs duty in the cost price. The Superintendent of Stationery reports that the expenditure under the head will on this account be Rs. 10,000 in excess of the existing provision of Rs. 2,04,300. Necessary provision on account of customs duty on imported stores has already been included under 46. Stationery and Printing—Reserved—Purchase of Stationery Stores.

"A grant of Rs. 100 in addition to the existing grant of Rs. 100 is required to meet the charge incurred in printing certain abkari sale notifications of the South Kanara district and special out-patient tickets for the Eye Department of the Government Hospital, Madura, at private presses. In very urgent cases where there is not time to get the printing work executed at the nearest Government Press, permission is granted to have the work done locally. The expenditure in question on behalf of the Excise and Medical Departments was not previously anticipated."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, I handed over this morning a notice moving for a reduction of Rs. 101. Have I your permission to move that?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I presume the House will grant permission."

The permission was granted and the motion was made.

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"My object was this, namely, to ascertain what was meant by 'imported stores' with reference to which an increased demand is made because of the difference in customs duty. I want to know what these imported stores are and if the hon. the Minister will not purchase them if they are available, locally or at least in India."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Stationery and Printing is a Reserved subject. So far as stationery supply to Transferred departments is concerned the price is quoted each year by the Stationery Officer. The Stationery Officer reported that customs duties were levied on stationery imported. The whole stock is imported by the Superintendent of Stationery and is used by the departments. So much is allocated to the Reserved and so much to the Transferred departments. So there is no separate set of stationery imported for the Transferred departments. The whole thing is one indent."

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* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I am afraid it is impossible for me to say exactly what stores were imported. A very large proportion of the stationery purchased is purchased in India, and the general rule is that nothing is imported which can be obtained in India. There are however a good many things which cannot be obtained in India and have to be imported. If my hon. Friend wants to know exactly what these things are, I will try and find out."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"If, as the hon. the Finance Member has said, all these are articles which cannot be obtained in India, certainly I have no objection to the grant being made. But if any of them are obtainable in India, then I urge that such articles must be procured here."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I accept that principle, Sir."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"With that assurance, Sir, I withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was then put and carried and the grant was made.

VI

FURTHER DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1925-26.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I wish to move, Sir, that the consideration of this item of business be postponed to another meeting. My reasons are these. It will be found that we have before us proposals for further demands for grants to the extent of Rs. 4.34 lakhs of which about 2.50 lakhs is for Reserved and 1.84 lakhs is for the Transferred departments. Before we can be called upon to vote for these further demands, it is necessary for us to have a comprehensive view of our financial situation. A sum of 126 lakhs has been granted to us by way of remission of the contribution to the Central Government and we are not now in a position to know how that sum is to be distributed. It may take some time for the Government, I quite realise, to come to a decision. But still before we are called upon to vote piecemeal for these further demands, it is but desirable that we should have a comprehensive view of the whole financial situation. It will be remembered that at the time of the declaration of this remission a rider was also added that there would be a substantial allotment for the Transferred departments. That we do not find in the further demands announced to be moved to-day. Our complaint has been that notwithstanding the inauguration of the Reforms, four years ago, the hon. the Ministers have not done their duty by way of developing the departments entrusted to their care. One of the complaints made by them has been inadequate funds. We had not the opportunity of making out our charges for want of time in the case of the Transferred departments other than the Excise during the discussion on the Demands for Grants. If I have the time I will show that during all the four years, very little has been done by way of developing the departments entrusted to the Ministers whether judged by the expansion of medical relief or increased number of dispensaries or improved methods of sanitation. Such being the case we are all interested in seeing that before further steps are taken, sufficient funds are allocated for these matters. Seeing the list of further demands placed before us we find that very little has been done.

[Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu] [30th March 1925]

We must know how the amount of 126 lakhs is proposed to be distributed. Again, Sir, I may point out, that the Council during the discussion of these grants effected certain reductions under some heads, under the Board of Revenue, under High Court, under Jails and under Police. We are yet to know whether the reductions have been accepted by the Government. In the absence of this information and before the settlement of details, I think it is not fair that we should be called upon to vote for these demands."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"As the hon. Member has asked for the information, I may state, Sir, that it is proposed at a later hour this morning—I think it will be on the table of the House shortly—to place on the table a statement communicating to the House that His Excellency has restored certain cuts made in the budget, namely, Rs. 1,18,900 for the Board of Revenue, Rs. 1,00,000 for the establishment of the High Court and half of the allotment for the Official Referee and the cut made under Police."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Jails, Sir?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"His Excellency does not propose to certify the provision."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"This information, Sir, makes it much more imperative that the motion should be pressed. Because even the reductions which were effected by the Council have not been accepted and we have no means of knowing at present what is going to be allotted for the development of the various departments regarding which we are entitled to take the hon. Ministers to task. In so far as they have not succeeded in showing us any development, at this stage all that this House can ask for is the consideration of these demands being adjourned to another meeting. I say another meeting, Sir, because there are only two days reserved for the disposal of non-official business. If the matter is urgent, it is open to His Excellency the Governor to summon the Council as early as possible. We should know what we are called upon to vote taking into consideration the whole of the remission of Rs. 126 lakhs instead of being called upon now to vote for two and a half lakhs and one and a half or so for the reserved and the transferred departments as the case may be. I therefore move that the consideration of this item be adjourned."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"I heartily second the motion for adjournment. We were told, Sir, and it should be within the recollection of the House, that when we were about to discuss the remission of the contribution in our favour this year and incidentally about the salt duty, it was held out before our mind's eye that possibly if the sum of Rs. 126 lakhs were to be remitted as part of the contribution to this province, most of it would go to the transferred subjects."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I do not know who gave that information, Sir. The opinion that I expressed was that a first charge on our resources would be the repayment of our borrowings to cover revenue deficits. I cannot say however that that is the intention of the Government."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"At any rate, Sir, though the hon. the Finance Member did not commit himself to that statement, yet the general trend of the discussion, a major portion of the proceedings relating to the discussion of the subject in this Council would reveal that that was the impression created. At any rate we are not informed how this amount of Rs. 126

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[Mr. P. Anjaneyulu]

lakhs is going to be disposed of except that it is going to diminish our debts. For the reasons already mentioned by my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishna Rao Pantulu, unless we are in possession of the information, the Council will not be in a position to intelligently give its vote on this subject. More or less, Sir, these grants, if I may, with your permission, say so, are becoming merely automatic subjects for voting; may be with a small discussion and a little waste of time; they are either withdrawn or carried. So if the House should be earnest and be intelligently voting on the subject before it, I think that the details must be furnished. With these words, I second the motion brought forward by my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishna Rao."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It has been moved and seconded that item No. VI, Further Demands for Grants for 1925-26, should be adjourned to the next meeting of the Council."

"Does the hon. Member mean after the prorogation?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"If there is to be prorogation, it should be only at the next meeting after it. It is open to His Excellency to continue the sitting if that can be done."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know whether the Government have come to any conclusion about this amount of Rs. 126 lakhs, and if so, whether we can be informed as to the result of their deliberations?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"May I, Sir, ask whether the proposal is to adjourn it to the next session of the Council? I do not understand what the term 'next meeting' means. This sitting, I think, closes the session."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"If it is decided that this session should be closed, it must be at the next session. If the Government think that the matter is urgent, it is open to the Governor to continue the session. It will then come up some days hence."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Far be it from the Finance Department to urge for any expenditure of money on any account. But I gather, Sir, that most of these motions have been put down because the money is wanted for urgent purposes. In regard to the 126 lakhs, I may point out to the House that the effect of what took place in the Assembly is that the demand on the Government of Madras for contribution to the Government of India has been reduced from 348 to 222 lakhs. The result of that is that the estimated expenditure for the year which is put down in the budget at Rs. 17,39,00,000 (to which must be added Rs. 9½ lakhs towards the repayment of the old provincial loan account which I promised in the revised estimate to include in the charges against revenue) is reduced by Rs. 126 lakhs. We have no addition to our income. The income stands as before at Rs. 16,51,00,000; and I am afraid there are reasons to suppose that even that amount will not be fully realized. If that amount is realized, there will be a surplus of Rs. 28 lakhs. I do not think that the House can expect within the short time that elapsed since the debate in the Legislative Assembly that the Government have had time to discuss what is to be done with this surplus. I mentioned that my own opinion was that it should go towards paying back our own debts. But whether that opinion will be

[Mr. R. A. Graham]

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accepted or what will be the view of the Government or the Council, it is impossible to say at present. I merely say this in answer to the question what is to be done with the Rs. 126 lakhs."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Having heard my hon. Friends Mr Krishna Rao and others who have spoken on this motion and also the hon. the Finance Member, it seems to me that the better course is to adjourn consideration of these grants. Whatever surplus may be left out of this sum of Rs. 125 lakhs, the Cabinet, I believe, will consider in what way that surplus is to be utilized. We do not want to know the secrets of the Cabinet deliberations nor will the Government take the Council into their confidence. But after the Cabinet has considered the matter and come to a conclusion they will certainly come before the Council with proposals as to the disposal of what remains out of this sum of 126 lakhs."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Does the hon. Member mean after paying the debts?"

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Whatever it is, let the Cabinet consider the thing. The hon. the Finance Member has stated that the Cabinet had no time to consider this matter. Let the Cabinet come to their conclusion and if they want our sanction with reference to any particular item, let them come to us. We shall then be in a position to consider comprehensively the whole question. That I think will be a better step than to consider these isolated demands without any reference to the total amount at the disposal of the Government. If there is any urgency with reference to any matter, as suggested by my hon. Friend, the Council could be summoned at any time. I therefore think that it would be better to have this item adjourned for the present."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Sir, I am afraid I cannot congratulate this Council on the attitude which it has adopted in respect of this motion. We were told by hon. Members on the other side of the House that they were anxious that the House should be given an opportunity of applying a careful and intelligent judgment to all the points that come before it. The hon. Members who speak in their zeal to put forward arguments on the larger political issues have, I think I am entitled to say, not given that consideration to details to which they are entitled. I am going to quote one instance.

"On page 7 of the printed papers passed round, reference is made to a demand for Rs 40,000 for the purpose of providing working capital for blocks of cinchona trees now in existence and it has been specifically mentioned that the omission of this sum in the budget was due to an oversight. Do my hon. Friends Mr. Krishnan Nayar and others suggest that these things should be left over to the next meeting of the Council? Surely it is not suggested that while they were discussing the larger question as to the distribution of the 126 or 129 or 123 lakhs, whatever the figure may be, these trees are to be allowed to die for want of care, more particularly when it is admitted that the omission is merely due to an oversight consequent on the change from the ordinary Government system of accounts to the system of commercial accounts. It seems to me that the House would, if I may use the expression, be stultifying itself if it adjourns this matter, for it means that these trees should be left uncared for for a

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[Sir Arthur Knapp]

period of three or four months while the House is discussing the question as to what is to be done to benefit this province with the remission in the provincial contribution.

"Then, Sir, it seems also to be assumed that these further demands involve an additional burden on the budget. That is not always the case. I can quote another instance in regard to this. Here is a small item of Rs. 5,900 for the establishment of a remand home in Madras City for children dealt with under the Madras Children Act. As a matter of fact, there is no intention whatever of increasing the budget for the purpose of providing money for this scheme. It will be found by reappropriation from another head under that item without in any way entrenching on the problematical 125 lakhs in which my hon. Friends are anxious to have a finger - I mean a political finger. I suggest, Sir, that it will be more in consonance with the position and responsibility of this House if, instead of postponing items such as these which either involve no extra burden on the budget or involve such an undertaking as I have already given in regard to cinchona plantations, which would otherwise go to ruin, they discuss such items as they consider at present reasonable, and leave the others to be brought into the hotchpoch when we consider the division of the surplus if any."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, the statements made by both the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Finance Member should have convinced the House by now that we shall be stultifying ourselves in going through the whole of the demands submitted to us at once. It may be, Sir, that there is a case here and there which cannot be postponed and for which reappropriation may be necessary. But the Government have not taken the trouble to sort out and place before us only such cases, and they have admittedly put before the House other cases which might well be deferred until the next meeting. I do not think the House will be justified now to proceed with the entire demand. If the Government are so advised, they can come before us in a few days for grants for such items as have to be provided for before this meeting adjourns. Otherwise, I do not think we shall be justified in taking up the whole of this matter now."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am afraid I cannot congratulate the hon. the Home Member on the stand he has taken on the last day, I presume, of his sitting in this Council. Since he has lectured to us on the absence of a careful judgment, or on our not bringing a careful and intelligent judgment to bear on this question, it seems to me that the hon. the Home Member wants our judgment to coincide with his."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir, may I say that my complaint was that the House refused to consider it? I made no complaint as to what the decision would be. That was not my complaint at all."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I suggest to the hon. the Home Member that the result of a very careful and intelligent judgment may be that we refuse to consider the question in this way? We know something more about it. I think he is quite familiar, or ought to be with the circumstances in which any grant or further grant should have been made. I may say we refuse to consider this question, unless we know certain facts, unless we are satisfied with regard to certain points. Now, the position that we take up with regard to these further demands for grants is this, that we do not

[Mr. S. Satyamurti]

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yet know what are going to be the financial commitments of this Government for the next year, especially in view of the fact that no definite information about certification has been given here; although we are much obliged to the hon. the Finance Member for his statement with regard to it, the particulars have not been yet placed on the floor of this House. We want to know exactly where these commitments will lead.

"And, Sir, secondly, the more important point is this. What is going to be the distribution of the 126 lakhs? The hon. the Finance Member has spoken about meeting the deficit of 88 lakhs and has also given it as his opinion that the bulk of the balance should go to the reduction of debts."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I merely quoted a statement that I had made at the time of the budget debate."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I must utilize the statement for the moment, whether the hon. the Finance Member was or is wrong in regard to it. I give it as my opinion on his statement. But so far as he is concerned, his opinion is that it ought to go for the reduction of our debt. I want to know exactly in view of the enthusiasm displayed in the House, how the distribution of the amount is to be effected. I am glad that Sir James Simpson is here. He appealed the other day on behalf of the Transferred departments and said that we all must vote for the reduction or remission of the provincial contribution, as otherwise the nation-building departments would be starved. Hardly a week has passed and we are here told by the hon. the Finance Member 'Well, my hon. Friends, do not think of the Transferred departments now, but just let us redeem the debt.' I am not saying that he is right or wrong, but what I mean to say is . . ."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"May I say, Sir, that I did not ask the House anything at all?"

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I stand corrected. I quite admit that he did not ask, but he gave it as his opinion . . ."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I gave that opinion a fortnight ago, and I merely quoted that opinion to-day."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Unless the hon. the Finance Member repeated it for mere repetition's sake, I take it that he repeated it, because he wanted to influence our judgment by his opinion."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I have no such intention, Sir."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am sorry for the hon. the Finance Member that he made a statement in this House without intending to influence anybody's judgment. That is not my way of making statements in this House. I submit therefore that to-day we are told that the Transferred departments are not to get the bulk of this remission, and the House is entitled to know whether that is the considered judgment of the Government. We know the opinion of one of the Members of the Government, but we want to know what is the considered judgment of the Government, whatever that may mean, whether it is the happy family, the Reserved half or the Executive Council, or the Ministers. We want to know what portion is going to be allowed to the Transferred departments, if any."

"Thirdly, we also want to know whether these certificates to which reference has been made, have been issued, and if so what the demands will

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be in the course of the next financial year. Now my hon. Friend, the Home Member, very cleverly, as an able advocate, turned our attention to one item and said that those cinchona trees would die. I am afraid that the hon. the Home Member exaggerated the impotence of his Government."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"May I ask him to explain what he means? What I said was this—and it is perfectly true—that if the House would not provide for the money, these trees would die, and I presume they will die."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"But there is one provision which the Government are not very chary in using on certain occasions, and that is rule 32 of the Legislative Council rules which relates to supplementary grants, to the effect that when the amount voted in the budget of a grant is found insufficient for the purposes of the current year, a supplementary grant can be asked for. Or there is rule 31 which says that when money has been spent on any service for which the vote of the Council is necessary during any financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service and for that year, a demand for the excess shall be presented to the Council, etc. And scores of instances have there been, even after I came to this House, in which the Government came here with excess or supplementary demands for grants. Therefore, there is no danger to apprehend that before the Council next meets these trees will die for want of maintenance. They have got the necessary powers to incur the charge and they can spend it by exercising those powers, as they have been doing constantly. May I point out to the hon. the Home Member and others that there is one item in these further demands, that is, the construction of a new residence to the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor? This can certainly wait for two or three months. There are also some other grants like that, and if the whole thing is urgent it cannot be sprung upon us and you really cannot ask the House to consider it at once. One of my hon. Friends has also referred to the fact that the House has been complaining for the last four years that no improvement has been made in the Ministerial departments, and the answer has been that they had no funds. The opportunity is now afforded to us for showing to the Government that we want to be satisfied about the distribution of the remission of the contribution, before we consider these grants. I therefore very strongly support the motion especially as the Government will not be seriously affected by it. They can always hold a session, if there is urgency and they can incur expenditure outside the budget provision and then come forward with supplementary demands. We first want to know where we stand with reference to the distribution of the provincial contribution."

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON:—"Sir, I am afraid I shall have to differ from some hon. Members on this side. I find from page 24 of the report of the Public Accounts Committee that our dead weight debt on the 1st of April 1926 will be 170 lakhs. The point has been raised that because we are going to get a remission of the provincial contribution of Rs. 126 lakhs, we should decide to utilize that money for the Transferred departments or for the reduction of debt which we have got, namely, 170 lakhs. The question for us to consider is whether it is better for us to start with a clean slate after reducing the debt of Rs. 170 lakhs by the remission in the contribution which we are going to get, that is, Rs. 126 lakhs (whether this Rs. 126 lakhs is going to be a permanent remission year after year or not), or leave this

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debt as it is and utilize that money for the Transferred departments. No doubt we are all anxious to get as much money for the nation-building departments, but at the same time we are also anxious to reduce the debt of the Local Government in order that we may start with a clean slate. The point is whether the Transferred departments have been able to utilize all the sums placed at their disposal within the past few years. As far as I can see, if my calculations are correct, I find that the lapses in the Transferred departments have been something like Rs. 1½ crores. I am subject to correction with regard to this figure but whatever that may be, during the budget debate I was informed that there were several schemes waiting in the Transferred departments which they have not been able to execute for want of funds. Those schemes have not been placed before the House but if they come forward with those schemes and when we get the remission next year, we can try those schemes; with the advice of a financial adviser we shall be prepared to sanction these schemes. But in the meantime my view is that we should try to reduce the debt of the province as much as possible and start with a clean slate. On this ground there is no use of these supplementary grants not being allowed, or their being left to wait; when the Government want money, they know how to get it, and probably just as we have heard about the certification, I am sure the Government will be able to find funds for these objects, even if funds are refused."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, I am afraid the remarks of my hon. Friend Mr. Gopala Menon are beside the mark. We are not going to consider at this moment how this Rs. 126 lakhs should be spent. We are to consider only whether we should not adjourn this matter now in order to consider how the money we have got should be utilized, whether it should be for reduction of our debt or not. I am therefore in favour of the adjournment because this is a very complicated and difficult question, and I am sure my hon. Friend will have his say on the occasion as to whether it should be spent for reduction of the debt or not. As for the cinchona plantations, I have got some doubts about it. The hon. the Home Member referred to the starvation of these trees. But from the figures here I find that the cinchona plantation is one of the things under the hon. the Minister for Development which yield profits. From 1921 to 1923 the average profit from the cinchona plantations and the manufacture of quinine was about Rs. 4 lakhs.

