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Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" I second it."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I say one word, Sir? I do not want it to be on the record that I was opposed to this adjournment. This is a matter on which all of us are agreed and I am agreeable to the conditions suggested by the hon. the Law Member."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question before the House is that the item of business be adjourned until the next day appointed for business of this kind in the next session. I believe it will then come on independently of the ballot."

The motion for adjournment of the Bill was put and carried.

VII

THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1919.

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras City Municipal Act (Amendment) Bill, 1919."

No objection having been taken, leave was declared to have been granted to the hon. Member.

VIII

THE MADRAS LOCAL BOARDS ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras Local Board's Act (Amendment) Bill."

No objection having been taken, leave was declared to have been granted to the hon. Member.

IX

MOTION ON A MATTER OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC SERVICE AMONG SUBORDINATE OFFICIALS.

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" Mr. President, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on my resolution. My resolution is in the following terms :—

'That this Council recommends to the Government to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials to enquire into and suggest measures to put an end to the existence of corruption amongst the subordinate Government officials.'

" Sir, in moving this resolution it is not my desire to depreciate to the slightest extent the valuable services that are rendered to the State by the loyal and devoted, and I may also say, mostly honest subordinate officials of the Government. But, Sir, I am very jealous that our public services, superior and subordinate should like Cæsar's wife be above reproach. And feeling as I do that our public services, at any rate the subordinate services, at least in the parts with which I am familiar, namely, the Ceded districts, are not what they should be, I am compelled by a sense of duty to my electorate and the country at large to move this resolution.

" Sir, I have been put several questions after I had given notice of the resolution, whether it would be possible to put an end to corruption, whether I am not endangering my chances of election next time by losing the support of the subordinates of Government. I shall briefly answer them before I go to the subject. As for the danger of my losing the support at the next election, I should say, Sir, that I feel so strongly that I am prepared

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to take the risk. I must say, Sir, at this stage that all my observations on this resolution are confined to my experience in the districts with which I am acquainted, namely, the Ceded districts and a part of Chittoor, and the information which I have gathered from the experience of others in those districts.

" Having made these preliminary observations, let me enter into the subject of the resolution. The first question that arises is whether there is corruption in the subordinate services. I believe, Sir, that there is not one hon. Member in this House who can honestly say if he has any experience of the services in the mufassal that there is no corruption at all in the subordinate services. The question whether corruption exists need not at all be discussed. We have only to discuss to what extent it exists and the remedies to prevent it. This is the question that I propose to address myself now within the short time that is available to me.

" First taking the service of which I am very fond to refer, I mean the Police, I must say that, so far as that department is concerned, my experience is rather very unfortunate. It is not possible, Sir, to have a correct computation or arrive at accurate statistics. I have however arrived at certain averages. And I may say, from the impression that I have formed, that of the sub-inspectors of police not less than 30 or 40 per cent are corrupt.

" And with regard to circle inspectors, my experience is that they are more corrupt than the sub-inspectors. I do not know the reason and 12-30 p.m. I have not been able to find it out, but the fact is that these circle inspectors are more corrupt than the sub-inspectors. I may go a step further and with regard to the deputy superintendents I should say that in most cases they are not corrupt, and I think the average of corrupt men even among them would not be less than 15 per cent. I have reliable information that a few deputy superintendents are corrupt. I do not wish to go further, and in my experience of superintendents I have not come across a case where it has been brought to my notice that any superintendent is corrupt, although in my student days there was a deputy superintendent who was rumoured to be corrupt but at the same time very efficient (Laughter.) I have not got anything to say about the constables and head constables. A majority of them may be corrupt, but their complaint seems to be that they are not getting their due share of proceeds of corruption because the circle inspectors and the sub-inspectors are receiving these amounts alone.

" I then go to the magistracy. There also my experience is not happy. No doubt a large number of them are above suspicion, but still there are a number of them, I think, about 30 per cent, who are rather corrupt. That is with regard to sub-magistrates. In regard to the deputy magistrates or deputy collectors, the number of those that are corrupt is very much less than that of the sub-magistrates, but still there is quite a decent number to call for a remedy.

" In the case of the Revenue Department, there are the tahsildars and revenue inspectors; and they have got quite a decent number among them also . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Quite a decent number of corrupt men?" (Laughter.)

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* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Yes, Sir, I mean quite a decent number of officers that are corrupt. Then, with regard to the Medical department it is a department in which hon. Members will be surprised that there is corruption. But I have come across cases of medical officers who are corrupt, who give false certificates after receiving some money . . ."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"May I know whether he has come across such cases or he has not?"

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"I have come across such cases, and that was what I said. My experience with regard to this is of course limited, but I have gathered this information from a lot of people who have actually dealt with them, and especially from the villagers who have no reason to tell me lies, because they never thought that this matter would be brought up before the Council, nor do they purposely speak falsehood. . . ."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"May I also take it that his experience and statements are confined to the subordinate medical officers? I heard something to that effect from the hon. Member."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"My resolution deals only with corruption amongst the subordinate Government officials, and I am giving my experiences with regard to the subordinate services only. I may say that the Medical department is mostly free from corruption that is even among persons in charge of mufassal stations and taluk stations. On the whole the corruption is not very large; probably it is 10 or 15 per cent, though not such a negligible number.

"With regard to Forest, I need not say much. It is a well-known fact that the subordinate officers, the guards, the foresters and others are taking mamuls, though among the rangers I do not think there are many that are corrupt.

"Then, Sir, let me come to the Excise department. This is a department where the lower strata of officials get a regular sort of mamuls. The circle or sub-inspectors (I think they are called by this name in the Excise department) have got a system of regular mamuls. In most cases each shop has to pay a fixed amount for each officer."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Are these mamuls given by the people to these sub-inspectors?"

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Yes, these mamuls are taken from the man who sells arrack, the abkari renter who takes the lease and others. All these people pay regular mamuls."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Are these mamuls paid for illicit manufacture or for licit sales?"

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"If mamuls are paid or taken for illicit manufacture, it is something. But the mamuls I am talking of are in regard to the regular leases. The lessees have to pay something on getting the leases and also something regularly so that they may not trouble them often.

"Then with regard to the Income-tax Department, though it is an Imperial department, I suppose it is under the administration of the Provincial Government."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Is it under the administration of the Local Government?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"No, Sir. In regard to a greater part of the Presidency, it is not."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"If the Government has nothing to do with the Income-tax officers, I will have to leave it, because . . ."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I do not wish to interfere with the hon. Member's eloquence. I do not think it matters much if he goes ahead with it."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"With regard to the lower strata of the Income-tax Department, the income-tax accountants and clerks, a good deal of them are corrupt. I have come across the case of a man who is only paid Rs. 50 or Rs. 100, but he has to deal with the accounts of merchants; he got wonderfully rich in the course of a few years, getting about Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 30,000. Recently I have come across a case in which a revenue inspector received some money by representing that he would recommend some persons to the Income-tax officer.

"Then, Sir, with regard to Registration, it was once my privilege, I suppose, in this Council to complain about the Registration officers, especially the lower strata, that is the sub-registrars, and some registrars also. And I do believe something has been done in this connexion by the very able and energetic manner in which the present Inspector-General of Registration has worked in putting down this corruption. But I must say it is not altogether put down, and there are still, a number of cases of corruption going on.

"Then, with regard to the Public Works Department and Irrigation, though I am not much acquainted with Irrigation officers because we have very little to do with irrigation in our parts, still there is trouble with regard to the overseers and others in charge of locks. They do not open the locks, and do not give water to the ryots unless they are paid something and the villagers have to collect at the rate of so much per acre in order to pay these people. I think my other hon. Friends would deal with this branch and give out their experiences. But in regard to these overseers, and to a certain extent engineers also, I do think that the amount of corruption that exists among them is really appalling . . ."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I take it that it is a very unhappy experience which my hon. Friend from Cuddapah seems to have undergone and is explaining to us. After hearing all the woes he has been mentioning, it seems to me that it is really an unbearable life that he is leading. So far as the Public Works officers, especially the overseers are concerned, he speaks of overseers and even engineers, and I do not know if he includes Executive Engineers . . ."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I rise to a point of order, Sir? May I ask whether my hon. Friend the Minister for Education is interrupting the speech of the hon. Member from Cuddapah or for what purpose he is speaking?"

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"It is only an explanation that I was making."

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* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Sir, I confined my remarks to the Public Works overseers and the subordinate officers. I also complained of a few engineers, but I said that corruption exists mostly among the overseers. Most of the engineers are free from corruption, though there might be a few that are corrupt. But among the overseers there may be about 30 or 40 per cent that are corrupt. I know that some of them are not, but wherever I came across or heard of cases of corruption I am stating them.

"Well, Sir, there is another matter I want to touch upon. I admit that my experience has been somewhat unhappy. In regard to the boiler inspectors and inspectors of factories, there seems to be a regular mamul also. For each inspection the inspectors of steam-boilers has to be paid so much. In this connexion, I may state a little experience of mine. A few friends of mine wanted to start an engine, and in the course of the discussion they wanted to know which would be better, an oil engine or a steam engine. One man said that it would be better to have an oil engine as a steam engine is a troublesome affair, as the inspector also will have to satisfy himself as to safety, etc. The other man said that as for the boiler inspector they could give him Rs. 100 or so which is his mamul, and if that amount is paid, everything will go on all right. So, I thought there is a regular mamul in this department also. Some people had gone to the extent of suggesting to me that the accounts had better be examined; it seems that in the accounts maintained by the managers of these factories, there are entries about some mamuls like this.

"About Jails, I have got little experience. (Laughter.) I heard that among the warders and a number of people of the lower strata there is a good deal of corruption. They take some money and are able to do a good deal in the way of affording facilities.

"Then comes the Judicial Department. I am bound to say that, so far as munsifs are concerned, they are now considerably much better than what they were in the olden days, and corruption is practically non-existent among them. I only say 'practically' because in my experience of five or six years I have come across one or two cases where the munsifs were not above suspicion. But I must say they have considerably improved, and I suppose the present system of recruitment largely helped in this process. But I am bound to say that I have come across one or two cases of corrupt munsifs and a case of subordinate judge also. Then, Sir, with regard to copyists, there is a regular mamul to be paid whenever we want certain copies urgently. Then, there are the nazirs who for everything they do they want you to give a mamul.

"I have nearly exhausted all the departments. The Revenue Department I dealt with already and said that a good few of the tahsildars and revenue inspectors are corrupt. I may say just as a sort of illustration that I have come across cases of corruption in the Education Department also. (Laughter.) I may say it is the one department which I thought was above corruption but it exists even there. The officers, that is, the educational officers, are rarely corrupt, but I have come across cases of clerks who have something to do with admissions, etc., taking some money and admitting some pupils or recommending their names to the headmasters or principals. It ends there and, of course, the corruption has not touched the educational services proper, and so I leave it out of account.