" This year we find, on page 404 of the Budget Estimates, a net profit of Rs. 1,70,600 on the cinchona plantations alone and the gross profit to something like 2 lakhs. But this net profit I do not find on the Revenue side. The net profit of 1 lakh and odd is not shown on page 32 under minor head Industries—Cinchona plantations. We find the Accounts column for 1923-24, Budget Estimates column for 1924-25 and the Revised Estimate column for 1924-25, all filled up. But the column for Budget Estimates for 1925-26 is left blank. I would like to know how they are going to utilize these profits. I should think that the plantations which are so profitable should have some money at their disposal for being used during these times."

* The hon. the PREIDENT :—" Am I to understand that the hon. Member is willing to grant that money for cinchona plantations because it is a profitable undertaking?"

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" My point now, Sir, is that the House should adjourn to consider these questions. The hon. the Home Member pointed

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out that the cinchona plants would starve for want of funds. What I want to say is that there are profits at the disposal of the cinchona plantations. They can as well utilize the profits at their disposal. I therefore support the motion for adjournment."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—" I am sorry that my hon. Friend, Mr. Gopala Menon, has rather overshoot his mark. We however from this side of the House do not like to give any lead on the utilization of the remission of 126 lakhs of rupees. All that I want is a time should be fixed so that this House will get an opportunity of discussing how the amount is to be utilized. My hon. Friend the Finance Member has said that he is not giving any lead in the matter, nor has he expressed any. I would appeal to him, Sir, to look into the pages of the discussion on the date of the adjournment regarding the salt tax when hon. Members on that side of the House not from the Treasury Bench but from the Sub-Treasury Bench, came forward with the suggestion that the Transferred departments are starved. Of course I have a good deal to say regarding the lapsing of grants from the Transferred departments and I am sorry that my proposal to bring all this on the record of the Public Accounts Committee Report was not accepted. Any way that is no reason why we should not now consider the question of the utilization of the remission of provincial contribution and on this matter, Sir, we want to have a principle on which this sum should be utilized. Because now we have a remission of 126 lakhs and as years pass on we are entitled to a remission of 348 lakhs. We at this stage should like to know from the Government and especially from the Ministry how this sum would be utilized. Are they going to fight against the drink evil or ignorance by the spread of elementary education? Again, Sir I should like to know what portion of this sum are the Transferred departments going to have. Unless we get clear information regarding these things, I think we would be wasting our precious time. I therefore believe, Sir, that a good point has been made in favour of adjournment of the consideration of these demands. I only feel sorry that our friends from the other side have not given a lead in this matter, and I trust that they will vote with us and carry the adjournment motion."

The motion was put to vote and declared carried. A poll was taken and the House divided as follows :—

Ayes.

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| 1. Mr. D. Appavu Chettiyar. | 21. Mr. P. Anjaneyulu. |
| 2. " P. K. S. A. Arunaga Nadar. | 22. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasaya. |
| 3. " A. V. Ebanji Rao. | 23. Mr. K. Koti Reddi. |
| 4. " N. Devendran. | 24. " J. A. Saldanha. |
| 5. " J. Koppuswami. | 25. " R. Riniwasa Ayyangar. |
| 6. " T. Malleappa. | 26. " V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. |
| 7. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 27. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |
| 8. " K. Prabhakaran Tampan. | 28. " Chavadi K. Sureshmanya Pillai. |
| 9. " P. T. Rajan. | 29. " M. Ratnaswami. |
| 10. " B. Rameshchandra Reddi. | 30. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 11. " B. Obalappa. | 31. Mr. R. Ve rian. |
| 12. " J. D. Samuel. | 32. Diwan Bahadur W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 13. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 33. Mr. M. Narayanaswami Pillai. |
| 14. " A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 34. " Abbas Ali Khan. |
| 15. " T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 35. Khan Bahadur Haji Abdullah Haji Qasim Sahib. |
| 16. Mr. P. Siva Rao. | 36. Mr. T. N. Bava Ravuttar Muhammad Sahib. |
| 17. " K. Uppi Sahib. | |
| 18. " P. C. Venkatapati Raju. | |
| 19. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | |
| 20. " S. Satyamurti. | |

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Noes.

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|---|---|
| 1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp. | 12. Mr. S. Arpudawami Udayar. |
| 2. " Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 13. Sir James Simpson. |
| 3. " the Raja of Paagal. | 14. Mr. T. M. Ross. |
| 4. " Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 15. Honorary Lieutenant Madurai. |
| 5. " Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 16. Rao Bahadur P. Raman. |
| 6. " Mr. R. A. Graham. | 17. Mr. C. Gopala Menon. |
| 7. " Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks. | 18. Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. |
| 8. Mr. E. W. Legh. | 19. Mr. K. Srinivasan. |
| 9. " P. L. Moore. | 20. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 10. Dr. John Mathai. | |
| 11. Mr. Abdulla Ghattala Sahib. | |

36 voted for and 20 against the motion. The motion was carried.

VII

THE MADRAS BORSTAL BILL.

The Bill was not moved.

Mr. S. SATYANURTHI:—"May I know the reason, Sir? This is not fair to the House."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am sorry, Sir, that my hon. Friend is unfair to me. I will be leaving this House in another 10 minutes and I do not think that there will be time enough for any discussion."

VIII

THE COCHIN PORT TRUST BILL.^a

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Sir, I beg to introduce a Bill to make provision for the regulation, conservancy and improvement of the port of Cochin. Any one who has visited Cochin must have been struck by what appear to be its natural advantages as a harbour. There is a narrow entrance from the sea and a large stretch of calm water in the backwater behind and to the observer of merely surface conditions the harbour is already in existence. Unfortunately these appearances are deceptive. The greater part of the backwater is too shallow to admit of the reception of any ships larger than the ordinary country craft even if they could get in and about a mile and a half outside the narrow passage between British Cochin and Vypeen there is a bar which effectively prevents ships of any size getting in at all and the conditions are such that even country craft cannot cross it in rough weather. Steamers have to lie well out beyond the bar and goods and passengers have to be carried to and from them in lighter or other small craft. This is a slow and expensive and often an unpleasant and dangerous process. In spite of this the trade of the port is large and has been growing; and there is no doubt that if improvements can be effected which will enable steamers of modern dimensions to come inside and moor safely in the still water close to the places where the goods and passengers are to be landed or embarked, the possibilities of development are almost unlimited. Such improvements however cost a great deal of money. Up to date some 12 or 13 lakhs have been spent on preliminary and experimental work, part of the money having been found by the Madras Government, part by the Travancore and Cochin Darbars and part by the local Port Conservancy Board.

^a Published in the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 10th February 1925, Part IV.

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"Estimates had been drawn up for the next stage in the development of the port, on the completion of which it is expected that steamers will be able to cross the bar and anchor in the backwater. The estimates have been drawn up by the harbour engineer and, with his report on the experimental work, have been placed before a committee of experts in England which has reported favourably upon them. Local opinion is strongly in favour of the work being pushed on as quickly as possible and provision has been made in the budget for 1925-26 for a loan to be advanced to the Port Trust. The total of the estimates is 44 lakhs and it is proposed that the work shall be financed by a loan from the Madras Government to the harbour authority. But before any loan can be advanced there must be a duly constituted authority to receive and expend the money.

"As Sir Charles Todhunter explained when introducing the Tuticorin Port Trust Bill, there are two classes of dues levied at ports—port dues, which are levied under the Indian Ports Act for purposes connected with the safety of ships and mariners and fees under the Madras Outports Landing and Shipping Fees Act levied on goods and passengers for the purpose of improving the facilities for handling cargo and for the convenience of passengers. The two go into separate funds, the Port fund being administered by the officers of the Port department, and the Landing and Shipping Fees Act dues are levied at rates fixed by Government and expended by Government through the Presidency Port Officer. There is no specific provision for any committee to administer these dues, but it has been customary to appoint committees to advise the Presidency Port Officer regarding the necessities of the various harbours. These committees have no statutory powers. As an advance on this, at Cochin, as at a few other ports, a Port Conservancy Board has been established to perform certain functions with regard to the employment of establishment for the carrying out of work and other matters, but now that large schemes of development are in contemplation it is essential that there should be a statutory body which can be given powers of taxation, expenditure and finance, a body which will have the status of a local authority under the Local Authorities Loans Act. It is therefore proposed to constitute a Port Trust.

"The Bill has been drawn up very much on the lines of the Tuticorin Port Trust Act, but at Cochin there are complications which do not exist at Tuticorin. Only a portion of the area covered by the operations is in British territory, a larger portion being situated within the State of Cochin within which also a large proportion of the merchants interested in the trade reside and carry on their business. It is therefore necessary that the State and the merchants subject to its jurisdiction should find representation on the Board. Further a considerable portion of the trade of the port is concerned with imports into and exports from Travancore and any considerable development of the trade of Cochin is likely to be at the expense of ports in Travancore as well as of ports in British India. In view of this and of the fact that the Travancore Darbar has borne a share of the preliminary expenses and will share the ultimate liability, representatives of Travancore have also to be provided for and it has been agreed that when the development of the harbour had reached the stage at which we are now aiming, the Travancore Darbar shall get a share of the customs revenue of the port which is now divided between the Government of India and the Cochin

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Darbar. Legislation in this Council cannot bind the Darbars or persons resident in the territories of the two States. The Cochin Darbar is willing to enact legislation similar to ours; but for the purpose of providing for the representation of the subjects of the two States on the Board it has been necessary to resort to the device embodied in clause 6 (1) (c) and invite nominations from the two Darbars.

"This is really the answer to the question which is sure to be asked—why there is no provision for the election of Indian members. The circumstances are not similar to those of Tuticorin where at the time of the passing of the Port Trust Act there was no Indian Chamber of Commerce. At Cochin there is a well established body known as the Association of Indian Merchants the members of which are actively interested in the sea-borne trade of the port and so far as I am aware include most, if not all of the Indian traders. This body however is not confined to British Cochin. A majority of its members in fact are residents outside British limits and have their places of business at Mattancheri or other towns in Cochin State. We cannot legislate for such a body. In the first place no law passed by this Council would be binding on it; in the second, if we gave it the power to elect the members of the board there would be no guarantee that the members or any of them elected would be merchants trading in British Cochin for whom we must have adequate representation. It is intended that the two trustees appointed by the Local Government under clause 6 (1) (b) shall be representatives of the Indian trade and it may be possible to arrange that one or both of them shall be nominees of the Association of Indian Merchants. The fact that they are to owe their appointments finally to the Government will ensure that these shall be British subjects, while the Travancore and Cochin Darbars will be able to nominate members of the Association who are subjects of those States. There should therefore be no fear of the Association being under represented. The remaining provisions of the Bill are not likely to excite much criticism and we hope that there will be no avoidable delay in passing it into law after the details have been examined by the Select Committee."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I second the motion."

MR. A. V. BHANOJI RAO :—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to support the motion made by the hon. the Finance Member to introduce the Bill and ask for its being read in Council. I am glad, Sir, that the question of constituting a board for the management of some of the important ports which are fast developing has come more and more into prominence recently. The Government have already with the help of this Council passed an Act constituting a Trust Board for the Tuticorin port and I am glad to see that Cochin which is next in importance to Tuticorin among the ports in the south has now come up for consideration.

"I may at once say that the draft Bill does not meet with my entire approval and I hope that during the committee stage amendments will be introduced which will have the effect of making the constitution of the Port Trust more representative and popular and of giving it more real powers. If I may be permitted to enter into the history of the origin of this Bill, I would point out that on the 12th of October 1923 a notification was issued by the Government of Madras constituting with effect from the 1st November of that year a Board of Conservancy for the management of the port of

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Cochin, a Board of Conservancy which superseded the pre-existing Landing and Shipping Fund Committee of Cochin, and was given the supervision of affairs relating to the Landing and Shipping fund, but the duty of collecting such dues and of keeping accounts was by law vested in the Port officer. I may mention that seven out of the fifteen members who constituted that board were Indians. Dissatisfaction was expressed in certain quarters at the constitution of even this board and it was brought to the notice of the Government that very powerful Indian mercantile interests which ought to have representation on an important body like this were denied that representation. Notably the Cochin Merchants' Association which was not represented as such on this board complained that its claims had been entirely ignored and claimed to elect a trustee on this Board of Conservancy. The Conservancy Board which had a large element of this Government's representatives on it considered the proposal of the Cochin Merchants' Association for representation therein and approved of and supported the request of the Association with only one dissident. The Association has repeatedly memorialised the Government of India and pointed out that its members have been handling more than half the trade of the Cochin port and contributing more than half to its revenues and that an interest like theirs cannot be ignored on whatever board that is constituted to regulate the Cochin port. That this claim is not unjustified is evidenced by the fact that the Port officer of Cochin in investigating the claim writes as follows to the Divisional Officer. I am quoting a passage extracted from a letter addressed by the Cochin Merchants' Association to the Secretary to the Finance Department, dated 26th February 1925. The Port officer says:

"I have made enquiries of Messrs. Aspinwall & Co., Cochin, the leading steamer agents in Cochin, and they say that the Indian merchants carry on more than half the trade by means of steamers. From a perusal of the import and export registers, it appears to me that what the Cochin Merchants' Association has stated is approximately correct."

"After this conclusive proof from an independent and certainly not a friendly critic of the Cochin Merchants' Association, it is idle to suggest that their interests do not deserve being safeguarded by adequate representation on the board. Nor can it be urged, Mr President, that the Cochin Merchants' Association is a mushroom association of very recent growth and that its stability is open to question. It has been in existence for well over a quarter of a century and in numerous correspondence and communications the existence of the Association has been recognized by the local authorities and by this Government. The necessity for giving adequate representation to them on the board was pressed from time to time. I am therefore a little disappointed and surprised that the hon. Finance Member has not in clause 5 of the Bill thought fit to give them due representation.

"There is only one other argument which may possibly be advanced against giving this representation. The Association has its headquarters in Mattancheri in the Native State of Cochin. And as most of the merchants who are members of the Association reside there, it may be argued that their interests are adequately represented by the nominees of the Cochin State. I am sure the House will not accept this argument. In the first place, the nominees of the Cochin and Travancore Darbars will represent only these Darbars on the board and their main function will be to safeguard the interests of these two States; oftentimes there are conflicting interests between both. They will in all probability be officials of the State and as the Cochin and Travancore Darbars are to a certain extent interested in the financial position

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of the Port Trust and the buildings belonging to the Port Trust, the object of the representation is only to safeguard such interests. Moreover, the merchants who are members of the Cochin Merchants' Association though living in Mattancheri, are not all subjects of the Cochin State but are on the contrary several of them British subjects. It seems to me therefore that the theory that the representatives of the Cochin Darbar will sufficiently safeguard the interests of a non-official body like the Cochin Merchants' Association is not sound. I wonder if a similar argument in regard to Cochin Chamber of Commerce will be accepted as a ground for its exclusion. Under these circumstances, I am sure the House will agree with me in suggesting that the Cochin Merchants' Association should have adequate representation on the new Port Trust.

"There are other obvious defects in the Bill which, I am sure, will be dealt with later in the Select Committee.

"I support the second reading of this measure."

IX

CERTIFICATION OF CERTAIN GRANTS BY HIS EXCELLENCY
THE GOVERNOR.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Before adjourning the House for lunch I have to announce that I have received the following messages and certificate from His Excellency the Governor:—

'At the meeting of the 17th March 1925 the Legislative Council on a Budget motion resolved to omit the demand of Rs. 1,18,300 representing the voted portion of the demand for the Board of Revenue (Settlement) under 5. b. Land Revenue—Survey and Settlement.

'It appears from the speeches of the hon. Members that their desire in making this reduction was that the Board of Revenue should be abolished.

'As the work which is now done by the Board of Revenue is necessary and no other agency has been suggested that could do this work as efficiently and cheaply, I consider it necessary in the interest of the administration to restore the provision and accordingly to certify under section 72-D (2)(a) of the Government of India Act that the provision of Rs. 1,18,300 made in Demand I in the Schedule of Demands for the year 1925-26 under the head 5. b. Land Revenue—Survey and Settlement—(v) Board of Revenue—Settlement is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the administration of the Revenue Department.

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GOSCHEN,
Governor of Madras.

CERTIFICATE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

'Under section 72-D (2) (a) of the Government of India Act, I certify that the provision of Rs. 1,18,300 made in Demand I in the Schedule of Demands for the year 1925-26 under the head 5. b. Land Revenue—Survey and Settlement—(v) Board of Revenue—Settlement is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the administration of the Revenue Department.

GOSCHEN,
Governor of Madras.

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[The President]

'On the 24th of March 1925 the Council, on a budget motion, omitted a sum of Rs. 14,400 from the provision of Rs. 63,600 in Demand No. XII in the Schedule of Demands for the year 1925-26 under the head "Administration of Justice—High Court Judges and Registrar—Pay of Officers—Voted." The question whether the employment of a separate officer as Official Referee should continue will be examined by the Local Government in consultation with the hon. the Judges of the High Court. Pending this examination and the settlement of the consequential details, a sum of Rs. 7,200 is necessary for maintaining the present arrangements.

29th March 1925.

GOSCHEN,
Governor of Madras.

'On the 24th of March 1925 the Council on a budget motion reduced the provision of Rs. 5,60,700 made in Demand No. XII in the Schedule of Demands for the year 1925-26 under the head "Administration of Justice—High Court Judges and Registrar" by Rs. 1,00,000. This reduction having been made in the provision for the establishment of the High Court has, in any event, to be restored, as the expenditure provided under that head would be necessary whatever the strength of the High Court might be. It appeared however from the discussion that the object of the Council was to express the opinion that two additional Judges of the High Court were not required. This question will be further examined by the Local Government in the light of the Report of the Civil Justice Committee, and the statistics of arrears.

29th March 1925.

GOSCHEN,
Governor of Madras.

CERTIFICATE.

Demand XIV—Police.

'Under section 72-D (2) (a) of the Government of India Act, I certify that the provision of Rs. 3,67,300 for "Special Police" included in Demand No. XIV in the Schedule of Demands for the year 1925-26 under the head 'Police' is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the administration of the Police department.

29th March 1925.

GOSCHEN,
Governor of Madras.

The House adjourned for lunch at 1-45 p.m.

After Lunch (2-45 p.m.).

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, in view of the certification of grants, my party feels that they cannot participate in the proceedings of the Council. I am to assure you that our absence during the proceedings is not out of any disrespect to you or the House, or to His Excellency. We believe that it is one of the constitutional methods of entering our protest against the certification."

(After this statement the Leader of the Opposition walked out of the House.)

The discussion on the Cochin Port Trust Bill was then resumed.

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VIII.—THE COCHIN PORT TRUST BILL—*cont.*

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, my hon. Friend the Finance Member when introducing the Bill stated that this Council cannot legislate for the two Darbars of Travancore and Cochin, and I think it is for that reason that this Bill is worded in the way it has been done. Instead of stating that the Cochin Darbar shall nominate or appoint two members to the Board of Trustees and the Travancore Darbar shall similarly appoint two members to the Board, the provision introduced in clause 6 (1) (c) is this: The Local Government shall invite the two Darbars of Travancore and Cochin to nominate two members each. Of course, there is no objection in making a provision in any statute to the effect that this Government shall invite, and if the invitation is accepted by the two Indian Governments of Cochin and Travancore and if they nominate, then the nominated persons can be appointed as trustees. There is also the next provision, that in the event of the two Darbars nominating in accordance with the invitation, two members each for this Board, these two members will be appointed by this Government as members. So far as the provision is concerned, there is no difficulty.

"I may say, Sir, at the outset, that I am in hearty sympathy with the main principles of this Bill, and that it is obviously necessary that a board of trustees should be constituted to manage the affairs in general of the Cochin Port."

* Mr J. A. SALDANHA:—"I beg to rise to a point of order; I doubt whether there is a quorum."

(A count was made and it was found that the required number of members were present.)

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I am in hearty sympathy with the fundamental principle of this Bill, namely, that a board of trustees should be constituted to regulate the affairs. But with reference to the constitution of the board, I wish to join issue with my Friend the hon. Mr. Graham. The constitution of the board as provided for in this Bill at present is this: that there shall be a minimum of 10 members and a maximum of 15 members. And then it proceeds to say that two of these members shall be nominated or appointed by the Local Government, two by the Travancore Darbar, of course at the invitation of this Government, two again will be appointed by the Cochin Darbar and then one by the United Planters' Association and two by the Cochin Chamber of Commerce. That makes on the whole nine. And then we have the remaining number, consisting of one or more than one, not exceeding six, and these shall be appointed by the Local Government in consultation with the Governments of Travancore and Cochin. That is the present provision. Now, I beg to submit, Sir, that an important provision which ought to be in this Bill is not there. The Indian Merchants' Association of Cochin who form an important trading community should also be given the right of election to this board. As a matter of fact, that has been referred to by my hon. Friend Mr. Bhanoji Rao. As a matter of fact, the Merchants' Association in Cochin has been making protests even before this Bill was framed and published in the *Port St. George Gazette*. I believe they wrote to the Secretary to Government and sent telegrams and also wrote to the Governor-General in Cochin

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and Travancore. They also wrote to the Collector of Malabar and sought the aid of the Conservancy Board which is in existence now. At the instance of the Merchants' Association, the Collector of Malabar asked the Deputy Collector of Cochin to ascertain whether the allegation of this Indian Association that more than 50 per cent of the trade in Cochin is handled by them and that more than 50 per cent of the shipping dues is also paid by them, is true. The Divisional Officer accordingly wrote to the Port Officer and the Port Officer sent a reply to the effect that to compile exact figures would involve a large amount of clerical labour, but from inquiry from Aswinwald & Co., one of the European firms there, an importing and exporting firm, he learned that the allegation of the Indian Traders' Association is substantially true. I submit that Indian Merchants' Association must have the right of choosing at least an equal number with the European Chamber of Commerce. From subsequent correspondence, it is found that it is not 50 per cent, but really 60 per cent of the shipping dues and the trade is paid and handled by them.

"My Friend the hon. Mr. Graham, from what I understood from his speech, appears to have no objection to giving the right of election to Indian merchants, but his objection is that it will not be possible for this Government to give the right of representation to the Merchants' Association, many of whom are residing in Mattancherry, that is, in Native Cochin (Indian Cochin). I submit that that objection does not hold good. The same provision that has been inserted with reference to the two Darbars may, I submit, be inserted in the Bill and the Indian merchants residing in Mattancherry may be invited to send up their nominees and the nominees if any may be appointed. It may also be said that the two Darbars will take care of the interests of Indian traders. As a matter of fact, it has been said by my hon. Friend himself that about 12 or 13 lakhs have already been spent by way of preliminary expenses, and Cochin and Travancore have also contributed to this. The two Darbars nominating their representatives will therefore be doing so not for the purpose of taking care of the interests of the Indian merchants but for taking care of their own interests as Darbars.

"Then again, there is this additional argument. If the two Darbars will take care of the interests of the Indian traders there, it may be equally said that this Government will take care of the interests of the United Planters' Association as well as of the English Chamber of Commerce."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo:—"I believe, Sir, we want quorum."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" (After counting), probably the hon. Member helps to make the quorum."

Sriman Biswanath Das then walked out of the hall.

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I submit that the same reasons which make it necessary that the English Chamber of Commerce and the United Planters' Association should have chosen or elected representatives on this Board make it also necessary that the Indian Merchants' Association should have their chosen or elected representatives. Then, Sir, it is stated that the United Planters' Association should have one representative. Personally, I do not see any need why the planters should have any elected representative. But I do not object to it. They in Travancore have large interests; their trade particularly in export of tea

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is very large, and if they think and if the Government think and the Council thinks that it is necessary to have one representative of the Planters' Association, I shall not object. But it seems to me that another important body, namely, the Railway Company, should have a representative. As a matter of fact, Cochin is practically the terminus of the South Indian Railway. Of course, my hon. Friend Mr. Graham knows that the terminus of the State Railway is at the backwaters of Ernakulam. So that, I believe, the Railway Company will have something to say

with reference to the management of this Board and it is but fair and reasonable that they should have their representative on the Board. I refer to that particularly for this reason that I find on the Karachi Port Trust the Railway Company of that locality has got representation.

"Then again, I think that the municipality of Cochin also should have at least one representative on the Board, if not two. I find that on the Tuticorin Port Trust Board the Tuticorin municipality is given two representatives. The same provision is made in the Bombay Port Trust and the Karachi Port Trust. Section 3 of the Bombay Port Trust Act III of 1923 provides for two representatives from the Municipal Corporation of the City of Bombay. There is provision also for the representation of the Indian traders. Then again, section 7 of the Act constituting the Karachi Port Trust contains this provision, viz., 'the Government shall appoint the chief officer of the North-West Railway or such officer . . . and two shall be elected by the Municipality of Karachi.' So that having regard to the provisions of the Karachi Port Trust Act and the Bombay Port Trust Act and particularly our own Tuticorin Port Trust Act, I think it is really necessary that at least one if not two representatives should be given to the municipality of Cochin. As my hon. Friend stated this is not the time for dwelling on the details of the Bill, I shall not do so at this stage, but reserve my remarks for the next stage."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"I have great pleasure in supporting the motion before the House. It is a source of satisfaction to us that this Bill is in the hands of a gentleman who knows Travancore and Cochin very intimately. The hon. Member was Resident for a long time in Travancore and Cochin and he knows the state of the trade in Cochin. We are anxious that the Bill should be passed before he leaves for England. Sufficient stress has been laid by my hon. Friend, Diwan Bahadur Krishnan Nayar, on the desirability of giving representation to the Indian Merchants' Association, as well as the municipality of Cochin. It is highly necessary that the Indian Merchants' Association is given representation on the Board as they carry on 60 per cent of the trade of Cochin. As regards the necessity for the representation of the municipality we are told that the Port Trusts of Karachi and Tuticorin have got representatives from their respective municipalities. That being the case there ought to be no difficulty for giving representation to the Cochin municipality also on the Port Trust of Cochin."

"As regards nominations to the Trust from the Travancore and Cochin Darbars, I am afraid it would not work in the interests of the subjects of those States. Sir, invariably, the States are administered by Diwans who are sent out from the British Service and therefore if there are to be any nominations by these States, the nominees would only be more or less nominees of the British Government. I would strongly deprecate any

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arrangement like that. It is highly desirable that the people of the States concerned should themselves be allowed to choose their representatives on the Port Trust Board. Some means must be found by which they can have their voice heard and felt in the Board.

"It is also desirable that if the Bill has not already been published in the Cochin and Travancore Government Gazettes, it should be done immediately. There are several provisions in the Bill which should be made known to the people of those States. It is provided that the proceedings of the Board and other things should be published in the *Port St. George Gazette* and the *Malabar District Gazette*. I am of opinion that all these things should be published in the gazettes of the Native States of Travancore and Cochin also because a very large number of merchants interested in the Cochin port are either residents or subjects of Cochin and Travancore States. As my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar said, the details of the Bill may very well be examined in the select committee, and I hope the House would be pleased to pass the first reading of this Bill."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Sir, as regards the Association of Indian Merchants I think hon. Members will have seen from my speech in introducing the Bill that I have every wish to give them proper representation. My intention was that two representatives should be appointed by the local Government either one or both to be members of that association. But I wanted them to be appointed by the British Government so as to ensure that they shall be British subjects. Whether it is possible to legislate so as to provide for election by that association seeing that the majority of the members of the association are not British subjects will be a matter on which I think we ought to discuss in the select committee when I hope we will have the valuable advice of the hon. the Advocate-General. I am quite prepared to admit that the Association of Indian Merchants should have at least equal representation with the Cochin Chamber of Commerce. (Mr. Krishnan Nayar: Hear, hear.) But I do not know whether I can go so far as to say that representation shall be secured entirely by the British Government; because whatever may be the actual wording of the Bill I think that the Travancore and Cochin Darbars will see how desirable it is that their representatives shall be local merchants as far as possible. It is the local merchants who are concerned with the improvement of the harbour and the collecting of money and spending of it; no one else has any concern with it at all. Whether it is possible to provide that two shall be nominated by the local Government after inviting the association to elect them might be examined."

"The representation to the Railway Company is a matter of some importance, but the difficulty is, I believe, that there is no officer of the Railway Company resident on the spot. Of course it would be possible in clause 6 (1) (d) to arrange for such representation."

"Coming to the question of giving representation to the Cochin municipality I am not sure that the municipality as such has any claim for representation at all. It is not a case of a tax-payer being represented. The municipality does not pay any taxes or dues to the Port Trust; on the other hand, the Port Trust will probably pay taxes to the municipality. So that, I should say that the Port Trust has a right to be represented on the municipality and not the municipality on the Port Trust Board."

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It is true that we arranged for the representation of the Tuticorin municipality on the Tuticorin Port Trust; but the reason was that there was no means of getting any sort of election by the Indian merchants. In all probability when the Act comes to be amended that is what we have to be amended. We shall have to provide representation for the Indian merchants of Tuticorin who have formed a Chamber of Commerce now, and in arranging to give them representation on that Board, the question arises who should be deprived of it.

"The majority of the arguments of my hon. Friend, Mr. Prabhakara Tampan, are blocked by the fact that we cannot pass legislation affecting Cochin and Travancore. We cannot say who should be their representatives. We cannot also say that the people of Cochin should have a voice in electing them. It is for the Cochin Darbar to say that. We cannot publish our papers in the Cochin and Travancore Gazettes because it is for the States concerned to do so. We shall be very glad if they do so. Anyhow, all these matters can be discussed in the select committee."

The motion that the Bill be read in Council was then put and carried.

The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Sir, I beg to move that the Bill (the Cochin Port Trust Bill) be referred to a select committee."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I beg to move that the select committee should consist of the following hon. Members:—

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar

Mr. C. Gopala Menon

Sir James Simpson, *Kt.*

Mr. T. M. Moidu Sahib,

Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan,

Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan

Captain C. R. Campbell.

Mr. P. F. C. Jourdain.

Mr. V. Madhava Raja.

Mr. A. V. Bhanoji Rao.

The hon. the Advocate-General (Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastriyar).

The hon. the Finance Member (Mr. R. A. Graham).

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I second it."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"No doubt Mr. Saldanha is not here. But I believe he represents the Christians of British Malabar of which Cochin forms a part as also, South Kanara and the Nilgiris. They form an important trading community of Cochin. So that, if there is no special objection, my hon. Friend may include the name of Mr. Saldanha also to the list of members of the select committee."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I hope the hon. Member is sure of Mr. Saldanha's consent."

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* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"He has spoken to me about it so that if he is appointed, I believe, he will be glad to serve on the committee."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"The committee is already very large."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Does the hon. Member want to press it as an amendment?"

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I made it only as a suggestion to my hon. Friend."

The motion was put and carried.

X

THE MADRAS AGRICULTURAL PESTS AND DISEASES ACT, 1919
(AMENDMENT) BILL.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"I beg to introduce the Bill to amend the Madras Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act, 1919. The amendments of the Act are intended to meet certain difficulties which have arisen in its administration so far as it relates to the pests to which cotton is unfortunately liable, especially *cambodia*. Experience of all the great cotton-growing countries of the world has proved that the only effective means of dealing with these pests is to have a 'dead' or 'close' season during which the ground shall be free of the cotton plants in which these pests principally live. All over the world, experts have been studying for years the life history of these insects and have arrived at the conclusion that the 'dead' or 'close' season necessary to kill them off must be at least two months in duration. In accordance with the advice of our experts August 1 was first fixed as the date for the uprooting of cotton plants. This date would leave an interval of a clear two months before the sowing of the new crop which normally begins about the middle of October. But actually owing to the provision in clause 6 that notices must issue in writing to individual occupiers in certain circumstances (a provision I may add which was intended to meet an entirely different set of conditions), the nominal date fixed for the removal of cotton has proved to be ineffective and in practice the plants are not uprooted until some three weeks later. Another difficulty is that the removal of cotton plants is not simultaneous. Obviously if the plants are uprooted in one field and not in another these cotton pests will still find food to live on, for some of them unfortunately are capable of finding their way from field to field. It is essential, therefore, that all the plants should be uprooted before a fixed date. The new clause 5-A is framed to achieve this object. The other amendments are consequential. I need refer only to the proviso to clause 9. As I have already explained, it is necessary that all plants young or old should be off the ground during the dead or close season. The Government are aware that the uprooting of the plants causes a certain amount of immediate loss to the cultivator, but unless some sacrifice is made at the end of one season the damage during the following season resulting from the multiplication of insect pests will be far more serious. The Government are, I may say, in the position of a doctor who has to deal with the case of a patient suffering from an ailment which requires a small operation. An immediate

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operation may be painful, but unless it is performed promptly a much more serious operation will be required later on which will cause far more pain and expense. The Government fully sympathize with the cultivator, but after the most careful consideration they have arrived at the conclusion that it is his real interest to sacrifice part of his crop at the end of one season in order to obtain a crop reasonably free from insect pests in the following season and that the immediate loss is far less than the ultimate gain.

"The House is aware that this decision of the Government is no hasty one arrived at on the spur of the moment. The matter was discussed at length last year and was thrashed out at a special conference held at Coimbatore last December in which some hon. Members took a prominent part. At this conference the Director of Agriculture did his best to persuade the non-official Members that June 1 was the proper date for the dead season and that August 1 was the latest safe date. It is, I may say, with great hesitation and serious misgivings that the Government have decided to accede to the wishes of the majority of the conference and give a trial to the dead season beginning on September 1. But if so late a date as September 1 is fixed, it is essential that this date should be really effective and it is with this object that the present amending Bill has been introduced.

"I have had the advantage of discussing the proposed amendments with Members of the House who are interested in cotton-growing and the cotton industry and have given them an assurance that Government will not alter the date, September 1, without full consultation with those principally interested. I repeat that assurance to-day. Further than this, I cannot be reasonably expected to go. We must wait and see how far a dead season beginning so late as September 1 will be effective in attaining the object we have in view.

"It is hardly necessary to say that this small act is in no sense a party question; the Government have placed all the facts before the principal cotton-growers and given the most careful attention to the representations made from whatever quarter they came. They recognize that public opinion is not unanimous. Some ryots are already convinced of the advantages of an early dead season and of their own accord uproot their cotton even in June. Others are still doubtful; some are hostile. Looking to the interests of the cotton-growing population as a whole and having regard to the alarming increase of insect pests in the present season, I am convinced of the urgent need for the present legislation and earnestly commend it to the impartial consideration of the House. I therefore move that this Bill be read in Council."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"I beg to second the motion."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Without either supporting or opposing the motion before the House, I wish to say a few words and before going into details, I must thank the hon. the Minister on behalf of the Government for having given us a number of opportunities to discuss the matter with him. Although the assurance given by him is not satisfactory to us, we are not raising objections against the proposals of the Government. The Government have been guided all these four or five years, so far as the question of the removal of the cotton plants is concerned,

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entirely by the advice of the experts. Without meaning anything to the experts we have been subjected, as it were, to the tyranny of experts in this matter. Now it has been stated by the hon. the Minister that the Government are in a position of a doctor advising a little amputation but unfortunately the analogy does not hold good. It is not a question of only amputation but it is entirely one of complete death or of killing the patient. If a few plants here and there are removed either by advice or by compulsion and the other ryots are allowed to grow their cotton plants till they get full crops, we cannot have any objection. Because the Government have powers of autonomy and because they think that in the interests of some person or other—I do not blame the Government—that all these cotton plants should be removed to put an end to the possibility of these pests, they want to remove all the cotton plants practically in all the four districts in which cotton has been grown increasingly. Our position is this. So far as Coimbatore is concerned, I can talk with a little authority and as regards Salem and other districts also we can say a little from our experience. The Government have been applying this Act so far as cambodia plants are concerned; but curiously enough this applies only to the four districts of Salem, Trichinopoly, Madura and Coimbatore. So far as the first crop is concerned, we are not having good rain with the result that there is no good crop in the first season. The Government have realised that and therefore against the advice of the experts they are not insisting on the removal of all plants on the 1st of June. Experts no doubt want all the plants to be removed before the 1st of June itself. But the Government have realised that though the advice is good and logical, it cannot be followed in the interests of the ryots, because for want of rain and for other reasons we do not get reasonably fair crops in the first season so far as these four districts are concerned. Cotton is no doubt a valuable crop. But there are several objections to raising cotton and the ryots generally wait to see if there is good rain before they sow cotton in the whole of their lands. They have recourse to cotton if there is no rainfall or there is only late rainfall. Therefore it is no doubt true that before the 1st June the crop is not satisfactory. If the second crop is taken, 1st August seems to be a very bad day from the point of view of the ryot. The plants are full of pods and especially if there is no good rain for the first crop, the second crop will have a good yield and the boll-breaking begins a little late. If the experts and the hon. the Minister both of them see these various cotton plants, they will be satisfied that it is absolutely difficult to have them removed if they have any feeling of mercy towards the ryots. It is a common saying among these landlords that they would rather go to jail or that they would rather kill their children than removing these plants just at the time when the pods are likely to mature. It so happens that August is the month in which cotton is harvested and practically the whole crops are harvested in that month. Therefore it has been pointed out for the last four years and the hon. the Minister with His Excellency the Governor have been pleased to extend the time to the 1st September all these four years. But great inconvenience has been caused thereby. The notification at present says that the plants shall be removed on the 1st August every year. That is the general notification and it is by persuasion and by various other ways that we are able to get extensions. But unfortunately, extensions are, generally speaking, given very late.

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“And especially last year His Excellency the Governor, I believe, advised by the hon. the Minister changed the date of removal from 1st of August to 1st of September. But before the order was communicated to the villagers practically almost all the plants had to be removed. Another difficulty in the way of removing the plants in the 1st of August is that there will be no rain then. There is no use of discussing the whole question now, for practically the order has become a dead letter. It was enforced only in fields near big towns and near main roads. As a matter of fact, in other places cotton plants are not removed. I brought to the notice of the Secretary to the Development Department the fact that during my visit to Podanur with four experts of the Agricultural Department we saw Cambodia plants two years old. Yet Podanur is a big centre and near a main road. It is difficult to eradicate this evil. I would urge upon the Government to put themselves in the position of the doctor who does things more by advice than by compulsion. If the prescriptions of the doctor are known to be efficacious, then surely the ryots of the districts have sufficient common sense to remove the plants even on the 1st of June if necessary. I do not want to go into the question of this plague. But in the beginning we suffered a good deal. The experts at that time took many cruel steps. Houses were either burnt or pulled down and patients were removed to isolated places and they had to die a lonely death. Various other things were done by these experts in Coimbatore till at last they found that there was no use of going against the wishes of the people. Government have now left them to the sense of the people. Much advantage would be derived if the experts of the Agricultural department will try to make the department popular by not having recourse to punishments by force but by giving advice.