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"My purpose in detailing my experiences to this House is this. Of course, the experience of other hon. Members may be different, and my experience may really be very unhappy. But I think there are a number of officers who are corrupt, and I also admit that there are many honourable men who have always been able to withstand these temptations. But my purpose in bringing forward this resolution is this. I believe that so long as there is even one officer who is corrupt, it must be our purpose and the purpose of the Government to see that this corruption does not exist even to such an extent.

12-45 p.m. "Sir, in this connexion, I want to read one quotation from Sir Malcolm Hailey's speech which he delivered at Lahore :—

'The value of the Government depends not only on its good intentions and the goodness of its policy, but on its reputation amongst the people and its reputation depends largely on the work of the subordinates.'

And may I add that it also depends largely on the efficiency and, what is more important, on the honesty of the officers?

"The next thing that we have to consider is about the various forms in which corruption takes place. First of all there is actual paying of money directly to the officers concerned. At other times there is also the corruption by way of giving jewels to the officers' wives or their children or even to the officers themselves. Next, I believe, there is what is called giving of presents or actually money at the time of some marriage of the daughter or the son or other relation of the officials. I have come across some cases in which the subordinate officials of villages, such as the karnam, the village munsif and others, are compelled practically to give those presents to the officers at the time of a marriage in their families. Recently I have come across a case of that nature where the different subordinates of a village made money presents at the time of marriage in the family of an official. That is certainly a form of corruption which no doubt comes in the name of a present to the tahsildar or somebody else. We have to remember in these cases that but for their positions which they are occupying, the subordinate officials of the village and others would not be willing to make any such presents. That therefore is also a form of corruption.

"Then, Sir, there is the question of supplies. I believe that this is another form of corruption. First of all, I think, in many cases the subordinate officials and sometimes higher officials also are in the habit of receiving without properly paying for it supplies and then it filters down at the last stage to the village officials and from the village officials sometimes to the merchants and others in the village. I do not want to go into all those details. I wish to state only that which is my experience, especially in our parts, and some hon. Members can speak more on it with their larger experiences. As long as the officials are not prohibited altogether from receiving anything in the shape of supplies from their subordinates, it is very difficult to put an end to this form of corruption. At times the subordinates or the village officials just make a show of demanding money from their superiors handing over the bills to those who have to pay for them. In almost all those cases the actual bills run up to a heavy amount. But the subordinates in order to please their superiors send bills for low sums, or receive actually less than the bill shows. This system of supplies to the officers is, besides, highly objectionable as they have also to please the butler, or the cook as the case may be. Sometimes they have to satisfy a number of people as otherwise

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all the supplies will not reach the officer. I have heard of a case where a tahsildar has been put to a lot of difficulties, because he did not once satisfy the duffadar of a Collector. The duffadar was waiting for an opportunity and it so chanced that an opportunity occurred. When the Collector camped in the jurisdiction of the tahsildar, the tahsildar arranged to procure for him all the necessary supplies. But the duffadar managed to see that all those things did not reach the Collector and the duffadar complained to the Collector, or to his wife that the tahsildar was negligent in the matter of supplies, and that he had not sent proper supplies to the officer. Then, what was the result? Without any enquiry whatever, I believe, the officer was transferred from that division to some other division. Then with regard to this practice let us consider, Sir, whether there is any necessity at all for perpetuating this form of corruption. Almost everything that an officer needs can be got by direct purchase in the place where it is wanted.

"I am told by some of my hon. Friends that some form of corruption is bound to exist. But I do believe, Sir, that means could be found to put an end to corruption. In this connexion, Sir, I want to say a few words as to the consequence of corruption; cases like the magistrates or the police officers taking bribes, end not only in loss to the people but also in utter miscarriage of justice. But in cases like the Income-tax or the Public Works and the Forests, it is a loss to the State and the general public though a gain to the individual. In some cases, it may not be an injury to the State or the general public, but it is really a loss to the giver. Between these there may be some instances where it may not be much of a loss either to the State or to the individuals but a lot of trouble. Now, let us take the case of giving something to the copyists to have the copies ready within a very short period. In this case it is only the man who has got to do the work that gets the money and it is the one who wants the copy that has to pay for the same. In this particular instance although it is a loss to that particular individual, it is neither a loss to the State or at large nor dangerous in its results. But with regard to the first and other items, we see that it is not only a loss to the State but ends in an utter miscarriage of justice and other evil consequences.

"I want to say a few words more on the first item. It has been my lot, Sir, on many occasions, on the floor of this House to refer to the actual condition of the state of affairs in the Ceded districts. I do not think that it is necessary for me to go into all those things now. Suffice to say that there prevails a fictitious feeling in almost all the villages, and that the fairly well-to-do and land-owning classes are responsible for most of the serious crime. My complaint is this: that on committing an offence, they are prepared to stake everything and on account of their ability to pay, they are prone to corrupt the officials concerned to get out of the clutches of the law.

"What easier course would the villager who has committed a crime or on whom, by the ingenuity or influence of his opponent, a false case has been foisted, think of in order to escape from the clutches of law than getting the police, who have the conduct of the case in the earlier stages, to his side and what simpler means there is of attaining that end than by corrupting the police whenever he can? Some say that the reason why the police receive bribes is due mainly to the low pay which the sub-inspectors and the circle inspectors are receiving. They say that their pay is not so inviting as to

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refrain from receiving any bribes and they are rather tempted to receive the bribes. Things would grow worse practically in the matter of the police administration if we cannot remedy this. I do not think we need despair of finding any remedy. To find out whether there is any remedy to put an end to this evil practice, I would suggest that a committee may be appointed. I have some suggestions, but I don't think I need go into them now. Some may say, better increase their pay so that they may not be a prey to all such temptations. But increase of pay is not sufficient by itself, even if we can afford to pay more. There is enough of corruption to call for urgent remedy. I believe that hon. Members of this House will take it seriously into their minds and will not think it to be only an eastern tradition. At first I really thought of confining the scope of my resolution to the Ceded districts alone. But later on I thought that it should be in a general form, so that if the experience of other members in their respective districts is otherwise, it could be so limited. Besides I limited my observations and the scope of my resolution only to the subordinate officials not because I believed that all the higher officials are above corruption, but because I did not believe that the evil amongst them was so prevalent as to call for an urgent remedy. My friends have pointed out that I have to risk myself much in the future election in undertaking to discuss this point. If telling what I know about these things costs my seat, I am prepared to lose it and it is not worth having it under that condition. Only I think that this apprehension as to future elections will be a lesson to the hon. the Law Member to be alive to the necessity."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"And I shall see that the Government officials do not in the future interfere with the elections. It is because they have interfered with the elections before that some people have expressed the fear of not getting a seat in the next election if this proposition is raised."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I do not think, Sir, much of an argument is necessary to convince hon. Members of this House that there is corruption in the services. But I do not think, Sir, it would be possible to put an end to it. I think we shall be more than satisfied if we can effect a tangible reduction in the corruption now in existence. My hon. Friend from Cuddapah very valiantly began to give detailed instances of the corruption. But he took care, Sir, to always qualify it by reference to subordinate officials. If taking bribe is a crime, Sir, it is much more than that, it is a positive sin if indulged in by the higher officials. At least there is the excuse of poverty in the case of subordinate officials.

"That is the reason why I have ventured to bring forward an amendment to say that the words 'public servants' should be substituted for 'subordinate Government officials'. Sir, my impression is that the chief officer of a district or the head of a department is to a considerable extent responsible for the reputation of his subordinate officers. If a chief officer is strict and is scrupulous and is always in touch with the people and is prepared when he notices corruption to deal suitably with it, in such a place you might take it for granted that corruption is at a minimum. If again the chief officer is somewhat lax, is himself accustomed to receive supplies, say to the tune of a hundred rupees, but is content if he is presented with a bill for Rs. 10,

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I think in a place like that it would be almost expecting the impossible if you think that the subordinate officials would not in turn try to make up the loss they are put to by some other ways. We have seen, for example, the jamabandi camps and we know how much is spent on each of those camps and how do you think that the money is forthcoming? Inevitably the tahsildar looks to the revenue inspectors who levy a toll on the village officers who in turn worry the pattadars and so on this vicious circle is always going round. So we have to see to the top in all these cases of corruption and there is now much more corruption there than before.

"I may just say what appear to me to be some ways of reducing this corruption. First of all, the Government are now less and less careful in the recruitment of officers. I think, Sir, greater attention was paid to the honesty of the people recruited in the former days than now. And again when you go on promoting people you are only swayed by considerations of seniority or other class considerations rather than by considerations of honesty. I do not say that seniority should not count; but along with it the honesty of the officer should also be considered. When you discover dishonesty, there is no use in simply transferring the dishonest man from one place to another. That will come to this. He has finished his harvest in one field and is given a fresh field to begin his operations; as my hon. Friend the Member for the University would put it, it is a case of 'fresh fields and pastures new.' And, also, Sir, with regard to the income-tax accounts, there again there is much scope for reducing this evil. The chief officer should be in contact with the people and must be held responsible for the conduct of his subordinates. He must occasionally send for the accounts of the merchants and see for himself those accounts. Supposing in the month of March the accounts are inspected for income-tax, if you take their accounts and examine them for that month, you will find certain items with regard to which there will be no proper explanation forthcoming because they are bribes and the merchant dare not show it as a bribe as he will himself be caught.

"The question of supplies is again a great scandal about which the Government do not seem to be in earnest. As a matter of fact, two years ago I said that the Government must endeavour to enforce the Board's Standing Orders regarding the matter of supplies. And I think the Revenue Member at the time promised that he would again invite the attention of the district officers to those rules. I do not know whether he has done so and, if he has done so, with what result. For example, no officer should obtain supplies except on a signed indent of his. He must not ask for anything that is not available in the respective local markets. It must be insisted that the officer signs these indents and he must be strictly asked to see that nothing more is supplied to him than what he has actually asked for. I would also insist that these indents are filed in original for reference. I repeat that this question of corruption is not confined to the subordinate officers though I think it is a vice which exists probably less in British territory than in the Native States. I am prepared to stand by that position. Still it is up to us to see that even this is reduced."