“I am very glad to say and I thank the hon. the Minister heartily for agreeing to change the date of notification from 1st of August to 1st of September. In response to the various representations made to the Government for the last three years Government extended the period from 1st August to 1st September. But now the date of the notification itself is to be changed. Our thanks are due to the hon. the Minister and the Government.

“At the conference held last December under the presidentship of the Secretary to the Government of the Development Department we agreed to have some amendments in the Act. The Act as it is provides a cumbersome procedure for giving effect to its provisions. Notice has to be given to the ryot only after the expiration of the period. The notice has to be served to each party personally. After that attempts may be made by the department to remove the cotton plants. When Government agreed to extend the period by one month, we on our part agreed not to oppose the amendments they may bring forward to make the provisions more effective. The effect of the amendment will be that the notice might be issued earlier. What is more, we have also in a half-hearted manner agreed to another provision to which we would not have agreed if the date of notification had not been changed. Now Government wants to remove the provision by which they will be liable to pay compensation if young cotton plants are to be removed before they yield crops. There is difference of opinion as to the effect of the provision, but the Government want that to be removed. If this is done he cannot sow any new plants nor can he keep any plants on his field however young they may be before the 1st of September.

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We have agreed to this compromise, because compromise means sacrifice of points on both sides. It has always been the case that the gain is on the side of the Government and the loss on our side; but in this case at any rate Government have been forced and they have also gracefully risen equal to the occasion and agreed to change the date of removal. All these four years the ryots of the four districts have been very keen about changing the date from August to September. They do not so much mind about the procedure and they do not mind also so much about the compensation to be given to them. The hon. the Minister also has told us that he would issue the notification changing the date and that he would not go back upon it without consulting us. As matters stand at present there will be no use in consulting the experts. They will be inexorable. They will bring forward something or other and say that the cotton will be diseased if the plants are not removed even before the 1st of June. People do not care for the view of the experts. I warn the Government, if I may say so, not to be precipitate in anything they do. In the course of two or three years I am sure Government will be advised very seriously by the experts to change the date again. Of course we might be consulted, but we would be brushed aside as laymen and as interested men and the ryots may be called foolish men. If really the experiment is to be tried it must be given sufficient time. The experiment that has been done has been of no use. The Act was passed in 1920; in 1921 it was not given effect to. In 1922, 1923 and 1924 there has been an extension of the date by another month. If really an experiment is made at all it begins only this year. I respectfully ask the hon. the Minister and through him the Government not to give heed to the advice of the experts at all and wait for at least five years more. If the results of the experiments so made are shown to the ryots clearly they will be willing to remove the cotton plants not merely on the 1st of August but even on the 1st of June if necessary. The suggestion will be welcomed by the ryots if they see that it is really for their benefit. If the hon. the Minister consents not to alter the order for the next five years, we shall undertake not to move the various amendments except probably a few formal ones.

“The ryots of the lands near the hills of the Western Ghats where the south-west monsoon is very strong have been asking that they should be permitted to keep their plants for eighteen months and have a dead period of six months. As a matter of experiment, the learned Director of Agriculture and the hon. the Minister have agreed to exempt a few villages in that locality from the operation of the Act. We were told that four villages and a part of the fifth would be exempted from the operation of the Act. I consulted a few of the ryots and the mill-owners and they said that the area under exemption would have to be increased. We will come forward with a request to the hon. the Minister later on on this subject. We are thankful to the hon. the Minister for exempting these villages, thus enabling a crop period of 1½ years and a dead period of six months. We are thankful also for extending the date from the 1st of August to the 1st of September. As I said before, these matters must be left to the good sense of the ryot; I am not responsible for the Act itself. I am not for an Act. Therefore the responsibility of the Government is all the greater. If their experiment is to be attended with satisfactory results they should not change their order at least for a

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sufficiently long time, say four or five years at least. The Secretary to Government of that department went in person to Coimbatore to ascertain the feelings of the ryots. I do not know whether he reported in favour of the ryots or not. But when he came there some influential men from the locality were brought there with the idea that they would support the Government. But when they also came to know at first hand the evil effects of the Act they also opposed the Government with the result that Government who came there to conquer were really conquered. The experts seem to be labouring under the delusion that they are ever right and that the others are ever wrong. With these few words I leave the matter entirely in the hands of the House."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I thank the hon. the Minister for Development for the courtesy he showed us in taking us into his confidence and consulting our wishes and the needs of our districts before coming to this House for legislation, and also for undertaking to consult us before altering the notification. This is a matter which very seriously affects one of the growing industries of this province, viz., cotton-growing. Everywhere there is a cry that cotton-growing ought to be extended. The Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act was passed at a time when the conditions of growing cambodia cotton in this Presidency were not well known. Cambodia was a new variety of cotton introduced into India and the conditions of cultivating it were not well known. Naturally the Act left many loop-holes and I for one do not find fault either with the Act or with the officers of the department who administer its provisions. They pass an order that plants should be uprooted; some time is then allowed for appeal; then after the result of the appeal is known an executive officer has to enter the land and remove the cotton crop. Even though the experts want that the crops should be removed before the 1st of August it will be really 1st of September before the crops are removed and the field is actually made vacant. That is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs and it conferred a premium on wrong-doing. For anybody who wanted to do wrong and did not wish to obey the orders of the Government has simply to absent himself for a few days from his village during the time fixed for removing the crops or prefer an appeal without any reason whatever. The result would be that he prospers and gains whereas the honest man suffers in two ways. He not merely loses this three weeks' pickings in his field but the insects that are still flourishing in the wrong-doer's field invade his field also. So he sustains loss in two ways. That is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs and I am really glad to find that this is going to be changed by this amendment. I would again press on the hon. the Minister for Development the fact that this Act regarding cotton pests in India is based on insufficient experience in this country.

3-45 p.m. "Now we have had some experience in other countries. The conditions of other countries are not the same and we do not know how those conditions differ from those in our country. For instance it is said that pupa in other countries live for about 14 days, whereas they live for about 33 days in our country. If in that way the different stages of the caterpillars are going to vary, we do not know what we are to do for the eradication of these insects and what the conditions are under which we should grow cotton plants in our country. So I would ask the hon. the Minister for Development to wait for some time before he takes

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for his guidance the experience in other countries. So far as ryots are concerned, 1st of August is really a great disadvantage to them. 1st of September really means a great profit to them. If the time for eradication is fixed as 1st August, the ryots will be able to gather only 30 per cent of the crop, whereas by the 1st of September they will be able to gather some 40 to 50 per cent more. That is the position at the present moment. So, the change of date is really an important matter and hereafter before any change is made, I hope the hon. Minister for Development will be very careful in considering this matter. There is another point, namely, that the ryots have got three weeks' time before them under the present Act for the removal of cotton plants from the date fixed by Government. Now, we have agreed to 1st September being fixed as the normal date within which all cotton plants should be removed, and I do hope that there will be no change hereafter. If careful arrangements are made, I am sure that all the cotton plants can be removed before that date.

"I will only mention one more thing about the Anamalai tract which receives both the monsoons. In that part of the country rain falls during the early months of May and June. Here again the better crop is grown only in August. I am glad that Government have agreed to exclude the cotton plants of these tracts from the operation of the Act, and I do request the Government to issue a notification as early as possible stating that fact. I am really glad that the Act has been amended and I hope that it will be placed on a satisfactory footing without affecting the interest of the people. With these few words, I support the motion."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR:—"May I draw your attention to the fact that there is no quorum?"

On a count being made, it was found that the strength was less than thirty. At this stage, Messrs. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar, Lieut. Madurai and R. Srinivasan entered the Council.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It is apparently a fluctuating House, and I think we had better go on with the business."

* Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—"There are only two or three points raised by the hon. Gentlemen on the other side which it is necessary for me to reply. The first is about the question of experts. In regard to this question, in amending the Act we have been fortified by the opinion of expert advice not only of the Director of Agriculture, but of the experts all over the world. Unfortunately no other remedy has been discovered for putting an end to these insect pests except by uprooting the cotton plants simultaneously on a fixed date. In America, I am told, it has been seriously suggested that no one should grow cotton for the whole of a year."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Is it only a suggestion or has it been given effect to?"

* Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—"It is only a suggestion."

"Sir, that is what the greatest cotton-growing country in the world, namely, America, thinks with regard to the ravages of these cotton pests. The only thing that we can do is to copy their improvement and see whether it does not work favourably in our country also."

"Another point that has been urged is that the provisions of the existing Act have been so far ineffective. I quite agree with that view. The reason

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for that is that there have been loopholes in the Act which make the provisions more or less useless. The whole object of this amending Bill is to make the Act really effective and we hope that in future all cotton plants will be uprooted on a fixed date and that a real chance is given to get the insect pests killed off.

"Another point raised is that in the past few years insufficient notice has been given to cultivators of the change of date. I think there is something in that complaint and this year at any rate the ryots have got ample notice. I think I may safely say that by this time next year we shall know what the position is and we shall be able to consult the people interested in cotton industry and arrive at a conclusion as to what is really the suitable date.

"With regard to the Anamalai tract, there is not a great deal of cotton grown—I think only about 5,000 acres are grown with cotton—and the Government are quite prepared to give the people in the Anamalai area the chance of trying this experiment. Whether the experiment of cultivating the land for eighteen months and leaving it fallow for six months will be useful is rather doubtful.

"I have only one word more to say and that is the hon. Member from Coimbatore suggested that I myself was in favour of September 1."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I never said that. I found that to be the unanimous wish of the ryots."

* Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN :—"I wish to say that I am extremely doubtful whether 1st September will be effective. However we must give it a trial, and I hope our experience will prove that it is necessary to uproot the cotton not earlier than September in future."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The question before the House is that the Bill to amend the Madras Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act be read in Council."

The motion was put and carried.

The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"I do not think it is necessary for me to refer it to a select committee. I therefore request the hon. the President to suspend the operation of Standing Order No. 39."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I suspend the operation of Standing Order No. 39 that the Bill be not referred to a Select Committee."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I second it."

Clause 1 of the Bill was put, passed and added to the Bill.

Clause 2.

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I have given notice of a number of amendments to clause 2. But as the result of an interview with the hon. the Minister for Development, I do not propose to move any amendment to this clause. The hon. the Minister has himself agreed to move the amendment in the second part. Therefore I do not move."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"As there are no amendments to clause 2, I shall put clause 2."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"As a result of the conference among us, the Government have agreed that in section 3 of the Act they will add an amendment. I believe hon. Members have got a copy of the amendment which the Government want to move. Clause 2 deals with clause 5. So, the new amendment will have to be taken first. I beg to submit that after clause 1, there will be added a new clause as clause 2, so that the present clause 2 will become clause 3."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I have no objection to any procedure, Sir. I was only pointing to the order in which the clauses may be taken up. It is only if clause 2 of the present Bill is passed that the notification referred to in section 3 will have effect. It does not seem to be in order to propose the procedure regarding notification before the notification clause itself is passed. I would, however, leave it to the hon. the Minister to choose his own course."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"Sir, clause 5-A of the Bill as originally drafted becomes clause 2. On some representations being made to me by some hon. Members on the other side, we discussed the matter together and thought that it was necessary to amend section 3 of the Madras Agricultural Pests Act in some slight manner so that it might come in after clause 1 as a new clause. Therefore this old section of the Act will be clause 3 and the other clauses of the present Bill will be renumbered. I am amenable to any procedure suggested by the hon. the President."

"Sir, my amendment reads thus :

"That section 3 of the Madras Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act, 1919 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act) shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) of section 3 and to that section as so renumbered the following sub-section shall be added, namely : (2) Where the preventive or remedial measures prescribed in sub-section (1) include the removal or destruction of any plant in order to eradicate or prevent the introduction or re-appearance of any insect pest, such notification shall prior to the date on which the notification shall come into force be proclaimed in the local area defined in the notification in such manner as may be prescribed."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I second it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"A new clause 2 has been introduced. Consequently the present clause 2 of the Bill will become clause 3. If this amendment is approved by the House, that would be clause 2. The amendment now before the House is :

"that section 3 of the Madras Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act, 1919, shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) of section 3 of the original Act and to that section the following sub-section shall be added."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I want only to suggest that the words 'prior to the date on which the notification shall come into force' may mean even on the day previous to the notification. The villagers must have sufficient time to get informed of this order. If the hon. the Minister would agree for a period of at least a week prior to the date of the notification, I would like the words to be inserted. If that is not possible, it may at least be borne in mind that the notification shall be issued about a month prior to the date from which the notification takes effect."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"The suggestion will be borne in mind in framing the rules."

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Clause 2 was then put, passed and added to the Bill.

Clause 3 (clause 2 in the Bill) was then put with the words 'said Act' substituted for the words 'Madras Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act, 1919, thereafter referred to as the said Act.' The clause as thus put was passed and added to the Bill.

Clauses 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 were then each put, passed and added to the Bill.

The preamble was then put and passed.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" I move, Sir, that the Bill be now passed into law."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" I second it."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—" Sir, I wish to say a few words at this stage. All the points regarding the time-limit have been discussed fully. I wish only to bring before the House the point of view of the ryot in respect of this enactment. The ryot, as the Government know, is always willing to abide by the orders of Government. The Government when they first placed the Act on the Statute Book did not foresee practical difficulties in the working of the Act. This position could have been obviated if only popular opinion was consulted along with expert opinion. The experts see through the microscope, while the ryot sees through the naked eye. After all, the ryot is not unmindful of the profit and loss of his efforts. When the Act was proposed, Cambodia cotton was a new crop in the country and the ryots took advantage of this new crop as the prices offered were very alluring. They reared the crop for some time; and as the ryots became acquainted with its conditions and realized that the crop was deteriorating, restrictions were imposed by the Act. That has given rise to the difficulty in the working of the Act every year; when the cotton removal season is notified by the Government, considerable trouble is felt. Much of it is due, as I said, to the fact that the ryots' opinion has not been taken in the matter. As the crop depends very much upon the seasonal conditions of the country, it is not an easy matter to enforce the provisions. That is especially so as the agricultural practices and climatic conditions differ from place to place. As an instance of the practical difficulty felt in the working of the Act, I may point out the exemption of the Anamalai tract. On account of the vast difference in the climatic conditions of this tract from the other parts of the district, it was exempted from the provisions of the Act. The same reasons operate in respect of other portions of the district and if no future trouble should arise in the working of the Act, it is quite necessary that more elasticity should be given to its provisions. The areas in the district which are influenced by the south-west monsoon are to be marked out from the rest. Seasonal conditions also vary very much. For instance, in this year, we had no rain at all sufficient to mature the first crop of Cambodia cotton. No doubt no difficulty has been felt so far as the central portion of the district, Tiruppur, for instance, is concerned where Cambodia cotton is best grown. The seasonal conditions there are agreeable to the working of the Act. But the difficulty comes in regard to the other parts of the district, the north, the west and the south of it, where the conditions are not controllable. The ryot has to depend upon the rains. Therefore, before the amended Act can be expected to be successful in its working, the areas must be divided a

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fixed with due regard to the agricultural practices and the climatic conditions prevailing in each area. Again, different time-limits should be fixed in regard to different areas. There may be some point in the opinion of the Director of Agriculture that we can do away with the second crop altogether. To a certain extent it may be done in the irrigated tracts. But this crop is grown to a large extent as a dry crop in the mountainous parts where no other crop can be successfully raised because of the damage likely to be caused by wild beasts at the foot of the hills and the difficulty of getting labour. In the case of these parts, the suggestion cannot be adopted. It is not an easy matter to control the different seasons throughout the district and the different practices by means of a single enactment and to compel the same procedure throughout. I would submit that if the Government want to avoid any difficulty in the working of this amended Act, they must take non-official opinion side by side with expert opinion.

"We know that so many experiments have been conducted in the Agricultural Department and there have been so many failures as found in the administration and other reports.

And if we trace it, the reason is mostly to be found merely in the fact that the Government are guided by expert opinion. This is a matter which affects not only the Coimbatore district, but a very large portion of the country. It affects the interests of the ryots to a very large extent, and I would therefore beg that the Government will give their best consideration to the non-official side of the question, and if necessary reconsider the matter in making the Act applicable to other districts also, before they finally dispose it of."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I have only a few words to say before this last chapter closes. I hope this will be the last chapter in the struggle of the ryots. I simply want to congratulate Mr. Bracken on the excellent maiden speech that he has made to-day (Hear, hear), and we congratulate ourselves that ours should have been the cause on which he has thus spoken. Especially we congratulate ourselves on the last words which he said, and those words will be working in the minds of all the people; they are: there may be no necessity at any time for any change. I echo those words as do many people. Only one thing that the hon. the Minister said I want to refer to. He said that it was only a question of a small amount of money, but I may say for the information of the House and also the Cabinet, that this is not a small matter. The hon. the Finance Member may remember that this extension for one month means about a crore of rupees for the ryots, and I do not think that my calculation has been challenged, and the Governor also spoke of this very large amount. I appeal also to the Member in charge of Labour that at a time when other labour is not available, a very large number of people, especially the depressed classes and Adi-Dravida classes, get higher wages. The wages are higher because they are paid in kind in cotton. So that is a matter which involves not only the Minister or any particular person but the whole Cabinet, the whole Government and the whole country. I may repeat the words of Mr. Bracken that no change at no time may be necessary to be made in the date 1st September, and with that hope I would conclude."

The motion that the Bill be passed into law was then put and carried *nem. con.*

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III—REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—cont.

The House then took up the consideration of the report of the Public Accounts Committee.

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Sir, I beg to move that the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit and Appropriation reports on the accounts of the Government of Madras for 1923-24 be taken into consideration."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar seconded the motion.

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"Sir, may I suggest that in view of the late hour and the fact that there are only very few Members present now, this business may be postponed till to-morrow?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR, who on rising as Leader of the House for the first time was loudly cheered, said:—"Mr. President, Sir, to-morrow happens to be a non-official day."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It will be left to hon. Members to choose whether a portion of to-morrow shall be taken up for this business. Last year, I think, the debate on this matter went on for a considerable part of a day. Even if it takes up an hour or two, it may be a serious deduction from the full time allotted to non-official business. As we have over 35 minutes left, perhaps the House would prefer to go on."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, in view of the fact that there are really very important matters covered by this report and there are important questions of loans and the loan policy of the Government and other things raised in this report, and also in view of the fact that many of the Members of the Council have thought it necessary to keep out, I would propose that the matter be adjourned so as to come up the first thing on the next official day. I formally move that this may be adjourned."

Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan seconded the motion.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"There will be no more official days so far as I can anticipate at present, in this session."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Even if it is going to be at the next meeting, it can be put as the first thing on the first day when we meet next, and I do not think there will be any loss in that."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, the only occasion on which this matter can be taken up, if it be not taken up now and continued to-morrow, will be at the next session. And if the House is generally agreeable to that suggestion, we on our side do not propose to oppose it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"If it is the desire of the hon. the Mover and the Seconder that this matter should be adjourned to the next session, I shall put it to the House."

The Mover and the Seconder signified their assent, and the motion was accordingly put and declared lost.

Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar demanded a poll which was taken, and the House divided as follows:—

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan. | 3. Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder. |
| 2. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 4. Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. |

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Noes.

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|--|---|
| 1. The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 12. Mr. Abdulla Ghattala Sahib. |
| 2. " the Raja of Panagal. | 13. " S. Arpudawami Udayar. |
| 3. " Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 14. Rao Sahib P. C. Tangavelu Pillai. |
| 4. " Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivaganam Pillai. | 15. Mr. P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nadar. |
| 5. " Mr. R. A. Graham. | 16. " N. Devendrudu. |
| 6. " Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks. | 17. " C. Muttayya Mudaliyar. |
| 7. " Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib. | 18. Honorary Lieutenant Madurai. |
| 8. Mr. P. L. Moore. | 19. Rao Bahadur K. Krishnaswami Nayudu. |
| 9. Dr. John Mathai. | 20. Mr. B. Obalesappa. |
| 10. Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastriyar. | 21. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| 11. " P. F. G. Jourdain. | 22. " R. Srinivasan. |
| | 23. " Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai. |

4. hon. Members voted for the motion and 23 against. The motion was lost.

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, Mr. Biswanath Das who has given notice of a motion for the appointment of a committee to look into the affairs of the Russellkonda Saw Mill is not here to move it. I, of course, do not wish to move it, but I wish to submit this to the House: that the affairs connected with this Russellkonda Saw Mill certainly require to be examined carefully.

"The first thing to be borne in mind is this: that in 1921, in the first 4-30 p.m. session of the first Council that came into existence in accordance with this Reform, this Council rejected the grant relating to this saw mill and after certification by His Excellency the Governor the grant was restored. The events that have happened since show that the Council was wise in having vetoed that grant. This report before us shows that the calculations with reference to the Russellkonda Saw Mill have been essentially wrong. For instance, with reference to the cost of machinery, the original estimate was Rs. 1,43,000, roughly a lakh and a half. But the amount actually spent on the machinery was about a lakh more than the estimated cost. It was roughly Rs. 2½ lakhs.

"Then again the original estimate for the buildings in connexion with this mill was Rs. 75,000. This sum of Rs. 75,000 came to more than Rs. 1,30,000. That is one side of the estimate. If you look to the other side, it is this. The cost that was estimated for converting 1 cubic foot of wood into timber was 5 annas. As a matter of fact, the cost came to very much more than that, more than 50 per cent, or 8 annas 5 pies. Then again the amount that was estimated as capable of being exploited was 250,000 cubic feet of wood. As a matter of fact, it was only 1½ lakh that was actually extracted. Then again the amount of scantling that was estimated to be the yield was 152,000 cubic feet. Those figures show that income was very much exaggerated and the expenditure that was estimated in connexion with it was under-estimated. Then again it is found that it was always a failure ever since it began its work. In the first year the loss inclusive of the interest charges was more than Rs. 30,000. Then in the subsequent years what we find is this. The profit and loss account of the mill for the year ending 31st March 1924 is also shown as a loss. The loss amounted to Rs. 36,000. The committee therefore desire that a detailed examination should be made and that in future the work and management should be carefully done. I should, if I may, earnestly advise the Government to close this transaction as early as possible and not to continue this transaction year after year at a great loss.

[Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar]

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"Then another feature of this report is that more than 17 per cent of the total number of original works in the Department of Public Works were started without estimates. This is in connexion with buildings and roads. In connexion with the irrigation projects more than 12 per cent of the original works was started without estimates. This, I think, Sir, is a very serious thing. Of course it may be sometimes necessary to begin repair works without estimates. But in original works there is no justification whatever for commencing them without the preparation of any estimates and their sanction by superior authorities. I am glad that this defect in the working of the department has been noticed by the committee and let us hope that these mistakes will not be repeated. Another serious thing that we find in connexion with the administration of this department is that sometimes payments which are irregular and which are even illegal are made. Sometimes they end in loss to Government. For instance, we find in a particular instance that a subdivisional officer prepared an estimate for a particular work, which was not actually executed and the bill itself was prepared in the name of a contractor who did not execute the work. It is seen that the Government is inclined to view this act of the particular divisional officer as not very serious. As a matter of fact, it is difficult to believe that when the bill is prepared in the name of a contractor, who has not done the work or in the name of an imaginary contractor, that the particular person was not acting dishonestly. The Government say that there was no evidence to show that he was acting dishonestly. In fact what stronger evidence is necessary than this, namely, that the bill was prepared in the name of a contractor who was not a contractor for that work? A very strong disciplinary action, I submit, is necessary in such cases, so that other divisional officers may not attempt to do the same. Then again we find that in one case payment was made for works which were not actually included in the estimates. Another thing is this, that payments are made for works which were not actually carried and a more serious thing than all these is that in connexion with certain works done for the Police Department, the construction of police huts, the Police authorities, the Inspector-General and the Superintendents concerned specifically wrote to the Engineering authorities that that work should not be executed, because it was in contemplation that that particular police station might be converted into an outpost. In spite of this intimation from the Police Department, the Engineering Department commenced the work and during the progress of the work the Police authorities again wrote to them not to proceed therewith. In spite of this instruction, the work was proceeded with and was completed and ultimately the police station was really converted into an outpost and it was found that the huts were unnecessary. The amount that was spent in this case ought to have been recovered from the particular person. I know that it has not been done and it is still possible to recover the amount from the officer. I find that a very large amount of the estimate sanctioned by this Council was not spent in this year under review, namely, 1923-24, about 88 lakhs out of the amount sanctioned by this Council. This is the amount that comes under the voted grant, so that if the amount under the non-voted grant is also taken into consideration, the amount unspent is very much higher. I hope that the departments concerned will in future see that the amount voted in this Council will be spent upon and for that purpose."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, this report is unlike other reports. It is rather full and gives a lot of information which raise

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reflections in us on the state of our Province at the present moment. I should congratulate the members who are responsible for drafting this report on the clear way in which they have brought out the position of the province. Well, Sir, the accounts for 5 years before the Reforms and the accounts of the 5 years after the Reforms are given, from which we find, Sir, that whereas expenditure, when we began in 1916-17, amounted only to Rs. 1,143 lakhs, it has gone up now, in the Budget year under review, to Rs. 1,720 lakhs. That is to say, there is an increase of nearly 3 crores of rupees, whereas in the Revenue we have an increase only by an amount of little less than 3 crores and the rate at which we are increasing our expenditure is very great, and it ought to make one pause after seeing these figures as regards the future condition of our province. If the rate of expenditure is going to be kept up to anything like the present figure, I do not know how to expect any progress in the next two or three years. Again, Sir, the position of our debt also shows that we have been living beyond our means and that our present position is very bad indeed. For instance, Sir, it is said that our unproductive debts on the 1st April 1924 amount to something like 65 lakhs and on the 1st of April 1926 it will increase to 230 lakhs. So we are clearly living on our borrowings. No financial expert will be prepared to accept the position of a country, which is in this position, as satisfactory. Then again, Sir, this is the position after a lot of budgeted expenditure not having been incurred during the year 1923-24 and also in spite of the fact that a large amount of money not having been spent for such useful departments as Education, Public Health and Civil works. These sums not spent are called savings. I do not know whether they are to be called savings, because what had to be done with them had not been done. To call them savings is to suggest a question indeed. Let us take the item of Education alone. As much as Rs. 5,81,000 budgeted is not spent. They have not spent that which has been allotted for education. Why? They have been spending very low amounts in that useful field. But we find here that even out of the money that has been budgeted, Rs. 5,81,000 has been saved. It is a very unsatisfactory thing."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I have a word to explain, Sir. I have explained in the Budget speech that savings have been effected on account of certain buildings not having been built. So the saving that has been effected is the result of the building grants not having been utilized."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"May I know, Sir, as to how much of it is for buildings and how much of it is for opening new schools and how much of it is for contributions to local bodies. These are questions which have not been gone into in the report."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"They are found clearly in the appropriation statement."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Again, similarly, Sir, in Public Health and Vital Statistics we have got a saving of Rs. 10,44,000. As I said, Sir, we have been asking for more money for these things. Then what is the result. They make only small provision for these things. Even the money that is voted has not been spent. So, Sir, we find that in spite of a saving of 88 lakhs our position is as I have described, namely, that on the 1st of April 1926 we will have a very heavy debt of 230 lakhs."

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* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" My hon. Friend is mistaken. He is reading out an estimate of what our position would be on the 31st March 1926 made before we got the remission of our contribution. It does not represent dead weight debt. Out of the total of 1,451 lakhs there shown, 930 represents productive expenditure on irrigation, 457 the capital of commercial concerns and 287 money which we have lent and on which we receive interest. The only dead weight debt is the 59.52 lakhs for unproductive expenditure and the money borrowed to cover revenue deficits. The figure of 170 lakhs for this purpose must be reduced by 97½ lakhs."

4.45 p.m.

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Included in this 1,451.90 lakhs, there is another dead weight . . ."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" No. The only thing that can possibly be called dead weight debt is the expenditure on unproductive works and the figure of 170 lakhs which, as I have already explained, must be reduced by 97½ lakhs."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" That is so, Sir. After taking credit for 126 lakhs . . ."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" Ninety-seven and a half lakhs . . ."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" The hon. the Finance Member will not allow me to finish my sentence. Ninety-seven lakhs is the deficit for this year. He says that 97 lakhs can be deducted out of this 230 lakhs. That seems to be his position. But I am entitled to have my own views upon the position. The 126 lakhs has not been reduced in the budget passed by this Council and we have not got anything from which we can see that our commitments have been reduced."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" May I say it is not for us to reduce the commitments but it is for the Government of India?"

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" The Government of India pass final orders and we take credit in our accounts."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I would again point out that we cannot show in our accounts amounts we do not pay."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" The hon. Member seems to be not prepared to hear me. It seems that I ought to take everything from him. That is another matter. But I think I am here to express my views."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" But I ask him to stick to facts."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" I am speaking on the authority of his own statement in the report furnished by himself. Well, Sir, there we find that our position is this: On the 1st April, but for the circumstance of the remission in our contribution to the extent of 126 lakhs, we shall have additional commitments which will amount to a very large figure. At page 22 several items under which we have committed ourselves for the future are mentioned. We have, for instance, first of all payments in consequence of the orders passed on the report of the Lee Commission on the superior Public Services, which are estimated approximately, at 10 lakhs a year. And then we have got the authority of the hon. the Finance

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Member that this estimate is not correct and we will have to find another 14 lakhs. I have got his speech here and it is said there :

" In spite of unforeseen calamities which have added greatly to our liabilities, the expenditure debited to revenue, including a provision of 9 lakhs made for carrying out the orders of the Secretary of State on the report of the Lee Commission, is likely to fall short of that provided in the budget by nearly 14 lakhs."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" But that does not seem to be in accordance with the hon. Member's statement."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, the way in which the Finance Member is accustomed to read things is something which I do not understand. It seems to me that I have got to study under him if I have to see things as he does."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" The statement made in my speech is that the expenditure was likely to be less than the estimate, not that a further 14 lakhs would be wanted."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" That is exactly what I mean and we now want that amount."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" It is not wanted. That sum was provided for but was not wanted."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Am I to understand that the 9 lakhs has to be reduced from 14 lakhs?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" Will the hon. Member kindly read my speech again?"

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Yes, I have the speech before me. It seems, Sir, that I have to study again under him and my old teachers have not been able to teach English properly."

" Well, Sir, that is the position with reference to that first item of our commitment which is likely to go on increasing our expenditure year by year. Then there is the expansion of primary education under the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920, under which the Council is bound to provide 50 per cent contribution which is compulsory under the Act. Then we have the abandonment of the Andamans as a penal settlement, the recurring cost of which is estimated at 2½ lakhs per annum. Fourthly there is the bifurcation of the Kistna district, involving 2 lakhs recurring expenditure and large sums for non-recurring expenditure. I do not know if the 2 lakhs is all that is needed. We found in the Retrenchment Committee that the cost came to something like 14 or 15 lakhs. I am not sure under what basis we worked, but at the same time (I am sorry I have not got the notes with me here) I am sure we can depend on those figures. It seems to me that this estimate of 2 lakhs is very low for the creation of a new district. Then again we have the pensionary charges which are also bound to go on increasing. There is again the amortization of debt, the charges on account of which are rapidly increasing. It is said our unproductive debt has been going on increasing. Under the new rules which have already been passed by the Government of India and which are reported in the dailies of Saturday last, the Government of India insist upon our providing for the payment of these debts, the payment of the debts to be paid in this year and interest in the year's budget. Otherwise, we cannot get any

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further advance from them. I want to know whether any provision is going to be made for that and what our commitments are likely to be. Then we have to provide for the scheme of medical relief in rural areas. And we have got the progressive increase in the cost of salaries organized on a time-scale basis, which have not yet reached stability. Next we have non-recurring expenditure in connexion with the repair of floods and cyclone damages. Then we have the huge commitment of one crore towards grants-in-aid to local bodies for water-supply and drainage schemes. This is another unproductive charge so far as the Provincial budget is concerned. Then we have the commitments for Major Civil Works which come to above 28 lakhs. The General Hospital scheme is again to be raked up. For all these schemes what are the arrangements made? We do not know whether we shall be able to further increase the expenditure. Are we not therefore to realize that every pie that we receive by the remission is already mortgaged for the payments of these charges? That is the position, Sir, consciously or unconsciously, that we are presenting to the people who have charged us with the finances of the province. That is really a very unsatisfactory state of things. We have been told that when we get the contribution remitted our country is going to get a lot of benefit in a number of ways from the amount realized from the Government of India by way of remission. But, Sir, already our commitments show that the major portion of the remission is going to be taken away by these deficits. The present year deficit alone comes to over 85 lakhs to meet the ordinary current expenditure. Every year we will have a deficit of 90 lakhs. What is therefore left is 36 lakhs. I would like to know what the policy of the Government is in a matter of this kind? I do not know what to call this sort of budgeting to swallow as much as possible of what we are able to get from the contribution. I am seriously asking what their policy is. Are they going to go on increasing this dead weight debt? Or, are they ever going to balance the budget? Or, are they going to provide for unproductive expenditure and then mortgage every pie of the remission that we may get? This is a very serious state of affairs and I do not know what they are going to do. When actually the Government of India pass final orders then we will have to see how to dispose of the amount. We will have to take note of the fact that there is a widespread feeling in the country that money is being wasted and expenditure is being increased in every way as I have said during the last 7 or 8 years. It is a fact that the expenditure during these years has very much gone up, viz., by about 6 crores, that is to say, by 50 per cent and that without any benefit to the nation-building departments. Is that a satisfactory state of affairs, I ask, Sir? I do not think that we can congratulate ourselves on the work turned out by us in this House so far as these matters are concerned. At least for the future, I should like to know what the policy of the present Government is if they have got a policy at all."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I am afraid that if my hon. Friend expects a statement of policy I shall have to disappoint him.
5 p.m. I may remind him that the Public Accounts Committee's report with which we are dealing is not concerned with policy; it is concerned with facts. The committee enquire what the intentions of the Government are or what it is proposed to do in future. It is concerned with how the Government has carried out the intentions of the Council in the spending of the money provided by it. It investigates into financial irregularities

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brought to its notice by Accountant-General or the Finance Department. If I may read out the rule on the subject—it is rule 34 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules,—

'(1) In scrutinizing the audit and appropriation accounts of the province, it shall be the duty of the Committee to satisfy itself that the money voted by the Council has been spent within the scope of the demand granted by the Council.

'(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee to bring to the notice of the Council

'(i) every re-appropriation from one grant to another grant;

'(ii) every re-appropriation within a grant which is not made in accordance with the rule regulating the functions of the Finance Department, or which has the effect of increasing the expenditure on an item the provision for which has been specifically reduced by a vote of the Council; and

'(iii) all expenditure which the Finance Department has requested should be brought to notice of the Council.'

"I have no wish to dispute the various good maxims which more than one hon. Member has put before the House to-day. But all they have said is really in endorsement of the report of the Public Accounts Committee which has been put before them. I can find nothing in the speeches which have been made which in any way conflicts with any of the statements or recommendations made here. If I were asked I should say that the position is still serious, but that has nothing to do with this report and it is not for the Government on the report of the Committee to lay down any policy or make any statement or proposal."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"If the House wishes to adjourn consideration of the matter, which occupied a good deal of time last year, they will have to either give up a portion of the next two days which would otherwise be devoted entirely to non-official business, or wait until Government set apart some time for transaction of business of this kind. So far as it can be anticipated at present, it will be only in next session, and on that understanding the further consideration of this subject, if the House wants it, will have to be adjourned."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"It may be closed, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"It is understood that the House does not desire further consideration of this matter. The House will now adjourn."

The consideration of the report being over, the House adjourned at 5-5 p.m. to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

[30th March 1925]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 694 asked by Mr. C. Gopala Menon at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 30th March 1925, page 881 supra.]

Statement showing particulars of various patterns of typewriting machines purchased during the years 1920—1924 for use in Government offices.

Serial number.	Names of patterns of typewriting machines purchased.	1920.		1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.	
		Number purchased.	Price each.	Number purchased.	Price each.	Number purchased.	Price each.	Number purchased.	Price each.	Number purchased.	Price each.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
1	Remington No 10, Foolscap.	85	Rs. 315	84	340	53	356	33	356	..	..
2	" " Brief ..	9	345	18	370	13	382	3	382	..	..
3	" " Policy ..	2	382	2	440	6	470	2	420	..	..
4	" No. 11, Foolscap	6	375	6	422	4	478	14	453	..	..
5	" " Brief ..	5	405	3	528	1	536	..	..	..	..
6	" " Policy ..	2	442	3	572	1	594	..	..	..	..
7	" No. 12, Foolscap.	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	392	45	356
8	" " Brief ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	382
9	" " Policy ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	420
10	" " Portable ..	..	..	1	225	23	225	11	210	1	210
11	Yost No. 20, Foolscap	6	315	10	390	2	340	1	340	..	..
12	" " Brief ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	405	..	..
13	Underwood, Foolscap	28	323	35	350	6	375	11	350	24	350
14	" " Brief ..	3	368	4	330	2	400	1	380	4	380
15	" " Portable ..	3	187	3	200	1	200	1	200	5	175
16	L. C. Smith, Foolscap	2	310	1	350	..	..	3	350	2	350
17	" " Brief ..	..	..	1	380	..	..	..	..	..	..
18	" " Policy ..	..	..	..	..	1	410	1	380	..	..
19	Oliver No. 9, Foolscap	14	280	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	Victor No. 3, Foolscap	5	280	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21	" " Brief ..	2	305	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
22	" No. 10, Foolscap	..	..	..	..	3	350	1	350	1	320
23	Empire No. 1 ..	5	192	4	220	14	240	1	240	..	..
1	" No. 2 ..	29	262	17	290	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	Monarch No. 3 ..	7	315	19	340	..	..	..	..	..	..
6	" " Brief ..	1	345	1	360	..	..	..	..	..	..
7	Corona No. 3 ..	75	150	31	184	2	184	..	..	..	..
8	Century No. 10, Foolscap	2	184	9	176	..	..	..	..	..	..
29	Woodstock, Foolscap	8	310	..	..	4	350	3	350	12	320
30	" " Brief ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	340
31	Royal No. 10, Foolscap	..	..	2	340	11	340	25	340	2	325
32	" " Brief ..	..	..	..	..	1	380	..	..	..	..
33	" " Policy ..	..	..	..	..	1	410	..	..	..	..
34	Rex visible No. 4, Foolscap	..	..	10	285	49	285	33	285	58	285
35	Mercedes, Foolscap	..	..	..	..	1	330	..	..	..	..
36	Demountable, Foolscap	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	340

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 697 asked by Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 30th March 1925, page 883 supra.]