Sriman BISWANATHA DAS Mahasayo:—"Sir, I have great pleasure in seconding the amendment brought forward by my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. Sir, there has been corruption and corruption all round if

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acceptance of supplies and paying far less than what they actually cost is real corruption. There is no use in saying and confining our resolution among the subordinate officers. The cases of corruption are many and they are really too many for me to state in the few minutes at my disposal. But a few of them could well be stated. The important thing seems to be the supplies that are generally given to higher officers by their lower subordinates. Sir, if higher officials can do so and if they can receive supplies from lower officers, what could the poor subordinates do? I had once a talk with an inspector of police who was narrating to me how a police officer of the southern district had to supply to a higher officer and as a result of the supplies how he himself found it difficult to keep up his honesty. It pains me very much to say that these supplies have very much affected the honesty of many a subordinate and it makes them quite impossible to get on with their pay and in turn he has to resort to other means which are beyond their control. Secondly, in giving promotions to the officers, the honesty of the subordinate who is to be promoted is not at all made one main consideration. As has been stated by my Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, in previous years, in good old days, honesty used to be the main consideration and I have known many instances where sub-magistrates, tahsildars and even deputy collectors had to revert owing to some cause behind their back. But nothing of the kind is done nowadays. There seem to be constant transfers of higher officers. Sir, in my district I know that constant transfers of district magistrates have affected the honesty of the officers to a great extent. It very much pains me to state it to the Members of this hon. House that justice is practically becoming a commodity which has its own price in the market and it seems that it can be purchased at the least possible price. I am not saying this for the first time and as a matter of fact I have expressed it on the floor of this House on more than one occasion in spite of repeated protests by the hon. the Law Member, who is now the Leader of the House. Sir, it is to be regretted that the crying and moaning of the Members of this hon. House is not heeded and justice, British justice, is allowed to suffer in its efficiency of administration. Therefore I submit for the serious consideration of the Government and I request them to appoint a committee to investigate into the matter and see how best they can remedy these defects. With these words, I associate myself with all that has been said by the hon. Mover of the amendment and second the motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Does the hon. Mover of the motion accept the two amendments which have just been moved and seconded?"

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"I will accept the second part of the amendment but not the first. I do not know how it will be possible to reduce the corruption but not to put an end to it. I accept the second amendment."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"The hon. Member himself has said that it is impossible to eradicate the evil altogether. It is purely an academic question and I am perfectly willing to drop the first amendment."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will therefore proceed with the original motion of the hon. Member Mr. Koti Reddi as amended by the substitution of the words 'public servants' for the words 'subordinate Government officials'."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"Mr. President, I have listened with very great interest to the speeches of two of the youngest Members of this

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House, Mr. Koti Reddi, with his oft-repeated experience of six or seven years and Mr. Das perhaps with the experience of a fewer years. My hon. Friend Sir Parasuram Patro appears to be surprised to hear the hon. Member from Cuddapah talking of corruption and the hon. Mr. Graham is busy taking notes to reply. The hon. Members are familiar with the subject. I myself have brought this matter to the notice of this House more than once. The supplies scandal that has been in existence in many departments has already been brought to the notice of the House. If my hon. Friend Mr. Graham would only be pleased to look up and see the resolution that I brought on the subject, he will be astonished to see how much corruption there has been in this country. It is perhaps not so audaciously open in these days. Of course, my hon. Friend Mr. Graham—excuse me for personal reference,—has been a Collector for a long time. I have known him to be a man of austere simplicity, and might have been unconscious of what was going on round him; but I can bear testimony that when an official of his stamp rules over a district there is abatement in the craze for supplies and in the corrupt practices. Sometimes a Collector loves ease and allows things to drift. Then the bribe and supply taking practices flourish.

1-15 p.m.

“Mr. Koti Reddi has been talking of the policemen taking bribes. The hon. the Law Member knows all about it. All the Members on the Treasury Bench and the hon. non-official Members are fully aware of the state of things. Lower officials and village officers have to find supplies for higher officers. They are more often than not not paid for. The jamabandi supply is a standing scandal. At the time of jamabandi, each village has to contribute, and each firka manages to collect, and entertain the Collector's staff. There have been exceptions. It depends on the individual jamabandi officer and his minister. The village officers are also sometimes benefited by these periodical collections. We had sometimes good Collectors like Mr. Tremehere of Bellary who spotted dishonest men and sent them home. But when we had Collectors who loved ease, comfort and supplies, people suffered. We wish we have had good Collectors like Mr. Graham and Sir Frederick Nicholson.

“As regards the Police department, there are good and bad men in it. There are sub-inspectors and inspectors. If a sub-inspector becomes corrupt, they say he has to be so because he has to make up for supplies provided for superior officers. I knew, Sir, of a Police Superintendent. I think he is out of service. In every camp he used to get 20 fowls, and the head constable would be roaming about to get the 20 fowls from the village officers and the village officers would go and take away the poor old women's fowl and cock and the poor women would never be paid. All these would be put in baskets and despatched to the headquarters. Then, there was one man who had a weakness for goat's milk. He belonged to my Friend Sir Patro's department—Excise. That gentleman used to have goat's milk every day in his camp. The sub-inspector had to bring a number of goats to milk them. They had to be milked in his presence. The local liquor shop man will be got hold of”

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Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—“May I ask the Deputy President how the goat's milk arose out of the Excise department, and what connection there is between the two?”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—“I am stating facts to show how superior officials contribute to their subordinates becoming corrupt. If the man at the top has got a weakness, the subordinates watch it and try to pander to that weakness. Then follows all the tragedy; the tragedy is to the villager after all.

“I have, Sir, very often narrated that in consequence of the unjust levy of supplies from village officers, the people in the village, the poor people, have to suffer. Now an Excise officer comes, then a Police officer visits, then a Revenue officer and so many others in their turn go to the village. Somebody described these visits as the revolving of the planets and their satellites. When an official camps in a village, the village officer is bound to find supplies. More often than not he is not paid full value for the supplies made. His pay is small. He taps all sources. Some of them profit themselves in the bargain at the expense of the ignorant villagers. The remedy will come through education. I do not think this committee can help towards the spread of education, towards the spread of higher ideals among officials. The hon. Member for Cuddapah has spoken of the improved state of things in Judicial and Revenue branches of administration in particular and the less unsatisfactory condition in the Police and other departments. The hon. the Revenue Member knows the vernacular; he must have talked with the villagers, he must have heard a good many stories. The Law Member was a public man; he has moved among the people; he must have known all these things. The Ministers cannot pretend that everything is going on well. They know what corruption there is in their departments—the Excise department particularly. Everybody knows it, but what is the remedy? The only remedy lies in educating the people and also in the higher officers taking severe notice of the lapses of their retinue and their subordinates. I am afraid there is a tendency in the Government to overlook the weaknesses of their Collectors and other superior officers. If the Government be jealous of their reputation, they would punish erring and weak Collectors and other high officials when they do not conduct themselves in a becoming manner. The hon. Member Mr. Moore is looking at me rather severely.” (Laughter.)

Mr. P. L. MOORE:—“The reason was I did not catch the last two sentences of the interesting speech of my Friend, and I was straining a little to hear him. I shall be very much obliged to him if he could repeat what he said then” (Laughter.)

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—“What I meant to say was that the Government is believed by the people to be a soulless body. The Collector or somebody may do anything. Even if the Government know that their officers are not doing the right thing, they do not take any action. They want to keep up their *izaat*, their prestige. That is the feeling of the people. I know the Government are always anxious to see that the people are happy, that their officers do maintain the prestige of the Government and also maintain law and order in an equitable manner. But at the same time it must be admitted, that they are solicitous as they should be, that weak or bad Collectors and officers, whether Indian or European, are

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removed and replaced. A larger number of them are animated no doubt by a high sense of duty, while a smaller number love ease and comfort, sport and *shikari*. And the latter like those that would please them, and fail in their duties. The Government are not unaware of the existence of the black sheep. The remedy lies in a lively sense of duty in the Government office to appoint good and proper men, not according to the whims and fancies of the local Collector. It seems there is a rule that unless a man is recommended by a Collector he never gets promotion. You will find very often that some honest and good men are shunted down and some very clever and scheming people take their place. Those who act according to the wishes of the Collector are pushed up and the Government are guided by the Collector's confidential reports. There are Collectors and Collectors; there are Indians and Indians; there are Europeans and Europeans. They require to be looked after and the Government should use their discretion and not blindly adopt a Collector's opinion."

The House adjourned for lunch at 1-30 p.m.

After Lunch (2-40 p.m.).

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—*cont.*

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" Sir, I beg to move, under Standing Order 20, that the business of the Council be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite 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. Sir, I am sorry that I have to come forward with a motion of this kind immediately after the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp who was in charge of Malabar affairs left our shores. There were already two adjournment motions during this sitting and I therefore did not want to come forward with a third motion and deprive the hon. Members of this House of their opportunities of moving their respective motions on the budget. I am aware that the hon. Member now in charge of the subject assumed charge only yesterday and that he would be handicapped for want of full information on the subject; but I cannot help it.

" Sir, before I begin to deal with the merits of the subject, I would like to say that in moving this motion I am not actuated by any racial prejudice or anything of that kind. If at all I speak against the rubber companies and other planters it is because that I feel that sufficient justice has not been done to the claims of Hindus and others who have suffered equally with, if not more than, these rubber companies. Sir, there are two issues involved in this subject. There is first, the proposal to write off the loans granted to the sufferers in the Mappilla rebellion and secondly, the proposal to pay compensation to the Pullengode rubber estate. The policy of the Government in regard to the payment of loans was this. There were thousands of people who had suffered heavily in the Mappilla outbreak. The question of making good their losses was duly considered and the Government in consultation with their Law officers came to the conclusion that there was no legal obligation of any kind to make good the loss incurred by the people in

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a rebellion like the Mappilla outbreak. But at the same time the Government thought it necessary to help these people to re-start their business for the time being and issued orders for the granting of loans under the Agricultural Loans Act. The main principle on which loans were granted was to help them to the extent that was absolutely necessary to carry on till the next harvest. The district officers to whom the above orders were issued granted loans only to such people from whom they thought they could be recovered. That being the case, people who were really needy, and in very indigent circumstances, were not given any kind of help by the Government. On principle, therefore, I cannot but take exception to the proposal to write off these loans. I know among those who were given loans there were more than 13,000 people who were given small amounts of Rs. 50 or Rs. 100 each and that only very few were given larger amounts. To my mind, these poor people who got loans of Rs. 100 and less really deserve remission. The rich people, if there were any, and the companies who were given loans do not come under this category. The policy of the Government hitherto adopted has been not to give compensation to any people who suffered in the Mappilla outbreak. Rightly or wrongly, they have been persistent in that attitude or policy. But now we find a proposal to give a compensation amounting to Rs. 41,000 to the Pullengode rubber estate. I really do not know what special reasons there are for giving this preferential treatment to this estate.

" Sir, the Pullengode estate is situated in Ernad taluk within the zone of the Mappilla rebellion. It consists of about 2,000 acres or 2-45 p.m. so, of which more than 1,200 acres are planted with rubber. You know, Sir, that immediately after the rebellion, there was a boom in the rubber market and even if the Pullengode estate had sustained any loss they might have made it up with the profit they made in the boom. It may not also be out of place to say that the share of the Pullengode estate which normally stands at £1 is sold now at 25s. 1½d. When the Government announced that they were willing to give loans to all sufferers including companies, the Pullengode estate refused to take large loans. They took only Rs. 30,000 because that sum was sufficient for them to carry on the work till the next harvest and if they received more money they would have to return it with interest in due course. They did not want to incur unnecessary liabilities. That itself shows that they were in affluent circumstances. They might have been as badly hit as any other. That was all. It was only recently when the idea of writing off the loans was known, that they put in a fresh claim for this additional amount. Other rubber companies received larger amounts of loans and they did not come forward for any claim for compensation.