From the President, Madras Medical Council, Madras, dated the 5th November 1923.

I have the honour to state that this Council at its meeting held on the 29th October 1923 resolved that in the matter of granting certificates by registered medical practitioners to Government servants that G.O. No. 989, dated 22nd May 1916, be so amended that all medical certificates granted by registered medical practitioners as defined in section 3 of the Madras Medical Registration Act (IV of 1914) be accepted without countersignature. A patient must, however, produce a letter of requisition from the head of his office to his medical attendant before the same medical attendant can examine him with the idea of giving a medical certificate. In doubtful and special cases, the heads of offices should, without any delay, communicate with the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, who will arrange for any further examination of the patient, if he thinks it necessary.

From the Surgeon-General, Ref. No. 3131-4-Est., dated 1st/4th March 1924.

[Reference.—Correspondence ending with Government Memorandum No. 24875-2, P.H., dated 18th February 1924.]

With reference to the above memorandum, I have the honour to forward herewith a statement showing the number of cases in which subordinates, who have produced certificates from private medical practitioners, have been re-examined by the District Surgeons of the four presidency districts during the last three years and the percentage of cases in which the District Surgeons on such re-examination have found it necessary to refuse countersignature.

2. These statistics do not prove much. On the other hand, there is a great deal of abuse possible and prevalent in the existing system of Government servants being permitted to obtain medical certificates from private medical practitioners. I have considered the question but I am afraid that the only remedy which can be suggested at present is that indicated by the President, Madras Medical Council, in his letter No. N. Dis. 67-1 of 23, dated 5th November 1923, now under the consideration of Government. If the procedure suggested therein is carried out, it will remedy to a certain extent the existing state of affairs.

District.	Year.	Number of certificates.		Percentage certificates not countersigned.
		Countersigned.	Not Countersigned.	
II	1921	9	..	..
II	1922	15	..	..
II	1923	8	..	..
III	1921	16	1	5.8
III	1922	31	..	..
III	1923	3	..	..
IV	1921	13	..	..
IV	1922	97	2	2.0
IV	1923	90	6	6.6

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APPENDIX III.

Vide answer to question No. 704 asked by Mr. P. Siva Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 30th March 1925, page 889 supra.]

Statement showing the names of the Members of the Standing Advisory Committees for the Reserved departments.

1. Finance Committee—

The hon. Mr. R. A. Graham, C.S.I., *President*.
 R. W. Davies, Esq., M.L.C.
 A. E. Rencontre, Esq., M.L.C.
 Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu, Kt., M.L.C.
 M.R.Ry. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ P. N. Marthandam Pillai Avargal, M.L.C.
 Muhammad Moosa Sait Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C.

2. Forest Committee—

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.B.E., *President*.
 M.R.Ry. B. Muniswami Nayudu Garu, M.L.C.
 „ C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ K. Sarabha Reddi Garu, M.L.C.
 „ Diwan Bahadur Krishnan Nayar Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu, M.L.C.
 „ G. Premayya Garu, M.L.C.
 „ Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiyar Avargal, M.L.C.
 The Chief Conservator of Forests—Ex officio.
 The Secretary to Government, Development Department—Ex officio.

3. Depressed Classes Committee—

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.B.E., *President*.
 M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ R. Srinivasan Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan, M.L.C.
 „ Rao Sahib P. V. S. Sundaramurti Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ M. Devendruda Garu, M.L.C.
 The Secretary to Government, Law Department—Ex officio.
 The Commissioner of Labour—Ex officio.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 31st March 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI AVARGAL, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Jails.

Condition of prisoners in the Alipuram jail.

* 710 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have instituted any enquiry into the causes of the general hunger strike by the prisoners of Alipuram jail and if not, why not;

(b) whether in the prison even the sick and the aged prisoners are compelled to do hard work;

(c) whether defaulters are given cuts, handcuffed and sent to solitary confinement;

(d) the number of deaths per day or per week in the prison;

(e) the manner in which the dead bodies are disposed of in the prison;

and (f) whether the prisoners are being induced to go to the Andamans and if so, why?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No. According to rule 386 (1) of the Madras Jail Manual the medical officer certifies to the class of labour for which a convict is fit and the work is regulated accordingly.

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- (c) Whipping was awarded twice during 1924 for assaults. Handcuffing was not awarded in 1924. Solitary confinement as a jail punishment has already been abolished.
- (d) The number of deaths during December 1924 and January 1925 and the causes thereof are as below :—

<i>December 1924.</i>						
First week—						
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	} 4
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	3	
Second week—						
Pulmonary tuberculosis			...	...	1	} 3
Tubercular enteritis	...	...	...	...	1	
Cerebral hæmorrhage			...	...	1	
Third week—						
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	2	} 3
Cerebral hæmorrhage			...	...	1	
Fourth week—						
Pulmonary tuberculosis			...	...	1	} 6
Tubercular enteritis	...	...	...	...	1	
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	4	

<i>January 1925.</i>						
First week—						
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	3	} 7
Tubercular enteritis	...	...	...	...	1	
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2	
Typhoid fever	...	...	...	...	1	
Second week—						
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2	} 4
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	1	
Acute nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	
Third week—Nil.						
Fourth week—						
Tubercular enteritis	...	...	...	...	1	} 4
Chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	
Tumour abdomen	...	...	...	...	1	
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	

The total number of deaths during the year was 63 in 1924 against 73 in 1923.

- (e) The dead bodies of prisoners are disposed of in the manner prescribed in rule 667, Jail Manual.
- (f) No. Only applications of those who volunteer to go to the Andamans are considered by Government.

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, with reference to clause (a), may I ask what was the nature of the inquiry, who was the officer in charge of the inquiry, whether any report has been sent and, if so, if it will be placed on the table of the House? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Having taken charge of this portfolio only yesterday, I am not able to give details. I understand that a similar question has been put and a full reply has been given. It is coming up for to-morrow. I shall, if necessary, give a reply then."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Do I understand that the answer will be placed on the table to enable supplementary questions being put on it? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, with regard to answer to clause (f) of this question—I readily apologise to my hon. Friend for putting questions, this being the first day of his taking charge, but he may give the usual answer 'I want notice'—may I ask how that statement can be reconciled with his predecessor's statement made in this House, that a special officer was sent to explain to these unfortunate prisoners the advantages of their going to the Andamans? The answer to the question 'whether the prisoners are being induced to go to the Andamans and if so why' is 'No. Only applications of those who volunteer to go to the Andamans are considered by the Government.' Two days ago, I believe the answer was given by the then Home Member (Sir Arthur Knapp) that a particular gentleman was deputed to explain to these people the advantages of their going to the Andamans. I want to know how these two statements can be reconciled."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I do not think the two statements are inconsistent. Anyhow, I will look into the matter; at present I am unable to give a definite reply."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to clause (d) of the question, may I ask the hon. the Home Member as to how this percentage of deaths compares with the percentage of deaths in other jails, among ordinary prisoners? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I should like to have notice of this question."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" May I draw the attention of the hon. the Home Member to the undesirability of carrying on propaganda of this kind amongst prisoners with a view to inducing them to go to the Andamans, because evidently they would not be in a position to distinguish between propaganda and pressure in those circumstances? If Government are so keen on sending the Mappillas to the Andamans they should go and recruit from the Mappilla population in Malabar and not go about in this way amongst prisoners which is a most objectionable procedure."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask, with regard to the question of my hon. Friend, whether the question of inducing these prisoners to go to the Andamans is going to be reconsidered by the hon. the Home Member or is he going to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I have very little to say at present."

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Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" I think the hon. the Home Member will reconsider the desirability or otherwise of carrying on this kind of propaganda amongst prisoners."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask why the hon. the Home Member does not answer the question ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member may take time to answer. He was asked to reconsider a particular policy, and he said he would look into the matter. I think the hon. Member who put the question (Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi) was satisfied with the assurance." (Mr. Satyamurti : Oh !)

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" If he is satisfied, I am not; I wish to put the question again." (Laughter.)

(For further supplemental questions, please see the Proceedings of the 1st April, page 1023.)

Agency.

Court of the Agency Sessions Judge.

* 711 Q.—Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of suits and appeals instituted before the Agency District Court in 1923 and 1924 ;

(b) what is the court-fee paid thereon ;

(c) whether the court-fee is more than sufficient to defray the cost of the pay of the Sessions Judge and his establishment ;

(d) whether it is a fact that there are at present pending 98 original suits, 11 appeals and 35 petitions, besides sessions cases ;

(e) why provision is made for a Sessions Judge for the Agency only for five months in the budget estimate of the coming year and what the Government propose to do thereafter ; and

(f) whether the hon. Member is aware that there is a strong feeling that the Court of the Sessions Judge in the Agency should be made permanent and whether there is any proposal to move a supplemental demand so as to continue the Agency Sessions Court up to the end of the next year ?

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I gave a promise that I would answer these questions waiving the usual notice. With reference to (a), the Government have no information as regards the number of suits and appeals instituted in 1923. In 1924, 21 suits and 5 appeals have been instituted up to 24th December.

" As to (b) and (c), Government have no information. As to (d), on the 17th February 1925, the Agency Additional Sessions Judge reported that there were then pending on his file 98 original suits, 10 appeals and 30 petitions. As to (e) and (f), the Agency Additional Sessions Judge originally asked for extension of the court only up to 31st July 1925 and provision was made accordingly. The Additional Sessions Judge has now asked for the extension of the court till 31st March 1926. The Government have referred this to the hon. the Judges of the High Court. If they support the proposal, this Government would address the Government of India with a view to getting the Secretary of State's sanction, and a demand for supplementary grant will be put up after the reply of the Secretary of State is received."

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Legislative.

Permanent attender for Council library.

* 712 Q.—Mr. M. RATNASWAMI : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state what action, in regard to the appointment of a permanent attendant in the Council library, has been taken since the 4th December when in answer to a supplementary question the hon. the Finance Member promised to make a note of the request for the provision of permanent library officials and servants ?

A.—The Government have examined the question and are of the opinion that there is no case for any addition to the existing staff of the Council office.

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" In view of the answer given by the Government which is not clear, may I ask if the hon. the Law Member is aware that there is at present a temporary attendant attached to the Library ? My question is not of dealing with the policy of Government but as to whether they are going to convert the temporary attendant into a permanent attendant. There is no question of making a new appointment here."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The Government are aware that there is a temporary attendant and they did not think that it was necessary at the present moment to make him a permanent officer. As they gain experience, and if there is necessity to make it permanent, Government will have no hesitation to do so."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" Is not five years sufficient to gain experience ? There is need for the appointment of an attendant."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I may say that there has not been sufficient experience : it is comparatively a new growth."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" May I ask whether those that are directly responsible for the management of the Library have been consulted before giving this answer ? May I ask, Sir, where those views of Government are endorsed by you (President) ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" What particular view did the hon. Member want me to express my opinion on ? "

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" I am asking the hon. the Law Member if his views are supported by those that are directly responsible for the management of the Library, whether they were endorsed by the President ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" So far as we are aware, they have not been controverted or dissented from by the President and I think I verified them even a minute ago."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Were the President and other officers connected with the Library consulted at all ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" All these papers came to me for disposal through the office of the hon. the President."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" May I take it that the hon. the President was satisfied with this provision for merely a temporary attendant for the Library ? "

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I may say, that I am most anxious that the convenience of hon. Members should be consulted as far as possible in this matter of the Library. The Government evidently have considered the question of providing a permanent attender and they are not prepared to make the provision just now. In all these matters of permanent appointments, Government take time. I do not wish to hustle them about it, but evidently they are prepared to consider the matter in the light of experience. I understand from the hon. the Law Member that the temporary attender will be continued until some experience is gained. I am perhaps more interested than anybody else in the House in the proper organization of the Library (hear, hear), because I was responsible for starting it, and notwithstanding my change of office, my interest in the Library has not abated. I may say I am glad to notice that increasing use is being made of the Library and I am sure Government will take note of that fact."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"May I take it that the hon. the Law Member is satisfied that the provision for a temporary assistant is very unsatisfactory?" (Laughter.)

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I prefer to answer it after consideration." (Laughter.)

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask specifically whether the view 'There is no case for any addition to the existing staff of the Council Office' is expressed in conformity with or modification of or in antagonism to your own (Mr. President's) opinion in the matter?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I said yesterday in another connexion--and a very much more important connexion--that in the matter of expenditure connected with the Council or for the Council Office, I always placed myself voluntarily in the hands of the Government. There is very little use pitting my opinion against theirs when it is a question of expenditure. In the present case I am content to wait until the Government see their way to provide what the Council wants--a permanent attendant for the Library. If hon. Members wish the matter to be expedited, they are acting very properly in expressing their opinions to that effect."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Assuming you are content to wait and assuming we are not content to wait--we have also a word in the matter--may we not suggest that you are our spokesman and you may act as our representative and tell them that we are keen on this and they should conform to our opinion?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"On behalf of the Council, I can be as hostile to them as it likes." (Laughter.)

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"Will the hon. the Law Member give us an assurance that he will pay attention to the matter as early as possible?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Yes, Sir."

Land Revenue.

Remission petitions, etc., in Tanjore district.

* 713 Q.—Mr. V. PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of kist collection to demand in the district of Tanjore—talukwar—for the month of January 1925 and the corresponding figures for the previous two years;

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(b) whether coercive processes were undertaken during the month under reference and, if so, in what taluks;

(c) whether Revenue authorities had received remission petitions from those against whom coercive proceedings were taken and, if so, the number of such petitions and the number against whom action was taken for default;

(d) whether the District Collector of Tanjore has received remission petitions from the mirasidars and, if so, their number and amount involved;

(e) whether the Government have received any recommendation for remission from the Collector of Tanjore and, if so, the amount recommended so far for each taluk;

(f) whether separate figures can be furnished regarding the total wet area either silted up or rendered uncultivable in Tanjore and Trichinopoly due to recent floods and, if so, the extent in each case;

(g) whether Government have received reports or are in a position to give information about these two districts as regards the total wet area allowed to remain fallow in the current fasli due to floods and seasonal shortcomings and, if so, the total acreage in each case;

(h) the wet area cultivated in 1923-24 and 1924-25 in the districts of Tanjore and Trichinopoly;

(i) whether the Government are in receipt of remission recommendations from the Collector of Trichinopoly and, if so, the amount thereof; and

(j) whether Government can lay on the table reports received, if any, from the Collectors of Trichinopoly and Tanjore as regards the agricultural prospects of the respective districts after the floods?

A.--(a)

				Demand.	Collection.
				RS.	RS.
January 1925	...	...	...	23,01,983	16,06,474
Do. 1924	...	...	...	23,52,218	14,88,417
Do. 1923	...	...	...	19,52,493	12,88,151

Talukwar details are not available with Government.

(b) Yes. Information as to the taluks in which such processes were taken is not available.

(c) & (d) The Revenue authorities in the Tanjore district have received many thousands of applications for remission and the inspection is not yet completed. The Collector states that no coercive processes were issued where remission applications were received.

(e) & (i) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (a) of question No. 238 asked at the meeting of the Council on the 2nd March 1925.

(f) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (f) of question No. 118 asked at the meeting held on the 5th February 1925.

(g) As regards Tanjore district, the hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (b) of question No. 484 asked at the meeting of the Council on the 18th March 1925.

Government have not the figures for Trichinopoly district.

(h)

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		Wet area cultivated in 1923-24.		Wet area cultivated in 1924-25 up to end of December 1924.	
		First crop.	Second crop.	First crop.	Second crop.
		ACS.	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Tanjore	...	762,100	53,800	719,300	52,100
Trichinopoly	...	154,400	59,200	135,800	43,500

(j) A report* for Tanjore is laid on the table. No similar report for Trichinopoly has been received.

Medical.

Liability of cart-pullers to contract phthisis.

* 714 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it was brought to the notice of the Government that rickshaw and cart-pullers are liable to contract phthisis; and

(b) whether it is not a fact that such persons are refused admission into hospitals—the disease being incurable?

A.—(a) Generally persons who do arduous labour and get low wages are liable to contract phthisis.

(b) No. Such persons are not refused admission.

Hindu Religious Endowments Act.

Commissioners of the Religious Endowments Board.

* 715 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether Commissioners in connexion with the operation of the Religious Endowments Bill have already been appointed; and if so, the names and addresses of those gentlemen?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"With reference to the main question, I saw in the papers the names of several gentlemen published. May I know whether they are likely to be appointed as commissioners? And may I also know whether there is any chance of a member of the depressed classes being appointed?" (Opposition: hear, hear.)

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Mr. President, certain papers might have published a list of possible appointments. But the appointments are still under consideration. As to the assurance which my hon. Friend for the depressed classes wanted, I am sorry I am not able to give it. The Government appointed a committee to consider the applications and recommend suitable names for appointment."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I ask the reason for the delay?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"There is no special reason for the delay. The report was submitted to the Minister only a few days ago and the matter is still pending consideration."

*Printed as Appendix I on page 1017 infra.

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I ask whether the reason for the delay was the voting on the budget?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I am not prepared to answer that question."

Education.

Jains in the Madras Educational Service.

* 716 Q.—Mr. K. RAGHUCHANDRA BALLAL: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether there are any Jains in the Madras Educational Department belonging to the following cadre:—

- Indian Educational Service,
- Provincial Educational Service, and
- Subordinate Educational Service?

A.—One officer in the Indian Educational Service; none in the other two services.

Public Works and Buildings.

Expenditure on the Willingdon House at Ootacamund.

* 717 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- the cost of maintaining the Willingdon House in Ootacamund and the annual income thereon;
- the capital invested in buildings and furniture of the house; and
- the number of people who stay in the house during the year?

A.—(a) The cost of maintaining Willingdon House per annum is roughly Rs. 17,500, and the annual income is about Rs. 19,600.

(b) The capital cost invested in buildings and furniture is Rs. 74,229.

(c) The number of people who stayed in the house during the last year was 113.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I ask the hon. the Minister, considering the purpose for which the Willingdon House is used and considering the heavy outlay on it and the interest it must carry, the reasons why they propose to keep it on?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"It is necessary in the interests of the officers who visit Ootacamund at all seasons on business."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I ask if it is part of the duties of Government to provide a house for officers going to Ootacamund, after paying them travelling allowances, and whether it is necessary to find a home for them to be maintained at the expense of the general taxpayer?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"It is in the interests of the Government to provide house accommodation for its officers who have to go there on Government business."

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Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know if accommodation would be provided for others also ? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" If there is accommodation available, it would be offered to others."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" May I know if it will not tend to decrease the efficiency of the officers if such accommodation is provided for them."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" It is presumed that their efficiency would improve if accommodation is provided." (Laughter.)

Fisheries.

Fishermen's Elementary Schools.

* 718 Q.—Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Fishermen's Elementary Schools on the East Coast transferred to the Labour Commissioner by the Fisheries Department, and the reasons why they were thus transferred;

(b) the total amount spent by the Labour Commissioner for construction of these school buildings and the total amount spent by the Commissioner up to date on these schools for their maintenance after they came into his hands;

(c) the number of pupils attending these schools;

(d) the qualifications of the teachers of these schools;

(e) whether these teachers are trained from the Fisheries Training School at Calicut;

(f) whether there is any proposal to transfer the Fisheries Training School at Calicut to the East Coast or to South Kanara;

(g) whether Government have any proposal to transfer the Fisheries Training School and all the Fisheries Elementary Schools on the West Coast to the Educational Department or to the Labour Commissioner;

(h) whether it is not a fact that there is no sufficient space in these schools on the West Coast for the pupils attending the schools and whether most of the buildings are not built of cadjans and bamboos and very rickety; and

(i) whether the Government propose to take the views of the Public Works Department or the District Educational Officer of Malabar regarding the construction of these school buildings?

A.—(a) One. Social and economic work among the fishermen does not differ from that among the depressed classes which is being carried on by the Commissioner of Labour. The Fisheries Department had no organization on the East Coast for dealing with it. The Government, therefore, considered it advantageous to transfer the work to the Labour Commissioner.

(b) No amount was spent by the Commissioner of Labour for the construction of a building for the school. The school was held in a rented building till the end of October 1924 when it was transferred to a Government building. The expenditure incurred so far on the school since it was taken over by the Labour Department is Rs. 1,048-6-0.

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(c) 31.

(d) Higher elementary trained teacher's certificate.

(e), (f) & (g) No.

(h) Accommodation is adequate in 16 out of the 31 schools which the department has now under its control. In the remaining 15, accommodation is reported to be inadequate owing to the rapid growth of the schools. Nineteen are held in substantial buildings and the remaining 12 in temporary buildings.

(i) The Public Works Department and the District Educational Officer will be consulted as and when necessity arises.

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" May I know, with reference to clause (a) of this question, why there should be a duplicate agency for this work ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" On account of the paucity of staff, it is not possible to keep a separate establishment for the institution."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" Considering the increased responsibility which has been cast upon the Fisheries department by the transfer of 113 fish-curing yards, will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to consider whether the educational activities for the benefit of the fishermen could not be transferred to the Education department or to the Commissioner of Labour ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" I shall consider the suggestion."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" With reference to (d), may I know why it is that the teachers appointed in the East Coast Fishermen's school have not been sent up to the Fisheries Training School to qualify themselves in socio economics, fishery technics, zoology, botany with special reference to marine forms, fishing methods and navigation ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" That would depend upon the answer given previously. It cannot be taken into consideration along with the previous question."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" With reference to the answer to clause (i), may I know from the hon. the Minister for Development whether no necessity has arisen so far for him to consult the Public Works Department regarding the construction of fishermen's schools ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" It is so."

Industries.

The State Aid to Industries Act.

* 719 Q.—MR. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the amount distributed during 1924-25 under the State Aid to Industries Act;

(b) the persons or companies to whom aid has been given and how much to each;

(c) the amount available for distribution during 1925-26;

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(d) how many applications are pending—

(1) from individual persons,

(2) from companies, and

(3) from industrial co-operative societies; and the amount applied for in each of the applications; and

(e) whether any preference is given to class (3) in clause (d)?

A.—(a) Rs. 4,50,000 up to date.

(b) (i) Rs. 50,000 to Messrs. Muppanna Somaraju and Veerraju, Manufacturers of Silk goods, Peddapuram, Godavari district.

(ii) Rs. 4,00,000 to the Carnatic Paper Mills, Ltd., Kilpauk, Madras.

(c) Rs. 4,00,000.

(d) (1) Two from individual persons for Rs. 25,000;

(2) Two from companies for Rs. 2,50,000; and

(3) Two from Industrial Co-operative Societies. One society requires a loan of Rs. 25,000 while the other requires (i) a loan of Rs. 9,500, (ii) a subsidy of Rs. 7,200, and (iii) subscription by Government of shares up to Rs. 19,200.

(e) The question has not arisen as so far funds have been available to meet all approved applications.

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"May I know from the hon. the Minister for Development whether he will be pleased to consider the claims of the fisher-folk on the West Coast for loans under the Act for the manufacture of fish-oil, fish guano, fish manure, etc.?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"If they make an application to the board, the board would consider it."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Forests.

Appointment of Forest Panchayat officer.

720 Q.—Mr. M. RATNASWAMI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Forest Panchayat officer is not a Forest officer but a Deputy Collector imported from the Revenue Department;

(b) if that is so why a Forest officer familiar with forest administration should not be appointed; and

(c) whether the hon. Member will be pleased to consider the advisability of appointing a Forest officer to this office?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The reorganization and expansion of the Forest panchayat is now under the consideration of the Government. The question of appointing a Forest officer will be considered.

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Police.

Alleged arrest of a minor girl at Polavaram.

721 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a minor girl of 14 was arrested and treated high-handedly by the Government officers of Polavaram Agency; and

(b) what action the Government have taken against its officers; whether the Government have called for their explanation and with what result?

A.—The Government have perused the paragraph in "Swarajya" dated 16th September 1924. They have no further information and propose to make no inquiries as there is no reason to suppose that there was any high-handed and illegal action on the part of the officials.

Police officials in the Nilgiris.

722 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the area under the jurisdiction of District Superintendent of Police of the Nilgiri district; and

(b) the average monthly travelling allowances drawn by the Prosecuting Sub-Inspector and other police officials except police constables and head constables of Ootacamund?

A.—(a) Nine hundred and eighty-two square miles.

(b) The Government have no information.

Marine.

Appointments of Port Health Officers.

723 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the number of appointments of Port Health Officers in the West Coast ports and other districts has recently been reduced; if not, whether there is any necessity for the existing number of appointments; and

(b) whether it is a fact that in Mangalore, Malpe, Kundapur and Hangarakotta vessels, whether steam or native crafts, coming from infected areas are invariably inspected by Port Health Officers, whereas in the ports of Malabar, such as Azikal, Cannanore and Tellicherry, such vessels are not inspected by the Port Health Officers on the assurance given by the masters of vessels to port conservators that all are healthy on board?

A.—(a) The appointments of Port Health or Assistant Port Health Officers at the ports of Malpe, Hangarakotta, Gangolli, Calicut and Cochin were abolished with effect from the 15th September 1924.

(b) The Government have no information. The rules require an inspection to be made only if the master of a vessel does not intimate that the vessel is 'healthy'.

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Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Local Fund Engineers and Government Memorandum No. 8332, L. & M., dated 1st April 1924.

724 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. M. M. MURUGAPPA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the rank of Local Fund Engineers in the statement Ref. Government Memorandum No. 8332, L. & M., dated 1st April 1924, has been arranged according to the date of their first entry into Government service and not according to the date of promotion to the respective grades; and

(b) whether the hon. the Minister will be pleased to reconsider it in view of the fact that men who were high up in the old arrangement have gone down in the new?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The Government do not consider it necessary to revise the list.

Medical.

Lepers, etc., at Mangalore.

725 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased (a) to place before the House the information regarding question No. 330 (XVI, page 371) as to the extent of the nuisance from persons suffering from leprosy, syphilis, etc., at Mangalore, and (b) to state—

(i) the steps taken and contemplated to abate the nuisance;

(ii) whether it is a fact that some of these lepers have immigrated from Malabar by railway; and

(iii) the steps taken to stop such immigration?

A.—(a) The Government have received a report on the subject from the Chairman, Municipal Council, Mangalore. The Chairman states that the number of lepers prowling about the streets of Mangalore is on the increase and that it is a serious menace to the public health of the town. He adds that the town is full of beggars from Malabar among whom some are lepers. The accommodation in the local Mission Leper Asylum is reported to be limited.

(b) (i) Until the Lepers Act is applied to this Presidency it is not possible to take any effective steps in the matter. The application of the Act awaits the completion of the new Leper Settlement at Chingleput.

(ii) Please see the answer to clause (a).

(iii) Rules have been framed under sections 47 (1) (d) and 71 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, for the control of the travelling of lepers by rail. These rules give ample power to the railway authorities to prevent pauper lepers from travelling by railway. The difficulty in the enforcement of these provisions, save in the case of lepers in the most

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advanced stage of the disease, lies in the identification of the disease by the persons who are in a position to enforce them. In order that the rules may be more widely known and more effectively applied, the Government issued a press communiqué in July 1921 explaining the rules and inviting the co-operation of the public with the railway and other staffs in the strict enforcement of the provisions.

Town-planning.

Town-planning Schemes.

726 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the number of town-planning schemes in the city of Madras and also outside the limits of the city;

(b) the number of schemes sanctioned up to date;

(c) the number of schemes awaiting sanction of the Government; and

(d) the extent of private lands proposed to be developed by the private owners in the proposed schemes?

A.—A statement^a furnishing the information called for so far as it is available is laid on the table.

Industries.

Resources and facilities for industrial progress.

727 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to refer to the lectures recently delivered on 'Economic Resources of the Madras Presidency' by Mr. K. C. Ramakrishnan, University Reader in Economics, and to the Industrial Handbook, published by the Indian Munition Board at Calcutta in 1919 and to state—

(a) whether Government contemplate publishing a handbook in order to enlighten the public on the resources and facilities for industrial progress in this Presidency;

(b) whether Government have been approached by any publisher for aid and patronage for publishing such a handbook; and

(c) what other measures Government propose to take to give publicity to the industrial resources and facilities in this Presidency?

A.—(a) & (c) A publication giving a popular account of the activities of the Department of Industries and the facilities available for industrial development will be published shortly. The results of the investigations conducted by the department into the possibilities of starting particular industries will, as and when they are completed, continue to be published in the form of bulletins.

(b) The Government have been approached by a member of the staff of the Engineering College, Guindy, asking for help for the republication of his book entitled "Industrial Possibilities of India."

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[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II

MEMBERS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO CORRESPOND TO THE STRENGTH OF THE RESPECTIVE PARTIES IN THE HOUSE.

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, some time ago, on a statement made by the Deputy Leader of my party, that in the constitution of select committees the rule should be as far as possible to make the number of members on select committees correspond to the strength of the respective parties in this House, a discussion arose as to the parties to which the various hon. Members of this House belonged. Then I think it was agreed by all sides of the House that the members of select committees should correspond roughly to the strength of the parties in this House."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I should like to make sure of the reference before I deal with it. I do not have it before me at this moment, but I can have it in a minute. What happened then was, I believe, that the hon. Member who was in charge of a particular select committee, the hon. the Law Member, said that he had consulted the representatives of the different parties before making a certain proposal as to the composition of a select committee. For my own part, I said that it had not been made a part of the duty of the President to see that the select committees were so composed as to represent all parties. I had expressed, I do not know in what connection, the view that it was desirable that select committees should be so constituted. I think that until the matter is formally taken up in a Standing Order we should leave it to the discretion and the good sense of Members moving for the creation of select committees subject of course to the expressed wishes of hon. Members of this House as to how such committees should be constituted."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am much obliged to you for the statement you made. I think you are right in describing what really happened. I am not relying on any Standing Order for, if it were so, I would have raised a point of order. Yesterday the hon. the Finance Member announced the composition of a select committee of 12 members which included only one member from our party and when another hon. Member's name was suggested by an hon. Member present here, he thought the committee was already too many. I do not think he was right in constituting the select committee without making it as representative of all sides of the House as possible. He ought to have provided for at least three hon. Members from my party. Sir, on the previous occasion you may remember that you asked us to give a list of our members and our Secretary has handed over the list to you. I do not know if the other side has handed you a list of the names of the Members of that party. I should like you to satisfy yourself as to who are Ministerialists, apart from the accident of their sitting on the other side. These are the two points which I wish to raise this morning for your consideration."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"In this connection I would like to say one word, Mr. President, and that is this: in asking that the select committees should reflect the relative strength of the parties in this House as nearly as possible we are not merely asking for something which is equitable, but something which is considered to be aright. We shall either have select committees or not have select committees at all and proceed to discuss the

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measure in open Council instead of referring it to a select committee. The select committee is thus something which is intended to save the whole House from sitting and discussing the measure. Therefore it obviously follows that it should be so composed as to reflect the relative strength of the different parties in the House; otherwise the majority may stifle the minority (Mr. S. Satyamurti: hear, hear) and this cannot happen if the measure instead of being sent to the select committee is taken up by this House itself for consideration. Sir, I remember on the previous occasion when this subject was raised by me you were good enough to say—I am not misinterpreting you—that you conceded the desirability of accepting my view. Since this is a matter of the rights of the minorities and what I consider to be one of the essential features of legislative procedure, we want you to go further than you did this morning and take it upon yourself to see as the President of this House that the select committees are so composed as to give every one of the parties their due share in the deliberations. For this reason, as you asked us, you may ask the other parties also to give you a list of their members which would of course clarify the situation. I am simply submitting that we have a right to claim this at your hands."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, with reference to the question respecting the keeping of a record of the various hon. Members who belong specifically and avowedly to particular parties, that is a matter which is vested solely in you and I do not propose to make any remarks on the matter at all. I take it that this is a matter into which you will look."

"With regard to the other question, Sir, may I, as one who for the time being has the honour to be the Official Leader of this House, say that the best plan would be to have a conference of the hon. the Leader of the Ministerial Party the Raja of Panagal, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, yourself, Sir and myself so that we might arrive at an agreement on this matter. If you would permit me to say so, this is not strictly a matter, I think, for a Standing Order. It is a matter for convention which may be established in some such manner as I have indicated. That would be a way out of this difficulty. If, as I have pointed out, we arrive at a series of effective conclusions on that matter, hon. Members, whether on the Government side or otherwise, who move for the appointment of select committee will no doubt bear these principles in mind."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know how that will apply to the present case?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"The select committee in question has already been constituted. It was constituted, without any reference to the parties to which the members belonged, of members likely, from a business point of view, or on account of their local connexions, to be interested in the measure."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"May I with due submission inform the hon. the Finance Member that it is not only on questions of party interest that we claim this kind of equitable representation, but on all legislative matters? Whether the Bill is a party Bill or a non-party Bill this House

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still has jurisdiction. We want to have our share in the deliberations. If my hon. Friend does not think it too late I would urge upon him to be so good as to revise that list at least in the sense of adding a few members from our side to it.

"I wish also to say that we can agree to the course suggested by the hon. the Leader of the House, provided that we keep in mind the principles that we have been urging. In this connexion I may draw your attention to the correspondence that passed between us on this subject which may also be submitted to this informal committee."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"In connexion with the select committees I myself once brought an amendment to the effect that select committees should not consist of more than 15 members except when otherwise directed by the House and that amendment of mine has been referred to a select committee."

"Now, so far as the Cochin Port Trust Bill is concerned, I have a good deal of interest in it, because I represent a large number of constituents from that side, especially Cochin. As a matter of fact I wanted to say a good deal on the Bill yesterday, but unfortunately we were prevented from doing so on account of a constitutional impasse to which we were driven yesterday. It is not a question of mere personal interest. My constituency is interested in the Bill. When my name was suggested for membership on the select committee, it was refused on the ground that the number was already large. The reason given does not appear to be a happy one, seeing that the select committee consists of only 11 or 12 members. In the interests of the people of Cochin who are deeply interested in the Bill and whom I represent in this House the suggestion made to include my name also in the list of members of the select committee might have been considered. As I stated already a rule or standing order should be made not merely a convention with the consent of the House in regard to the composition, etc., of select committees."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I am sure the hon. the Leader of the Opposition who will be on the committee which the hon. the Leader of the House has proposed will be glad to receive either from the hon. Member from South Kanara or from any other adherent of his party their suggestions in this matter. It is not a personal question, and, of course, having regard to what has already been done, I do not think it is necessary to proceed with this matter further."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"May I ask the hon. the Finance Member whether he proposes to meet us in the matter of the select committee appointed for the Cochin Port Trust Bill or not?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I had no such idea."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Well, then we shall have to ask our party member to resign his seat on the select committee."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I appeal to the hon. the Leader of the House to start by persuading his hon. Colleague?"

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think we have arrived at an understanding in this matter. The hon. the Law Member has proposed that a committee should consider this question. As regards the personal or individual matter, the hon. the Finance Member has expressed his view."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"May I remind you—I hope the hon. the Law Member will correct me if I am wrong—that the select committee on the Irrigation Bill was enlarged after the original panel was passed by this House?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"That is a legal possibility."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Since the moral justification of our demand has been acceded and since there is the legal possibility also, I ask, Sir, whether it is fair on the part of the hon. the Finance Member to give a blank and a negative reply when we courteously ask for a legitimate accommodation in this matter."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"May I appeal to my hon. Friend to leave the matter there? The hon. the Finance Member has no doubt heard the opinions expressed on the floor of the House and he will consider the matter; if he can possibly comply with the wishes of hon. Members I have no doubt he will do so."

III

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL TO WRITE OFF THE LOANS GIVEN TO PLANTERS AND PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO PULLENGODE RUBBER ESTATE.

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"Under Standing Order No. 20, I beg to move the adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the proposal to write off the loans given to the planters and the payment of Rs. 41,000 as compensation to the Pullengode Rubber Estate in Malabar."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Sir, the subject is one which had been apportioned to my hon. Colleague, the late Home Member. We are somewhat at a disadvantage because none of us was aware of the exact terms of the motion or of the likelihood of its being moved to-day. The 'Malabar affairs' was a special portfolio and it has been abolished as such since yesterday and therefore the subject would have to be dealt with either by the hon. the Revenue Member or the Finance Member or by myself according as the subject refers to one or other of the portfolios which we have the honour to hold. May I therefore suggest that this matter may come up to-morrow?"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Since the 'Malabar affairs' is not a special portfolio, will there be no special police force there?"

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"Personally I have no objection to put off this motion till even the next session. But the point is this: the Government are likely to proceed with their proposal of writing off the loans and of giving compensation to the Rubber Company. If the Government will not give effect to their proposal, I have no objection to postpone the motion till August next."

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* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" If my recollection is right the Government have already given effect to their proposal in the sense of the House having given its vote on this proposal. The House has approved of the provision in the budget for this item. Therefore it will normally be given effect to. I do not think it is necessary to postpone discussion on this matter till the next session. If it is once conceded that it can be discussed at the next session, then it is not a matter of urgent importance so as to move for the adjournment of the House. The remarks that have fallen from my hon. Friend will be borne in mind by the hon. the President when he gives his decision on this matter. But that apart, if the question is to be raised at some time or other, we are prepared if it be raised to-morrow. By saying that, I do not for a moment concede either that the motion is in order or that this motion in the form in which it is couched can be moved at the present moment or at all."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, I ought not to mention this, for 'once bitten, twice shy.' All the same, I may mention that we wish, subject to our party agreeing to it, to ask the House for leave to move the adjournment of the House to-morrow to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the proposal of the Local Government and the Government of India to hand over our District Board Railways to the Railway Board. That is an important matter. The Tanjore District Board is nervous about it. We are very anxious about the matter and I may mention to-day that we are likely to ask for leave to adjourn the business of the House to-morrow. Trying to read between the lines of the speech of the hon. the Law Member, I think that it is much better to dispose of this motion to-day, so that we can proceed with the other motion to-morrow."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Members may change places as regards the time to move the adjournment motion. The hon. Member Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan may move his motion to-morrow."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I have no objection, if my hon. Friend is willing. But I do not know who is in charge of the District Board Railways."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am in charge."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" My hon. Friend is always ready."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I think, Sir, that the preliminaries may be settled to-day and you have power to fix to-morrow for the discussion of the motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. the Leader of the House said that nobody on the part of the Government was prepared to discuss the matter to-day. They have not even the necessary information."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I did not anticipate the possibility of another motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to-morrow, and that was the sole reason why I suggested to-morrow. But as I understand that there is likely to be a motion to-morrow which will occupy a considerable portion of time, I am perfectly ready to have this motion for adjournment in regard to Malabar to-day at 2-30 p.m."