" As I said, I would not have come forward with a motion of this kind if I did not feel that sheer injustice was done to other classes of people who have suffered in the rebellion. I will refer only to two or three instances. At first there is the case of the Pandalur Club in Gudalur in the Nilgiri district. Sir, you are aware with what amount of heat interpellations and supplementary questions were put when this subject came up at question time. The Pandalur Club belongs to the Nelliylam estate. The building was worth about Rs. 20,000. Immediately after the rebellion broke out the

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police, I think it was the reserve police, occupied the building though the agent of the owner protested against the police occupying it. The Mappillas attacked the place knowing that the police were there. The superintendent of police, who was an European, ran away, but the circle inspector, a head constable and some other constables were murdered on the spot. There was, I think, some survey party also; they were all killed and the whole building was burnt down and completely razed to the ground. When the owners knew about the destruction of the building they naturally put in a claim for compensation. It must also be borne in mind that the dead bodies of the police and the survey party were buried in the compound close to the verandah. The compound was thus made unfit for occupation. You know, Sir, no orthodox Hindu lives in a place where dead bodies are buried. All these facts were brought to the notice of the Government and, notwithstanding the fact that it was the occupation of the building by the Government or the reserve police that was mainly responsible for the attack of the Mappillas, the Government did not give one pie as compensation. All that was offered to them was a rent at the rate of Rs. 40 per mensem which they refused to take. That is my information. I will now ask the Government whether they do not think the case of the Pandalur Club is one which deserved more sympathy than that of the Pullengode estate. They were directly responsible in the former case while the damages in the latter case were only an accident. The Government maintain that the sufferers are not entitled to any claim because the damage was caused by a public enemy. Possibly they are right. Again it was the same public enemy that was responsible for the damage suffered by the Pullengode estate if they suffered any damage at all. But I hold they are directly responsible for the destruction of the club buildings and their case is altogether different. If the police had not occupied that building, I am certain the Mappillas would not have burnt it. Instances of that kind are numerous. I shall be content with referring to one or two more cases. There was a company called the West Coast Motor Company in Kottakal. The next day after the rebellion broke out, in broad daylight some Mappillas went there and looted the whole place. Their property worth about Rs. 11,000 was looted away and the managing director of the company, which was a limited liability concern, gave a list of the things that were looted and also a list of persons who attacked the premises of the company. They were all convicted for the offence of looting the company. Subsequently, their terms of imprisonment were commuted into fines and about Rs. 10,000 were collected in the shape of fines. The managing director of the company submitted a petition for the grant of a sum of Rs. 5,000 to enable him to tide over the difficulties of the company. It would appear that the managing director undertook to pay the liabilities of the company himself and got himself heavily involved thereby.

"To give another case. There was a Hindu elementary school at Ariyur near Mannarghat. The revenue authorities went and asked the manager of the school to place the building at the disposal of the military. It was the duty of every loyal citizen to help the military in times of that kind. The school was handed over to the military authorities. They were there for five or six days. One day they went to some neighbouring place on duty. Finding that the soldiers were not there, the Mappillas burnt the building. The building and the whole furniture were burnt down. The manager

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applied for some financial help to the divisional officer who promised to recommend his case for compensation. The Educational Department also recommended the need for some compensation. But the Government did not give anything. He is a poor man; he has put up a new building at his own cost and is even now conducting the school.

"There was then the case of the adikari or village munsif in Thachanpara. He helped the military in all possible ways when they were operating near his place. On that account, his building which was worth about Rs. 10,000 was burnt down by the rebels. Not only was no compensation given but on the ground that some allegations were made by him against a loyal subject of His Majesty, he was deprived of his adikariship. Such is the treatment that was accorded to the Hindus who really deserved generous and kind treatment at the hands of the Government.

"Sir, I can give several instances of the kind. But I do not propose to occupy the time of the House with any more. But the question of giving compensation to the Hindu temples must certainly be considered. More than 100 temples were either destroyed or desecrated by the Mappillas. In certain temples they broke the idols. In other places the temples were burnt or pulled down. In some other cases cows were slaughtered in the temples. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp said in answer to interpellations put by myself and my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, that more than 100 temples were destroyed. They were not given any compensation. That, Sir, is a matter about which I have strong feeling. The Muhammadans consider their mosques sacrosanct. They would not allow music parties to pass by their mosques. They are so strict about it while they can do anything with the Hindu temples with impunity."

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB:—"We respect the religious feelings of other castes."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"I do not refer to my hon. Friend. I know he does. I am referring to the rebels. That is a mentality I cannot understand. The Mappillas are fanatic and it is their fanaticism that was mainly responsible for the rebellion. I am distinctly of opinion that Hindu temples must be given compensation for their renovation. Sir, there is such a strong feeling in the district about this matter. The position is this; people who have really suffered are not given any compensation and even in respect of loans it was not the people who really deserved that got them. Therefore, I do say that until and unless a case is made out that the Pullengode estate deserves a better and preferential treatment than others, I for one, coming as I do from Malabar, cannot approve of the proposal of the Government to pay them any compensation. I must enter my strong protest against it. With these few words I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I second the motion. Hon. Members of this House will remember that for the last few days before Sir Arthur Knapp left us there were a series of questions and answers, supplementary questions and supplementary answers which very often, if I may say so, took the form of small debate and to which you naturally drew attention. These questions and answers must have shown to the hon.

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collected being over nine lakhs, and Government felt that it was time to bring the episode to a close. The loans included 4.91 lakhs advanced to private individuals and 4.07 lakhs lent to rubber companies which sustained extensive loss and destruction of property and needed help to enable them to carry on. The loans granted were not, however, in proportion to the damage sustained and after careful examination the Government consider that the most equitable course will be to wipe out *all* loans granted to private individuals . . .

"My hon. Friend wanted to contradict my statement but I have contradicted him by his own statement."

* The hon Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I did not say that all the 4.07 lakhs are to be written off."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I did not say that. My hon. Friend interrupted me ; if he had been a little more patient he would have seen what I was going to say. The proposal now before the Government is to write off the whole of this Rs. 4,91,000 advanced to private individuals—I fully agree with them in this—and also to write off Rs. 2.13 lakhs out of a total of Rs. 4,07,000 granted to rubber companies. I do not want to make any distinction between private individuals and rubber companies. I do not want to make any distinction between Englishmen and Indians. And I want the Government also not to make any distinction between any of these persons, which they are at present making. By all means let all loans given to those who are unable to repay, whether they are private individuals or companies, be written off. But if any of these persons are able to repay them, let the Government recover the amounts. So far as these loans are concerned, I do not at all want to make any distinction between private individuals and companies or between Englishmen and Indians.

"Now, more important than that is the question of compensation. The circumstances relating to the question of compensation are these. The rebels burnt many houses and many temples. Many of them were very costly. Not only the Hindus but many of the loyal Mappillas who stood by the Government suffered severely. One particular case referred to was that of the Rani of Nelliyalam. Government say that apart from Government servants—to whom I shall refer in a moment, and probably their position with regard to these Government servants is correct—they have been advised by their legal advisers that they are not liable to pay compensation to any person who has suffered loss at the hands of the rebels, the enemies of the Government. Let us for the purpose of argument grant that the position of the Government is correct. All that I then ask is why should hundreds and thousands of Hindus and Mappillas whose houses have been destroyed and who suffered severe damage at the hands of the rebels not be entitled to compensation, while these rubber companies alone are singled out for exceptional treatment? I am yet to get a satisfactory answer to this question, why this discrimination should be made between companies practically owned by Europeans and other companies and other persons. That Government should take up the position that the European-owned companies alone are entitled to compensation while other companies and persons are not, is a very untenable one. It is an unjustifiable distinction that they are making. I want to be understood as saying that I am not at all against paying compensation to these rubber companies provided they deserve it and provided also that similar compensation is given to others who are equally entitled. With reference to the Nelliyalam estate it does not matter whether

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the cost of the building was Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 100. But the fact is that this building was destroyed for the simple reason that it had been occupied by the police. The rebels would not have gone there and destroyed it but for the fact that it had been so occupied. In connexion with this building Sir Arthur Knapp stated that they buried the constables who were killed by the Mappillas in that place. He added that they died when they were only doing a public duty and that they should bury their dead bodies somewhere and that therefore they buried them in the compound. I perfectly agree with this view and the owner of the estate should not complain against the burial of the constables in that compound. But apart from the question of the burial, when their property was destroyed why should not compensation be paid to them as to these rubber companies? It is on that ground that we object to the payment of this Rs. 41,000 as compensation. I shall be very glad if they deserve it and if it is paid to them provided also it is paid in other similar cases.

"Then there is the other fact, viz., that compensation was paid to Mr. Hitchcock, a Deputy Conservator of Forests and some foresters. They were entitled to compensation, because they lost their furniture and other property during the rebellion. As a member of the Finance Committee I had my share in recommending to the Government that compensation should be given to these sufferers. But Sir Arthur Knapp suggested that these compensations were paid to them on account of the peculiar relationship, the mysterious relationship that existed between the Government and their officers. But I should put it on the broader and simpler ground, a ground which all of us can understand, viz., they were paid compensation because their properties were destroyed as those of other private individuals. And those private individuals also must be given compensation. It is on these main points, Sir, that the motion is based.

"I may say, Sir, that Mr. Macmichael was appointed Special Commissioner to report on the damages caused by the rebellion. I do not know whether he has sent his report; probably it has not been published; anyhow I have not seen a copy of it. That report must contain some details at all events of the loss which the people have suffered from the rebels. Of course hundreds of thousands of applications for compensation will pour in. We cannot give compensation to all these. Naturally all sorts of fictitious claims would be put forward. We must make an honest attempt to find out the real sufferers by making enquiries and pay them compensation. For these reasons, Sir, we have made this motion. One other point is this. The demand for Rs. 41,000 is included in the budget for the next year which commences only to-morrow. The payment has not been made or it could not have been made. If it has been made Government would not be justified in paying the amount before the commencement of the year. It is for these reasons that we were anxious to move this motion to-day. I heartily support this motion."

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB:—"Sir, I rise to support this motion with an amendment. Between the words 'given to the' and 'planters' insert the words 'private individuals and'; it would then read 'given to the private individuals and the planters.'"

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* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, I wish to just clear up the matter. May I know whether according to the strict literal construction the hon. Member wants to prevent any payment to any private individual or only to private individuals and not to others? It is very difficult to find out the meaning."

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB:—"In writing off loans to private individuals I wish to make this point clear. Some time back a sum of Rs. 9,000 was granted by this House to one Mappilla adhikari. A sum of Rs. 5,000 has been given to him as loan. He will get that amount also now as free gift. If people who have been compensated are again to be compensated I want to know how many such people are there and what loans have been advanced to those people. It is in order to elicit this information that I have given this amendment."