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Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—" I wish to ask whether the motion for the adjournment of the House will be proper under these circumstances. This particular item formed part of the budget and for want of time we could not discuss this matter. The question is whether the House will be perfectly within its liberty to discuss such subjects as were not reached and had to be given up. If this is taken as a precedent, then it would be open for this House to discuss every item that has been discussed during the general budget session and there will be no end to such discussions. Therefore I wish to ask the hon. the Law Member whether this House would be within its liberty to take up this matter."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" All I can say is that I am indebted to my hon. Friend for the brief which he has supplied to me; I shall make use of it at the proper moment."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I take it that the hon. Member for the University will move his motion to-morrow and that Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan is pressing his motion to-day."

" Would the hon. Member kindly refer me to the motion which he proposed to move in connexion with the budget and which was not reached?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I believe what really happened was that at question time the question was raised and the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp replied. Really, question time became an arena for a fairly full discussion and there was a number of small speeches on the one side and on the other during that period."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Do the Government want to say anything about the motion being in order?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, the motion for the adjournment of the House which is now sought to be moved is this :—

' I beg to move the adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the proposal to write off the loans given to the planters and the payment of Rs. 41,000 as compensation to the Pullengode rubber estate in Malabar.'

" My submission to you, Mr. President, is that this is not a matter of urgent public importance. I take it that one of the main objects of this motion for the adjournment of the debate is to draw attention to matters which cannot be adequately or properly brought to the notice of the House otherwise on account of some events having occurred recently. What has happened in the present case is that during a long series of months the matter has been agitated and as I pointed out to you, Mr. President, this particular subject formed the topic of a series of questions and answers at question time. If I remember correctly, the question debated was not whether this particular sum ought to be written off or not but rather whether it was not right that these sums should be treated like other sums which were due and owing by other parties. The idea was also suggested that there was a kind of discrimination made between the rubber plantations and the private parties. It is therefore a proper subject for a resolution deprecating such discrimination if the hon. Members of the House think that such a discrimination ought not to be made. It

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seems to me that no event has happened of such immediate urgency to call for the adjournment of the business of the House. I submit to you, Sir, that this is not a proper subject for the adjournment of the business of the House. It is not urgent in any particular sense; and it is hardly one of imminent importance; because, if I remember right, the gist of the questions and answers referred to was not so much the rights or the wrongs of this particular estate but a much bigger question which cannot be properly raised on this debate. If the idea of the hon. Member is that there ought to be no discrimination between party and party who have suffered in the Malabar rebellion, that is again not a matter of urgent public importance. On these grounds, Sir, I submit to you that this is not a matter suitable for discussion on the present occasion."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, the hon. the Law Member has stated that the question is firstly whether it is a matter of urgency and secondly whether it is a matter of public importance. I shall take the second point first, namely, whether the matter is one of public importance. My hon. Friend himself has admitted and it is also abundantly clear from the questions and the answers referred to that a discrimination has been made by the Government in respect of payment of compensation to individuals and rubber companies. Government have decided not to pay compensation to private individuals on the plea that according to law they are not bound to pay compensation."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, speaking on the spur of the moment—my hon. Friend may correct me if I am wrong—the only case of withholding private relief was one pertaining to the Rani whose case was brought to the notice of the Government by the hon. Member for Malabar. I am not aware, Sir—it may be that by looking into the papers I may make myself cognizant of such cases—I am not aware of any other case of private parties where an answer of that kind was given."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The question and answer no doubt refers to the particular Rani, the proprietor of Nelliylam estate. But we, coming from Malabar, remember that in answer to a supplemental question the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp said that under legal advice they were not bound to pay compensation to anybody. My hon. Friend the Law Member may remember that I specifically pointed out that compensation had been paid to certain Government officials. In reply, Sir Arthur Knapp said that there was a certain relationship between the Government and their officials and reiterated the proposition that in law they were not bound to pay compensation to any private individual who suffered from the Mappilla rebellion. Government have made a discrimination in respect of the rubber companies and private individuals."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Sir, are we debating the merits of the question or only the point of order?"

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am giving these facts in answer to the question put by the hon. the Law Member. I am confining myself exclusively to the point of order. As a matter of fact they have made a discrimination between the rubber companies and private individuals."

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* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The hon. Member who was on his legs must make himself responsible for the statement that discrimination was made between private individuals and rubber companies; because I think it was pointed out that no such discrimination was made. Nobody is entitled under law to relief. But a number of private individuals had compensation to the extent of Rs. 4,11,000."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I make myself fully responsible for the statement."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not think we can profitably continue this discussion any longer. It appears to me that it is open to any hon. Member of the House to bring forward a motion if he has reason to think that it is a matter of urgent public importance. My recollection is that when questions were put in this Council and answered at great length by Sir Arthur Knapp, it did occur to me that the questions were being answered at unnecessary length as questions, but I remember saying at the time that the discussion had reached the limits of an adjournment debate. The matter was provided for in the budget and the Government have been granted a certain sum of money on this account. So far as I am concerned, the point regarding the urgency of the matter is sufficiently disposed of by the consideration that the budget having been passed the payment may be made at any time. It is probably the wish of the hon. Members who advocate this motion for adjournment that if a particular payment could be arrested by the opinion of this House it would probably serve their purpose in getting a favourable decision of the Government as regards other cases in which they are interested. So far as I am concerned, the motion is in order. I am aware of the very great inconvenience to which the Government are subjecting themselves in this particular matter. The hon. the Law Member is specially at a disadvantage. However if any arrangement can be made in order to accommodate the Government I have no doubt that the hon. Member who wishes to move the adjournment will make himself agreeable to the arrangement. The statement is that under Standing Order No. 20 the hon. Member for Malabar, Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan, wishes to move the adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the proposal to write off loans given to planters and the payment of Rs. 41,000 as compensation to the Pullengode Rubber Estate in Malabar. I wish to know if the hon. Member has the leave of the House."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"It is not objected to, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Since no objection is taken I have to intimate that the motion will be taken up for debate. I shall leave it to the Government to say whether it shall be to-day or to-morrow."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I think we might as well dispose of it to-day at 2-30 p.m."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The motion will be taken up at 2-30 p.m. to-day."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Sir, as there has been a tendency recently to curtail our liberty to put supplemental questions I wish to raise a few points for your ruling whether we may put a set of questions as supplemental questions."

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* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"What is the exact topic under discussion, Sir?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member (Mr. Saldanha) should have raised this point just after question time was over."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I want to raise this point whether we may put a set of questions as supplemental questions. The ruling may be given to-day or to-morrow."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member will be perfectly at liberty to raise his question after question time to-morrow. I shall remember this matter and call upon him. It is against our practice to take up such matters except immediately after question time. We have passed question time and have considered a motion for the adjournment of the House and we cannot go back to questions."

IV

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

The Secretary laid on the table proceedings^a of the nineteenth meeting of the Finance Committee for 1924-25 held on Thursday, the 19th March 1925.

Non-Official Business.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"We have now to take up non-official business. Before transacting the non-official business which has been ballotted for recently the hon. Member, Mr. Koti Reddi, is entitled to have his motion discussed which was ordered to be adjourned for the next day available for such business. It is independent of the ballot and it has got to come first."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"The motion was formally moved and seconded; but I made no speech on it. I crave your permission to say a few words on the motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Did the hon. Member not speak at all in moving his motion?"

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"I did not say a word beyond moving my motion."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Should not Bills be taken first?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"No. The Bills as well as other business are a consequence of the ballot. This is independent of the ballot and the House has ordered that this business should be taken upon the next day available for non-official business."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Should not Bills about which the report of the select committee is to be presented be taken first?"

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Sir, I have got the permission of the hon. Member, Mr. Koti Reddi, and I accordingly move

that the consideration of this resolution be postponed till after the Bills' items 1 to 4 on the agenda to-day are disposed of.

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"I second it."

The motion was put and carried; and the discussion of the resolution was accordingly postponed.

^a Printed as Appendix III on pages 1020-21 infra.

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V

THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"I beg to present the report^a of the Select Committee appointed to consider a Bill further to amend the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, and move that the Bill as recommended by the Committee be taken into consideration."

12 noon. Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I beg to second it."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"I beg to move that the Bill be passed into law. In doing so, I must express my thanks to the hon. the Raja of Panagal who has helped me in getting this Bill passed."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I beg to second it."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

VI

THE PRESIDENT'S SALARY ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1924.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Mr. President, Sir, . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member will have to make a speech only if the motion for leave to introduce the Bill is opposed. So I have to ask the House whether anybody opposes the motion for leave to introduce the Bill."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I oppose it."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I am surprised. I heard from the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp when he was the Leader of the House that the Government would not oppose this Bill. I am quite content to take the statement of the hon. the Law Member, the present Leader of the House, that he is going to oppose it. I am sorry that a Bill of this kind which has been accepted by the Legislative Assembly and unanimously passed by almost every other Provincial Council should be opposed by the hon. the Leader of the House."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I do not know on what grounds the Leader of the House is going to oppose it. I take it that he is going to oppose it simply for the purpose of bringing forward certain formal issues before the House."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I may at once say that with regard to the principles underlying this Bill there will not be much difference of opinion. But there are certain aspects of the question which I wish to bring forward before the House, and the only procedure of bringing forward those aspects is by saying that I do not agree to the introduction of this Bill. Because I say that I do not agree to the introduction of this Bill, I should not be understood that I am opposed to the principles of this Bill."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I am much obliged to the hon. the Law Member, the Leader of the House, for his statement that his opposition is merely of a formal and technical nature."

^a Printed as Appendix IV on page 1021-1022 infra.

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"Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce the President's Salary (Amendment) Bill which reads thus:—

'Whereas it is necessary and expedient to amend the Act to determine the salary of the President of the Legislative Council: It is hereby enacted as follows:—

(1) This Act may be called "The President's Salary Act Amendment Act, 1925."

(2) A new clause numbered 3 shall be added to the Act:— "The elected President of the Madras Legislative Council shall be a whole-time officer and shall not engage himself in any remunerative work."

Statement of Objects and Reasons.

'It is necessary that the elected President of the Madras Legislative Council should be a whole-time officer and should not engage himself in any other remunerative work of any other kind. Moreover, this should be provided for statutorily. Hence this Bill.'

"Sir, I think the Bill explains itself. I may inform the House that the Assembly and almost every other provincial Council who have considered this matter have passed a resolution on these lines. I may say that this Bill is based on the analogy of the Mother of Parliaments, where the Speaker is a whole-time officer and is not to be engaged in any other occupation. If I may refer to a conversation which I had the privilege of having with you, Sir, Mr. President, you quite appreciated the spirit underlying this Bill. The only thing you suggested to me was—I think I quite agree with you—that the provisions of this legislation should not apply to you, lest it should seem that we are compelling the Chair against its will by means of this legislation. You were good enough to make a statement that you would carry out our wishes, provided we maintained the dignity of the high office which you occupy. I may say that we should be consulting the dignity of your office, if we provide that the provisions of this legislation shall not apply to you. But it is our wish that your successors should be statutorily prohibited from engaging themselves in any other occupation. Both yourself and Sir Arthur Knapp mentioned that provision must be made in the Bill for pension being granted to the occupant of your office when he retires, and that if a Bill of this kind were to be introduced it would raise large issues. I am myself personally looking forward to that time when we shall be able to introduce such a measure providing for pension being granted to persons who retire from that high office. I may say that I tried my humble best in the last election to see that a candidate was unanimously elected to the Chair, and I do hope that before long all the parties in this House will keep this question of election of the President above all party squabbles and try to elect one unanimously. I do not know if the House has got any other important function in the highest parliamentary sense, than making your office uncontested by means of ordinary election tactics. I hope that before the next election to the Chair comes on we shall be able to put forward you or somebody else practically unanimously. I hope it will happen and the consequence will also happen, namely, that so long as the occupant of that high office continues to command our confidence, he will be there until he leaves the office himself, in which case a pension shall be provided for him; and it will be more or less an unwritten law that whoever occupies your office shall not go back to any other occupation. But

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I would say this, namely, that we must then provide for some decent pension so that he may keep himself above wants, when he is no longer in office. The moment this is achieved, if I am so fortunate enough to take this Bill to the select committee, I am sure they will consider this and other allied matters. I sent a copy of the Bill to the hon. the Chief Minister and his party and I do hope that he and his party will keep an absolute and open mind on the matter and will give their unanimous support to the passing of this Bill. I would only conclude by saying that if this House were to pass this Bill it would put itself in a line with other legislative assemblies in having kept the high office of Presidentship above any cavil whatever."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"When I spoke during the commencement of the debate I indicated my view that the question is by no means a simple one. Let us in the first place remember what has been done in other legislative bodies in this country. In Bombay a measure designed more or less on the lines of the present Bill was not pushed forward and I believe was either withdrawn by leave or at all events there was no final voting on the merits of the proposition. In the Legislative Assembly some aspects to which attention has been drawn by the hon. Member who has spoken were adverted to and I think the salary of Rs. 4,000 was the resultant of many forces and many ideals. In discussing the whole of this question let us remember exactly the ideals underlying the office of the Speaker in the Mother of Parliaments. The Speaker gets his salary of £5,000 free from all deductions and taxes. He is an official having residence in Westminster Palace. His salary continues after dissolution lasting until after the election of the Speaker for the new Parliament. His salary being a charge on the consolidated funds it does not come in the Estimate. After he retires he normally gets a peerage and a pension of £4,000 a year, his official salary being £5,000 a year.

"Let us remember what the guarantees are in regard to this high office in England. In the first place it is taken for granted that whether the Speaker who is elected is one of the foremost in the House or is comparatively an untried person, the moment the choice is ratified by the will of the assembly that choice becomes practically a fixture. The Parliament may change their political complexion, parties may come into power and may go out of power, nevertheless an inflexible rule is that the President is sure of his office. That is the first point. The second point is that there are those compensations to which I adverted at an earlier period of my remarks. Thirdly it may be said there are many amenities attached to the Speaker other than those I have already referred to. Now before we lay upon any Speaker or President of an Assembly the disability in regard to pursuing other means of enhancing his remuneration—for instance by way of examinership in Universities and other pursuits of a like nature—before we make up our minds to inhibit him from having these avocations we must guarantee the Speaker his place, and the security of tenure of his office, to which I have already alluded. In the second place we must make it clear that when he gives up his office he is sure of getting something like a pension. It is because I feel that, while no party in this House can object to the fact that the Speaker or the President should be solely and exclusively a servant and an official of this House and be independent and regardless of any other quarter from which influence or remuneration might spring or arise, you

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cannot exact those conditions here unless you remove from the arena of possibilities all the difficulties to which I have adverted, that I said I was opposed to this course being adopted.

12-15 p.m. "I take it that my hon. Friend, while he is particular that it should be laid down that the President should be a whole-time officer and should not engage himself in any other remunerative work of other kind and that this matter should be provided for separately, is also agreeable to the suggestion to discuss the question whether a convention can be established or a rule laid down with regard to the mode of choice of the President and even if an agreement is not possible to be arrived at, on the question of the mode of choice, whether a pension or any other advantage of that kind ought not to make the President free from all the anxieties and troubles appurtenant to accepting office under the conditions such as are laid down here. I doubt whether without coming to a unanimous agreement on this question it is well to go forward with a measure of this kind. May I suggest, Sir, if a committee of this House adequately representing all the parties in the House, a committee of fifteen hon. Members—I am of course aware of the remarks and strictures that have emanated from my hon. Friend, Mr. Saldanha—be appointed to consider the question, the safeguards that may be imposed and the conditions that may be exacted from the holder of this office? If that committee report and that report is more or less unanimous this matter may go in as a non-contentious measure. I am anxious and eager that a Bill of this kind should go as a practically unanimous non-contentious measure. I believe it is possible to secure unanimity because the ideals which animate every one of us are exactly those which animate the hon. Member for the University. May I suggest, therefore, that this matter may be adjourned until the next session? I promise, Sir, before this House disperses to constitute and announce the personnel of a committee for the purpose of considering the whole position of the President, his salary and his pension. The committee will have practically to do the work of a select committee with the additional advantage that we will be able to come to this House with an agreed Bill, so to say, so that there will be no change made by this House in the Bill itself. May I therefore appeal to my hon. Friend, if the idea seems fair to him, to consent to the adjournment? As a matter of fact, this Bill, if allowed to be moved now, may become law only in the next session. I therefore suggest that the matter may be deferred till the next session pending the appointment of a committee such as I have indicated. That is a suggestion I am making, not because I am in antagonism or against the principles of the Bill but because I think everything is to be gained and nothing to be lost by having a certain set of principles more or less agreed to by all sides of the House."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"If I may add my own voice in the matter, it will only be to say this, first, to confirm what was said by the hon. Member for the University when he asked for leave to introduce the Bill, namely, that I have absolutely no intention of departing from the wishes of the House in this or in any other matter affecting the President. I have no kind of remunerative work in prospect and I am glad that the hon. Member has absolved me from making any further remarks by not desiring to apply the Bill to me. I only wish to add this one word, in order that the

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decision of the House may be unanimous. I wish it to be understood that I do not wish to be in any kind of relationship either to the advantages or the disadvantages which the House may wish to impose on the office of President. I mean to say, I am quite willing that whatever advantages may accrue newly in the shape of salary or pension or anything else, should apply to my successors and not to me in the same way as I desire that no fresh restrictions should be imposed on me. It seems to me that it is only on that condition that I could participate in a discussion on this matter, that is, by withdrawing myself altogether from any possible benefits just as I believe I ought to be withdrawn from the possible disadvantages of a Bill of this kind. The hon. the Law Member has undertaken to represent the views of the Government and the hon. the Member for the University has not said anything which in my opinion goes against my personal wishes or views on this question."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I cordially agree with the hon. the Law Member, and may I appeal to him to meet me to this extent that leave may be given for me to introduce this Bill? The Bill will then be published and I shall not be here the next session, which I understand is to commence in August. There is plenty of time to constitute a committee and have their report. Probably the select committee that may be appointed may make the necessary amendments submitted for their consideration and bring an agreed Bill. I only want to see that one stage of the Bill is reached. After all it does not commit either side to any definite course. While I cordially agree with the hon. the Law Member that we should establish a convention, that we ought to discuss the question of providing some compensation for the difficulties of your high office, I only wish that a discussion of that kind should take place. But on that account the leave need not be withheld."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I appreciate what has fallen from the hon. Member for the University. But the idea that was at the back of my mind was that a Bill should be brought forward embodying all that can be agreed to regard to this matter, embodying the guarantees and the conditions which I was indicating. It seems to me that nothing will be lost if my hon. Friend will consent to the adjournment till August. I do not want that the hon. Member should withdraw this measure. Only let it be adjourned. If we arrive at some unanimity, if as I fervently hope all of us are agreed on these guarantees and it comes forth as an agreed Bill from all parts of the House, we shall go on with it. If, unfortunately,—I do not wish it, I shall try to avoid it by all means within my power—there is no such agreement possible, my hon. Friend the Member for the University can go on with his Bill. I do not want to say that this Bill should not be on the tapis. Let it be adjourned till August. In the meantime let us all try and see if a series of propositions to which all of us could give our whole-hearted adherence could not be evolved. If we evolve such a set of provisions, the Bill may be brought forward and discussed. It was in that light, and because I was anxious that there must not be a series of amendments to the proposed piece of legislation, that it should be a Bill promulgated with the co-operation of all parties that I sought to make the suggestion."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, Sir, with your permission, I move for the postponement of the consideration of this Bill till the August sitting of this Council."