"I do not wish for one moment that private individuals should not be compensated. They ought to be compensated. They have suffered immense loss. But if you will look into the records of those who have got these loans, you will find that 90 per cent of them are either relatives of Government officials or their thickest friends. There are Hindus and Muhammadans who have suffered great loss at the time of rebellion and they did not get any loans. Perhaps it may be said that as regards Mappillas they were against Government and they were rebels. My hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, has just now told us that there were thousands of Mappillas who were very loyal to the Government and who have suffered actual loss and who did not get anything. On the other hand there are several Hindus who have suffered at the hands of rebels as well as the military and did not get any compensation. I do not want to go into the details of the rebellion."

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan, said that the Mappillas were against Hindu temples. If you will only look into the history of rebellion you will find that only in the remote parts of Malabar all these havocs have happened. I may say that Hindus and Muhammadans were not against each other. It is quite natural that enemies while fighting each other always look to the most vulnerable point. In this affair the most vulnerable point was their religious susceptibilities."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"There was fighting only on one side."

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB:—"That was in the beginning. After the rebellion began, there were different stages. Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan knows very well the conditions which prevailed in the rebel area. The Mappillas were not against Hindus until they suspected the Hindus. The former thought that the latter betrayed them at the last moment. Therefore they went against them."

"If the Government were to write off the loans given in certain cases without any inquiry as to whether there are any other people who have suffered, it would be quite inequitable on the part of the Government to do so. There are thousands of Hindus and Mappillas who have actually suffered and who did not get any compensation at all. Therefore I urge on the Government that before they write off certain loans, they must make an

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inquiry by appointing a committee of officials and non-officials to see whether the loans that have been granted to certain people can be repaid by them and whether there are other people who are suffering on account of devastation caused by the rebellion. It would be iniquitous on the part of the Government to give relief only to those people who have got loans. With these few words, I move this amendment."

* Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAZU :—"I second the amendment brought forward by my hon. Friend, Mr. Uppi Sahib. My hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, was just telling us that he was not against this proposition of writing off the loans, on any racial grounds. Sir, it was made manifest at the time of interpellation that this question was based if not, mainly, at least to some extent, on very undesirable grounds. Sir Arthur Knapp, while assigning reasons for not giving any compensation to a public club, was telling us that they were not entitled to any compensation because he was advised by his legal advisers that they were not entitled to get any compensation. But when the question of giving loans to certain European companies came up, he said he did not consult his legal advisers. I wonder why he took it into his head to consult his legal advisers when it was a question of granting loans to Indians, and why he did not consult his legal advisers when it was a question of granting loans to certain rubber companies. In answering certain interpellations on this subject, the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp said that in the matter of writing off these loans the Government were guided by one criterion, namely, whether the people who suffered damage were able to bear the loss. I wonder when he was not able to tell us who were really the members of these rubber companies—whether he had any idea as to whether these people could repay these loans or not. He said he did not know who constituted these companies. That really shows that there is racial discrimination, especially in view of the fact that compensation was not given in the case of a public club, the building of which was destroyed on account of its being occupied by police people and which deteriorated in value owing to the fact that people who died in warfare were buried there. We are all aware of the sentiments of the Hindus. A son will not bury even his father or mother in his own house. Such being the sentiments of the Hindus, when the value of the property has deteriorated, and when loss has been sustained by the Rani owing to the club being occupied by the police people, the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp then wanted to consult his legal advisers to give compensation to the Rani. When the question of awarding compensation to these rubber companies arose—companies who are for exploitation and who might still be exploiting the country and taking a very large amount of money out of this country at the expense of the indigenous industries—he did not consult his legal advisers. That shows the mentality of the people who award these compensations. Coming to the amendment of my hon. Friend, Mr. Uppi Sahib, I think it is right and just, that if we want the bureaucrats not to show favour only to certain individuals, we should not be a party to the writing off these loans which were granted to people who after all might not have deserved them. At the time when the loans were granted there was no proper inquiry held as to who really deserved and who not. As one responsible Member of this House said, many of these loans were granted to people who were somehow or other related to Government officials.

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Therefore we should think well before we agree to the proposal that even the loans to private people should be written off. Without taking all these things into consideration, I am afraid we should not support the motion. Therefore I have much pleasure in supporting the amendment brought forward by my hon. Friend Mr. Uppi Sahib."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"If the amendment of my hon. Friend Mr. Uppi Sahib is accepted, the effect will be that none of these 17,000 persons to whom small loans varying from Rs. 50 to Rs. 200 have been advanced will get the benefit of these loans being written off. My Friend Mr. Uppi Sahib urged that enquiries should be made about the capacity of these 17,000 and odd prisoners to repay their loans of Rs. 50 and more."

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—"There are people whom have got loans to the extent of Rs. 5,000."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"What I said originally was that all those persons who got big loans like the one which the Rubber Company got must be made to repay them. But as a matter of fact the bulk of these 17,000 persons, or a very large number of them, have received only very small sums and no enquiry is necessary. Of course my hon. Friend can go on saying that most of these people who got loans are the relatives of Government officials."

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—"It is only in the case of those to whom loans above Rs. 1,000 have been granted that this amendment applies."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I have no objection then to the amendment being accepted. If you restrict the terms of your amendment to persons who have received loans to the extent of Rs. 1,000 and more, then the number of such persons will be very small. But if you want your amendment to stand in such general terms, then all these 17,000 people will have to be given compensation. My point is this. My hon. Friend says that a large number of people who got loans are relatives or dependents of Government officials. But all I can say is that two Special Deputy Collectors were appointed to make enquiries. One of them was a Thiyya and the other was a Nambudri. There are very few Thiyyas who have received loans in South Malabar. Thus it cannot be said with any show of reason that a large number of people who got loans are the relatives of Government officials. If my hon. Friend will restrict the amendment to persons whose loans amount to Rs. 5,000 and more, my hon. Friend Mr. Tampan will accept it."

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—"I may, with your permission, Sir, amend my amendment confining it to amounts advanced to the extent of Rs. 1,000 and above"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Does the hon. Mover accept the amendment?"

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"I have no objection, Sir."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"Sir, it falls to me to deal with the subject as the matter is one of writing off loans made under the Agriculturists Loans Act. I would first like to clear a possible misapprehension

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in the minds of some hon. Members by explaining how it comes in this form for a technical reason. The idea of the Government has always been that the fines levied from the Mappilla prisoners under the suspended sentences scheme should be devoted for the most part to meet the losses of those who suffered in the rebellion. But these fines in our accounts are credited to the Revenue head and if the Government wish to make provision for relief, they have to make provision separately under the Expenditure head. When the question came to be discussed as to how this benefit or relief might be given, a report was received from the Collector of Malabar who had been employed in distributing loans for reconstruction purposes. The original idea in distributing the loans appears all along to have been that repayment would be insisted on only in exceptional cases but that the relief should be given in the form of loans probably to introduce a sort of automatic check upon unreasonable demands and claims. Whether the idea was realized or not, of course I cannot say. I can only presume that it was hoped that that would be the effect. We hear, however, from one hon. Member in this House that the loans were given to relatives of officials only and another hon. Member states that they were not given to people who needed money. These of course are complaints as regards the working of the matter and we cannot meet either statement unless we go into actual details which it is impossible for us to do here. When the Government came to consider how they were to make some reparation for the damages sustained by the people they found that in all, a sum of nearly Rs. 8,97,000 had been lent to some 13,500 borrowers. Roughly speaking, one and a half lakhs was given for the purchase of seed, at least Rs. 3,69,000 for new house sites, Rs. 20,000 for purchase of houses, and Rs. 1,11,000 for the purchase of cattle. There were loans to individuals to the extent of Rs. 4,97,000 and there were, besides the loans now in question to the rubber companies. It seemed to the Government that the most speedy way in which they could confer relief was to devote this money which they had got from the suspended sentences scheme for the purpose and to waive the recovery of all the loans except in the case of the rubber companies, where the loans to the extent that they exceeded the actual material damage done were proposed to be recovered. That is to say, the Government thought that they should remit that portion of the loan which covered the direct material damage done and recover the balance. They proceeded therefore on that principle and made a provision in the budget to that end, and attention was prominently called to that provision by the hon. the Finance Member in his budget speech. After the House had passed the budget, orders were issued that the amount lent to private individuals Rs. 4,90,000 and odd should be written off finally. It was not because that the amount could not be recovered if we chose to do so, but because we thought that the amount was given by way of reparation for the losses that these people had sustained."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" May I know when orders were issued ? "

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I think on the 23rd, after the Revenue department budget was passed. In the case of the rubber companies, the portion of the loans advanced which represents the direct material

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damage, comes to, I think, Rs. 2,13,000. The only exceptional feature of the scheme is this, the grant of Rs. 41,000 beyond the remission of the loan granted to the Pullengode estate. I can only explain the reason for that by referring to the answer which Sir Arthur Knapp gave when questioned in this House on the subject. The idea was that the material damage sustained by this estate was very much larger than the amount of the loan which had been given to it, and while other estates had applied for loans covering their damage and therefore got the whole of such damage it was thought it would be unfair to give this estate alone a sum covering but a portion of the damage. That is the reason why this extra amount was given to this estate. In dealing with this matter, therefore, the Government were not considering the question of making a general compensation to all sufferers—; because they could not possibly undertake to do that—, but of distributing this sum which had come in as fines under the suspended sentences scheme to those whose wants had been actually proved by their taking loans from the reconstruction officers at the time. I have not the slightest doubt that there are many other people who have also lost considerably and possibly more than those who are getting this remission. But we have to draw a line practically somewhere, and if those persons did not apply for loans or for reasons, which I must assume were valid reasons, were not granted loans, I do not see how we can go into their case here or now."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO Pantulu :—" Sir, the statement made by the hon. the Revenue Member gives rise to some difficulties. He has told us that though it was first given as a loan subsequently the order was passed to write that off not on the ground that it was a loan but that it was intended to be some reparation for the losses sustained. I would in the first instance like to know whether a definite order was passed to that effect and placed on the table, and whether what was originally intended as a loan was subsequently treated as money granted to the people for the purpose of making up the losses sustained during the rebellion. Then, Sir I would like to know if that principle has been followed to its logical sequence and if persons who did not take a loan and did not take it in that form have obtained the benefit of this principle of making reparation for the losses sustained. If a man did not consider it necessary or did not go to the extent of borrowing any money, is it fair, is it reasonable, is it just I ask that if he has sustained any losses, he should not recoup them? It is quite necessary that the Government should have some well-known definite principles or reasons for adopting a definite policy. If we are definitely to write off all the amount on the ground that there has been a heavy loss and that all those that have sustained heavy losses should be compensated, we can very well understand the position. But the distinction between race and race, between one company and another, between one individual and another that has been followed by the Government is to my mind very unreasonable and should not be accepted. In the first place, it is a very bad precedent set up by the Government to give a loan and then to write it off treating it as a compensation. Assuming that the original order was just, the subsequent proposal in writing off the amount is certainly unfair. The question of the amount being small is a secondary consideration compared with the primary question of applying it to all persons concerned, without making any discrimination, if we want to make it clear that all those who have sustained

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heavy losses should be compensated. I am glad that the hon. the Revenue Member has explained the position clearly. It only shows that the Government have been adopting no principle at all or have been changing their principles for no valid reasons. It is therefore better that the question has been raised and I hope the Government would definitely make up their minds as to the policy to be pursued and apply one just and uniform principle to all, whatever race, or nationality they may belong."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Marjoribanks, has pointed that there is no proposal anywhere to write off loans of Rs. 1,000 and over. I would therefore submit the following alteration in the wording of the motion, and I may call the attention of the hon. the Law Member and the House to this amendment: '... to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the proposal to write off loans given to private individuals and to planters, in so far as such proposal relates to loans of Rs. 1,000 and above, and the payment of Rs. 41,000 as compensation to the Pullengode rubber estate in Malabar.' That is the amendment I propose."

Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampam accepted the amendment.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That is what is accepted by the Mover and if the House has no objection, the discussion will proceed on the footing of the original motion as now amended and read out. It is open to the Government to speak again if they decide to do so on this amended motion."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Mr. President, Sir, the Revenue budget did contain some items regarding the writing off of the loans to agriculturists in Malabar and notices of motions objecting to them were tabled, but they could not be reached, and the demand was passed on the 16th March. And we have now been told by the hon. the Revenue Member that instructions were issued to give effect to the writing off of the Rs. 4 lakhs and odd on the 23rd March."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"The orders were passed on that date, Sir. I do not know when they were issued."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"May I ask whether the budget we were discussing recently related to the year 1925-26 or for the previous year? Before the year begins, how can the Government give effect to the proposals that are now only being considered in this Council?"

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Sir, we know as a matter of experience that after the budget is passed, copies of the budget will be communicated to the various district officers to give effect to it. This is a figure that is put in the budget of 1925-26, and I believe that the Government did not make any special arrangement to intimate to the District Collector to write off the amount in advance. I mean they did not give any instructions in advance to the District Collector to write off this amount on the 1st of April 1925. And I believe it cannot be taken as a ground by the hon. the Revenue Member, that since orders had already been issued they would not re-examine the matter. If that be the position we have to enter our protest regarding the haste with which the Government are proceeding in this particular matter. (Hear, hear). If in the ordinary course the budget is

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to be forwarded to the officers, I believe there is yet time for the Government to consider the question on its own merits in the light of the debate in this House. With this hope I venture to offer some remarks on the main question.

"In the beginning, as I understand the Government, advances were made under the Agriculturists' Loans Act for the reconstruction of the Malabar district as a whole. I believe due attention was paid to the real necessity of each individual who made the application. I do not exactly remember when it was, but there was a debate in this Council in 1922 when a proposal was made that the whole of the advance should be written off on the ground that the State was benefited to the extent of Rs. 8 lakhs on account of the fines and if I remember aright, the House objected to such a procedure of writing off; and no action was taken by the Government then. In the meantime we were told that Mr. Macmichael was commissioned to examine the question and he submitted a report. I believe the report was not published for the information of the public, and we do not know what report Mr. Macmichael submitted. If really the Government want to write off these advances, in all fairness to this House they ought to have published that report because they expected a vote of the House in the matter of the writing off of such an important item, a matter on which the House has expressed its opinion. And if they had perused the report themselves and passed orders and made financial arrangements to include this amount in the budget of 1925-26, I may be permitted to say that this House was not fairly treated by the Government. What was it that prevented them from placing the report of Mr. Macmichael regarding this question before the House when he was specially commissioned to enquire into the matter and submit his report? Are we not entitled to know the facts on which he based his recommendations? I think there is a duty on the part of the Government to satisfy the House as to why they did not publish the report of Mr. Macmichael and why they included these various items.

"Now, I come to the second point. I believe it is necessary that we should make a distinction between compensation and relief. It is stated off and on, on behalf of the Government that in respect of any damage that was sustained by any subject of the State on account of the Mappila rebellion, no legitimate claim can be put forward on the basis of damage or compensation. (The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"No legal claim.") I mean legal claim. I am now being corrected that it is not a legal claim. The only distinction I can make between damage or compensation and relief is this: one is a legal claim and the other is to be afforded at the mercy of the Government. That is the basis on which I am now proceeding. And therefore the only difference I make between compensation and relief is that in regard to the former an individual can put forward a claim as a matter of right, whereas in the case of the latter, the individual can get it as a matter of grace from the State. When you give up the ground of compensation or damage and go to the ground of relief, many questions do arise. You will have to deal with the question whether the individual who prays for the relief does deserve it or not. We have nothing to do with the extent of the damage done to him. The basis on which we have to examine the question is whether he as an individual or as a member of the State can exist without the relief from the State. We have nothing

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to do with the extent of the damage done, be it a rubber company or any individual or any person. The basis of the examination should be whether that individual can carry on his ordinary avocations without any relief from the State. If you put it on that basis, then you will have to examine the economical condition of each rubber company or individual. Is there sufficient material before this House to examine the case whether this particular rubber company which is much in evidence now has got real necessity for relief? And then what is the extent of the relief which it is to be awarded? We know as a matter of fact some two years ago that a sum of Rs. 30,000 was given to the company as a matter of loan; that was in the year 1922 or 1921 that the amount was given to enable the company to go on with its operations for the time being, and I believe that the company is going on with its operation. Is there any material to show that the Rs. 30,000 was not sufficient for the company to carry on its operation? Now, when that is the case, why should the Government suddenly come to change their position and say that it is reported that this company has sustained a loss of Rs. 71,000, though their claim was for more than a lakh and odd? And the Government now agree to write off the Rs. 30,000 which was advanced and now propose to pay the company in the shape of compensation a sum of Rs. 41,000. The position which the Government have taken up appears to be quite unreasonable. We are not basing these arguments on any racial prejudices. We want to examine the question in a most impartial manner, basing the whole question on some principles. What is the principle which the Government can advocate now for the payment of Rs. 41,000 as compensation and for the writing off of Rs. 30,000 advanced to the company for the time being? I have no objection to the Government coming forward with any proposal and saying here: 'In 1921 we advanced Rs. 30,000 to the company; they are not able to carry on their operations. The company is about to be wound up and so we want to give them further advance' On the other hand, if I remember the answer given by Sir Arthur Knapp correctly, he stated that the company did not pay its dividends for the last three or four years."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" May I inform the House, Sir, that the share of the company which is nominally valued £1 is now sold at 21s. 1½ d. ? I got this fact from the *Madras Mail*."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Well, that is an additional piece of information. So, the shares of the company are selling off very well. This only shows that it is not a bankrupt company and I do not think that the fact that the company was not able to pay its dividends for the last three or four years forms a reasonable ground to claim any relief. We know there are so many companies that do not pay their dividends for some time, but this cannot form a ground for granting them any compensation or relief. And I think it is the duty of the Government to satisfy this House, though this is a Reserved subject and the Government can resort to certification and other methods, as to the grounds on which they are going to treat this company on a special basis. Is it on account of its poverty? Is it on account of its inability to proceed with its operation? Or is it because it did sustain a loss of Rs. 70,000 that they are going to pay the compensation? The position which the Government have taken off and on, in regard to the Malabar rebellion was that they (Government)

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were not prepared to pay any compensation according to law. And then, the only question is one of relief. Are they in a position to satisfy the public that this is a case deserving of any relief at present?"

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—" May I ask the hon. the Finance Member whether this matter has been placed at the disposal of the Finance Committee before the Government decided on writing off the loan?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I cannot say, Sir, that it has been placed at the disposal of the Finance Committee, because nothing is placed at the disposal of the Finance Committee. But the matter was brought before the Finance Committee before the entry was made in the budget."

" I did not want to say anything on this occasion, but it appears to me that it is rather a dangerous precedent we shall be establishing, if after the Government has made a demand for certain grant and that the grant has been passed by this Council, within a few days, the whole thing is to be raked up again and discussed as if it were quite a new object."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" On a point of order, Sir. May I ask whether that grant was discussed and passed by this Council? I think it was passed only by lapse of time."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" The demand was definitely put to the Council and passed. That the Council did not discuss the particular item was no fault of the Government."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Nor of the Council either."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" If the Council prefers to discuss other matters it is quite open to the Council to follow its choice. What I say is that the demand was definitely put to the Council and was passed by the Council, and we now have the whole thing brought up once again as if it were something new. I brought this entry in the budget prominently to the notice of all hon. Members in my budget speech in order that there might be no mistake about it. Several hon. Members put in motions proposing the omission or reduction of these particular items in the demand and if these motions were not reached the inference is that the Council was not particularly anxious to interfere in these matters. We shall be establishing a very dangerous precedent if we allow demands once granted to be brought up for reconsideration again immediately afterwards."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether Government have communicated all the orders that have been passed on the Budget? I think the hon. the Revenue Member has said some two or three days back that intimation has been given to the local authorities. I want to know, Sir, what has been done in other cases."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" The question as to what had to be done in the matter of these loans had been pending with the Government for over a year, and as soon as the Council passed the Revenue Budget, orders were passed and communicated."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I do not claim that I have anything to say against that procedure. I am anxious to know whether this

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particular procedure has been taken in this case only. I want to know whether a similar procedure of informing the Council's decision beforehand was adopted in other cases also."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"There was another case of holding up the orders of the Government, namely, the bifurcation of the Kistna district. The Government are about to issue orders."

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—"May I know what was the official recommendation made by the Finance Committee on the matter?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"If I remember aright the Finance Committee agreed to the proposal but wished that before the matter came before the Council there should be an examination of some details. The Finance Committee wanted to know to what extent the claim for damages put in by each of the companies had been checked. The question was gone into by Sir Arthur Knapp, who was the only person who knew all about the matter and he assured himself that the extent of damage had been carefully checked in each case."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, I had no desire to speak on the merits of the question. The iniquities of the matter are so clear that I do feel that any hon. Member of this Council can give his vote in favour of this motion. My object in now rising is to contradict the statement of the hon. the Finance Member, that because we did not concentrate upon this vote in the Budget and we allowed it to be carried, therefore it is a dangerous precedent for us to discuss it after the Budget. Sir, we are working under very great difficulties. I equally agree with the hon. the Finance Member that there ought to be some organization in the matter of the Budget discussion. I hope the party system will grow, so that the whips on both sides will be able to concentrate the attention of the House on important things, and we may tell Government as to what our opinion is. But because we have not yet developed that organization, for which both of us are anxious, it does not follow that we ought therefore to assume that the demand has been passed. I do not think that hon. Members on the Treasury Bench ought to quibble with words."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I resent, Sir, the insinuation contained in that word. I made a definite statement of fact."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"You can quibble by making a definite statement."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"The demand as a whole was definitely put from the chair and was accepted by this House."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am surprised that the hon. the Finance Member is unfamiliar to the rules of this House even after so many months of experience. There is no rule for amendment at that stage. If the things are not discussed and voted upon, there is no possibility of the demand being voted upon in a particular manner. We have got only two alternatives, either to vote for it or against it. Does the hon. the Finance Member suggest that because it was carried we should be presumed to have voted for every pie contained in the demand?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I certainly mean to suggest that, Sir."

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* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Then I certainly say, Sir, that it is quibbling."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I am sure that the hon. Member for University will realise that in the House of Commons, that particular word has been held unparliamentary. I am sure he will realise the expediency of using some other word in its place."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"In deference to the observation made by the hon. the Law Member, may I use the word hair-splitting, Sir?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I am sure that the hon. Member for University will see the justice of the request and withdraw that expression and use hair-splitting or any other expression."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, I have not read the A. B. C. of the parliamentary practice. Unless you are going to make a ruling that it is unparliamentary, I am not going to withdraw that word."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not wish to make a ruling at present; because I think that whatever may be the authorities on the subject, we, most of whom are strangers to the English language, have to be governed by the spirit of our Rules and Standing Orders. The word is obviously unparliamentary. I do not think it takes long for the House to find out an objectionable word or to give an opinion. But as regards the merits of this particular point, I allowed it to be raised because there is no harm in the House being reminded of the correct practice in this matter. We have settled it by repeated rulings during the last two or three years that points raised during a Budget discussion are not held to conclude the discussion even on those very points, even though a vote may have been taken. The fact that the House has negatived a particular expenditure for a particular year, or has passed expenditure for a particular year, does not debar it from raising the question again as a matter of general policy. That we have settled in numerous discussions. But where a matter has been seriously discussed on any occasion in this House even in the way of a supplemental question, as was done in regard to certain Malabar affairs recently, and *a fortiori* in the Budget discussions, the House will no doubt give due weight to that fact in considering whether it ought to spend any more time, within a very short time subsequently, in discussing the same point again as a general question. That is the conclusion we have arrived at and that was the reason why I considered that this motion was in order, although it has been very recently a subject of discussion in the House, though not during the Budget discussion, but during question time. The merits are the same. We have owned that it would be gravely inconvenient if we shut out hon. Members from discussing particular points during a year merely because those points came somewhere within the four corners of the Budget. It is very difficult for any question that can possibly be raised in the House not to fall within the four corners of the Budget. I therefore agree that this is in order."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, your statement has considerably lightened my task. I really wanted to point out to the House that it will be a dangerous precedent, if I may use the word of the hon. the Finance Member, to burk discussion on a subject of this kind, simply because we are compelled by rules to vote upon a demand without any discussion whatever, for want of time. I think, Sir, all of us should vote for the resolution. If we do not

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really think it to be our duty now, we shall be really setting up a dangerous precedent and creating difficulties for ourselves and for our successors in the future in this very House. This extra money we cannot afford, this discrimination is unjust, this payment is unnecessary. It is for these three reasons I do appeal to this House to support this motion and to do justice in this matter."

The motion was then put and carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House has been adjourned for the purpose of discussing this matter. The House having expressed its views in favour of the motion, it is open to the House to resume the other businesses of the House."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"On a point of order, may I know, Sir, whether it will not practically nullify the resolution of the House that has been just passed if we continue to-day with the rest of the business? The House had been adjourned for a particular business to mark its pleasure or displeasure on the Government's attitude with regard to this matter. As I am aware, Sir, I have not been able to recall any occasion either in this House or elsewhere, of course I am not much acquainted with other Houses except the Assembly, so far as I know."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Probably if I interrupt the hon. Member, it is in order to point out the terms in which this particular matter is regulated in our Standing Orders. The motion always is that the business of the Council be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance and the business was adjourned accordingly. The only anomaly in an adjourned debate is that after carrying the motion the House is satisfied and nothing else is necessary. The motion is for the purpose of adjourning the business of the House and that motion has been carried."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"May I point out, Sir, that the resolution itself runs to the effect that the adjournment of the business of the House, etc. Is it not, Sir, a fact that we have to give effect to it by adjourning the House? I think, Sir, that it is only in that way we can show our feelings. But you are our authority and I am only placing before you my views on the matter and we are of course bound by your ruling."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I think there are precedents elsewhere for going on with the business which is committed to the Council although there has been a motion for adjournment carried. I, however, admit that so far as this House is concerned, it has uniformly observed the rule of not sitting."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I point out that that was the practice when adjournment motions began at 4-30 p.m. and thereafter when the discussion came to a close there was hardly any time to go on with the rest of the business of the day?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"That is probably the psychology or the reason for that state. But there is this argument to be adduced in favour of rising altogether that if the House feels strongly that

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would a spectacular method of displaying the sentiments of the House. The rising of the House and the dispensing with the business of the Council may be spectacular and arrest attention. But, Sir, we may yet conform to that and go on with the business of the House and there is absolutely nothing against our adjourning the House for, say, five minutes and then re-assembling. Especially after the alteration of our Standing Orders, as we now meet at 2-30 p.m. for the adjournment motion, I think it will be a great encroachment on the time of the House and I am sure hon. Members will appreciate when I say that when there is a clear cut issue on which the House has fairly unanimously expressed itself it does not seem to be quite correct that even when we have been able to finish the business within, say, about 15 minutes we should not meet again. I think it will only be straining the language and I hope the general sense of the House will be that we might construe that expression as meaning that all the time occupied in discussing this matter has been spent by way of adjourning the original or ordinary business of the House."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I might point this out. I happen to have studied this question somewhat carefully both in the other Assembly to which reference has been made and here. But there is also this difference between our practice and that of the Mother of Parliaments as it is called. There the adjournment of the House, except at half past eleven in the night, is always on the motion of a member so that it rests with the members and not with the Speaker to adjourn the House at any time other than the time fixed by the Standing Orders for closing the proceedings of the day. Here it is open to the House to adjourn the business of the House by its vote. But it is allowed to the President only to adjourn the House and the one does not depend upon the other, though I generally prefer in the matter of adjourning the House to do so according to the wishes of the House. That is why I took care to consult the wishes of the House and I understood before the debate began that the House desired that if the debate ended reasonably early we might proceed with the business of the House left over."

"The House will now resume discussion on the motion of Mr. K. Koti Reddi."

IX.—MOTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST REGARDING
CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC SERVICE AMONG SUBORDINATE OFFICIALS—cont.

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I propose to say only a very few words in answer to the speeches made by various hon. Members who have taken part in the discussion. In fact, the particular matter comes under the portfolio of my hon. Colleague, the Finance Member, and I am sure he will answer at a greater length. The only reason for my intervening in this debate is because of the circumstance that two of the departments which I have the honour to administer, Judicial and Police, were specially adverted to."

"I shall deal with the Judicial department first. Sir, I do not think that I can let such an occasion pass without making it abundantly clear that so far as the Government have been able to ascertain and so far as general public opinion is concerned the administration of civil justice and the conduct of officials like the district munsifs, the subordinate judges and the district

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judges has been to a remarkable degree above reproach. (Hear, hear.) I do not mean to say that there are no black sheep here and there, but it seems to me at the same time that the remedy for corruption if any as in the other case to which I shall presently refer, lies only by organising public opinion in the localities; there must be what may be called collective forensic opinion crystallised in the Bar Association that exists in the various places. Speaking from my place here I may at once say that if there is an organization of the Bar, functioning as it ought to function in each centre where the civil courts are, there is no doubt that a great deal can be done in the way of minimising and putting an end to corruption. So far as the magistracy is concerned excepting probably in the inferior ranks there has been very little reproach. In regard to the Police department I am aware that a number of allegations are made not only on the floor of this House but also in the various petitions which Government have received about the various members of the Police department. What I would venture to say here is in repetition of what I said in the course of my remarks while discussing the Police budget, viz., the extent to which the Police can be maintained above corruption or criticism is exactly proportionate to the amount of co-operation and conscious interest that the leaders of public opinion in each locality bestow upon the department. Where there is a systematic course of corruption, matters ought to be brought to the notice of the district authorities and Government in grave cases. And if, notwithstanding that, the Government or the district authorities remained supine, it would then be open, not only open but also it is the duty of every one to point out the inactivity of the authorities. But so many allegations and counter-allegations are made in regard to these matters. What I would ask in this matter is that we must all aim at the formation of public opinion in such things and that would be the only feasible course of action. May I point out that there are obvious inconveniences in the matter of forming a committee. First of all is such a committee to be a roaming committee or is it to function from one place? I am afraid after all it would only degenerate, I do not mean any disparagement to the Members of this House, I feel that it would only degenerate when it goes on inquiring into the peccadilloes not only of the police officers and magistrates but into a general impeachment of all that has been done by the various officers and their predecessors and so forth, throughout an extensive tract of the country. There is also this trouble of many charges being put forward and the number would be so great that the practical inconvenience of embarking upon such an inquiry would be so insuperable. Moreover the question of taking evidence would be insoluble. I am sure the House would realize these practical difficulties in pressing this aspect of the matter."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Sir, I yield to no one in my anxiety for the purity of the public services. But I must protest with all the vigour at my command against the vague and wild accusations that have been made in this House this morning and the way in which the subject has been treated by so many hon. Members as a joke. The hon. Mover, in the most reckless way, said that about 30 or 40 per cent of the members of one department were corrupt and that perhaps 10 or 15 per cent in another were not corrupt but he made no attempt to substantiate any of those accusations. Statements of this sort are most unfair to the services altogether, and not only are they unfair to

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the services but also they are a powerful condemnation of the gentleman who made them. He has repeatedly stated that he has 'come across cases'; but he contents himself with coming to this House and making wild allegations; whereas if there was anything in them his first duty was to bring the facts to the notice of the authorities in order that proper action might be taken on them. His has been a most unfortunate experience if he can make these sweeping accusations of corruption against everybody else."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I do not think that the hon. Member from Cuddapah said that everybody else than himself was dishonest."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"If I have allowed any hon. Member to receive that impression, I am sorry. But he did say that perhaps 10 per cent of the Police department were not corrupt; some 15 per cent of the judicial department and 5 per cent of some other service was perhaps honest. I consider it absolutely wicked that all these vague accusations should be made without an attempt to substantiate a single one of them."

"I do not deny altogether the existence of corruption."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"So it is a question of percentage."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I do not think so; but I am glad to have the support of the hon. the Deputy President in saying that corruption is on the decline. I may say that for the last 60 or 70 years or even more the improvement has been going on; and if anybody thinks he can controvert that position I would ask him to read this book, written by Mr. Srinivasa Raghava Ayyangar and see the lurid picture he gives of the state of affairs sixty years ago. I have got the book here and am ready to read out the passages to which I refer if any hon. Member wants to hear them."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"For the last five years corruption is on the increase."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"May I know the date of the book of Mr. Srinivasa Raghava Ayyangar?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"The book was published in 1892, but the particular passages to which I allude describe the condition of affairs thirty years before that. Mr. Srinivasa Raghava Ayyangar's conclusions were that in those thirty years there had been very great and remarkable improvement. Those hon. Members, who, like myself, can throw their memories back over the thirty years which have succeeded the publication of that book, will support me in saying that the improvement has continued. If anybody states that in the last five years there has been deterioration I would ask him to substantiate it."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I can substantiate."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"The hon. Member will have his opportunity."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I am only following his example of yesterday."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"In effect I am saying that nobody should be regarded as guilty until his guilt is proved and that there is no justification for blackguarding a whole service and saying that it is all

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corrupt. The hon. the Deputy President took out of my mouth much that I was going to say about the improvement in modern years. He and I, but I am afraid not many other hon. Members, can carry on our memories back over 30 years. Even the youngest member among us must however be old enough to have noticed some improvement.

"If it is admitted that there has been an improvement there must be some reason for the improvement. And the reasons are in the first place that there has been a general advance in education and a general improvement in public morality. In the next place, the salaries of the public services and especially the lower ranks, have been raised appreciably. (Diwan Bahadur Kesava Pillai: hear, hear.) In the last few years the rise has been great. Thirdly, while opportunities have been diminished, and supervision has been made more strict, I think I may safely say that all officers have known that if a *prima facie* case of corruption on the part of a public servant came to the notice of the Government, it would be thoroughly investigated, and that if it were established the officer concerned had no chance of escaping severe punishment. There is no difficulty in devising means of reducing, and I hope, of finally extinguishing corruption. It may be a slow process; but I certainly should not like to say that it is impossible to extinguish it. The means are firstly to persuade people to bring to the notice of the authorities any case of corruption that occurs; secondly, efficient investigation, and thirdly severe punishment.

"So far as the raising of the general level of morality is concerned, it is very largely a matter for the public, a matter in which hon. Members of this House can take a very large part. (Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai: hear, hear.) They and their friends can treat any one who has made money by taking bribes or corruption in such a manner as to make his life unbearable. What is more important still is that they can bring about a revulsion of opinion as regards the immorality of giving bribes. It is only when the giving of a bribe is universally regarded as equally reprehensible with the taking of a bribe that the bribe-taker can be eliminated altogether. If parties to suits, applicants for employment or advancement, persons who come within the purview of the police or who have dealings with other departments of Government will continue to offer bribes in order to get the better of their opponents or to secure advantages for themselves, and if their actions are not looked upon with the gravest reprobation by their friends and associates, it is quite useless to ask the Government or anybody else to put down corruption. It is, in fact, a matter for public opinion, more than anything else.

"As my hon. Friend and Colleague has stated, a committee cannot do any good in a matter like this. It has been tried in another province with the most disastrous results. Anybody who has spent many years in Government service knows how many petitions—may be anonymous, may be pseudonymous, but always malicious—(laughter) the head of an office receives against subordinates of all grades and more specially against any subordinate who fearlessly performs an unpopular duty. Similarly hon. Members who practise at the bar know how lightly accusations are bandied about concerning the character of judicial officers of every grade and how little foundation there is for them in the vast majority of cases. A further consideration is the ease with which the character of the most high-minded officer

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may be compromised by the conduct of his subordinates. Let us see what would be likely to come before a committee and here I would quote from a former note of my own. It may be taken as certain that in the majority of cases in which a bribe is taken, the giver receives value for his money. What inducement has he to come forward and accuse the man who has fulfilled his part of the agreement? Surely it is the last thing he would do."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"Is that a quotation or the hon. Member's own opinion?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"It is a quotation from a note I wrote on the subject some two years ago. A few true complaints might possibly be made by disappointed bribe-givers, though it is more than probable that they would prefer their actions to remain concealed even from a committee. There would be many false complaints from persons who had failed to corrupt public servants; but the most common kind would be complaints from people who merely had a grudge against a public servant or his relations. In fact, a committee could do nothing except diffuse a general atmosphere of distrust and suspicion, an atmosphere which is most detrimental to the efficiency of the services. The idea would get abroad that we wish to prove the existence of corruption everywhere, instead of, what no doubt my friends really wish, the punishment or removal of really bad men. There must be a most exhaustive inquiry when a *prima facie* case comes to notice and punishment of the severest description awarded when guilt is proved. That is already the rule, and what is wanted is a change of outlook on the part of the public. If there were no bribe-givers, there would be no bribe-takers, and it is the bribe-giver, even more than the bribe-taker, who is the corrupting influence. I ask the Council therefore not to ask for committees to make inquiries. The inquiries must be made by the regular tribunals. A committee could not make a judicial inquiry; if it made an inquiry of its own, and came to a conclusion that an officer was corrupt, it could only remit the case to a regular tribunal to be tried again. I would ask hon. Members to assist the Government, as individuals, in bringing the offenders to book, and, above all, to create a healthy state of public opinion in which neither bribe-takers nor bribe-givers can hope to escape the just consequences of their moral obliquity."

The hon. the President called upon Mr. Koti Reddi to make his reply. There were voices of "Vote, vote."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, do I understand that I am called upon to reply or to withdraw?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I cannot ask the hon. Member to withdraw. The hon. Member as the Mover of the motion has the right, if the House is willing to concede it to him by not putting the motion for closure, to reply. I asked him to do so."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"I am sorry, Sir, to find that the Government has taken this subject so lightheartedly. It is true that I have made some charges, as the hon. the Finance Member says, without much inquiry or bringing to notice the persons concerned. Sir, as I prefaced my speech, my experience was confined to some districts and the information that I have given is what I have collected from various people in the villages. As

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I expressed to the House, there was no temptation, there was no necessity, there was no inducement on the part of these people to come and tell me that such and such officer has done such and such thing. My information is based on my experience and to some extent I am prepared to substantiate them. The whole difficulty is this. I really wanted to discuss as to the nature of the remedies or whether any remedy can be found at all. But, unfortunately, I did not find sufficient time. I am really not so hopeless of finding a proper remedy for this state of affairs. But the Government seem to think that, unless public opinion is improved, unless the givers of bribes are non-existent, corruption cannot be put an end to. If there were no bribe-givers, there was really no necessity to come to the House and ask Government to find out some remedy. There are bribe-givers, there will be bribe-givers so long as there are some people in all classes who are not scrupulous about the means they employ to gain their ends, regardless of consequences. The real attitude of the Government ought not to be to say that if there be no bribe-givers there would be no corruption but to find means to check their own officers and to see that they are made more and more honest. Sir, the difficulty of substantiating the charges that are sometimes made against officers is the real difficulty that we have to contend with. No doubt, the Penal Code lays down the punishment for bribery or corruption. But the difficulty is how to get the evidence of the bribe-giver. Nobody, as the hon. the Finance Member said, comes forward to give evidence in a public inquiry. But the fact remains—and I am glad the hon. the Law Member admitted to the extent to which I have been able to go—that there is corruption at least in the offices with which he is concerned.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I am afraid I owe an explanation to my hon. Friend and to the services which I have the honour to administer. I did not admit that. I said that charges and counter-charges of corruption had been made and those charges are in existence in the archives of various offices. I said that, wherever possible, the Government would inquire into them.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ When the hon. Member, the Mover of the motion, wanted to reply, I thought that he would stick to his advocacy for a committee by further arguments with reference to the remarks of the hon. Members of the Government. Apparently he has nothing further to say. The trend of the House seems to be that the debate should come to an end and that the motion may be put.”

The motion as amended was put and declared lost.

COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO THE GRIEVANCES OF NON-GAZETTED OFFICERS.

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—“ Sir, in the absence of Mr. Sasibhushan Rath I beg to apply to the House for leave to make the motion standing in his name.

“ I take it, Sir, that I have the leave of the House to move it. Permit me, Sir, to thank you and the hon. Members of this House for granting me permission to move this motion standing in the name of my hon. Friend Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo. The resolution that I should like to place before this honourable House for the purpose of acceptance is in these terms—

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‘ That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee of two elected Members of this Council, two officers of Government and two representatives of the Non-gazetted Officers’ Association be appointed to report on the organization, conditions of service and other matters relating to various branches of the non-gazetted Government services.’

“ I do not think, Sir, that it is very necessary for me to make a long speech bearing upon the grievances and conditions of services governing these non-gazetted officers. It may perhaps be within the recollection of this House that so late as September 1924 this Local Government was good enough to accord official recognition to what is known as the Non-gazetted Officers’ Association which at the present moment is 35,000 strong. It may perhaps be asked by some hon. Members that the question of pay and allowances of the non-gazetted officers has been the subject of talk and discussion and consideration by this House and by several committees appointed by this House and in that state of things what reason there is to resuscitate the matter and ask this House to commit itself to the recommendations contained in this resolution. Hon. Members may be aware of the fact that so early as 1917 a committee composed of non-officials of this House in the pre-reform days sat together and that that committee submitted a report in the year 1919. Some time later the Reform Commissioner, Sir Arthur Knapp, raked up the question and submitted a report in the year 1920. In the Reformed Council a resolution was tabled and it was carried through successfully with the result that the Local Government in deference to the wishes expressed almost unanimously by this House appointed a committee known as the second Salaries Committee which only sat for a few days and submitted what is known as its interim report. It did not survive it. The official life of that committee was cut short with the result that the committee concluded its labours and submitted the abovementioned interim report. I have no desire to take the House through the long history of these non-gazetted services. Time was when the clerks in every branch of the Government administration started on an initial pay of Rs. 15 so much so that that class of officers was known or was nick-named as the 15th regiment. That state of things continued up to 1892 or thereabouts. Later on a scheme was adumbrated—I am not quite sure by whom, most probably by Sir William Meyer—which took into consideration their conditions with the result that they were placed on a better footing, i.e., on a pay of Rs. 20. That state of things went on till about the Great War which broke out in August 1914. Thereafter, what is known as the temporary allowance was sanctioned to these people and the first Salaries Committee published its report in 1919. They recommended an initial pay of Rs. 30 so far as the mufassal clerks are concerned and Rs. 35 for the clerks in the city. But when the interim report of the second Salaries Committee constituted by this House was published the Government raised the pay of these two sets of officers by Rs. 5 each; in other words, they started the mufassal clerks on Rs. 35 and their *confrères* in the City of Madras and in other places on Rs. 40.

“ Now, with your leave, I should like to place before you a few of the many grievances which really seem to hang heavily upon these non-gazetted services. So far as these non-gazetted services are concerned, the feeling seems to be almost universal that they have neither father nor godfather. That they had no mother admits of no doubt, but their complaint is that they

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have only a step-mother who accords them only a step-motherly treatment. I have no intention to draw any invidious distinction between the treatment meted out to these officers and the higher class of officers who after some considerable struggle have been able to get better treatment. I have no quarrel with them, because we know that quite recently this province was made to commit itself to an extra expenditure of 10 lakhs of rupees by the Lee Commission report. Let me not be understood as standing in the way of other officers getting that amount or more. I take my stand upon other considerations and my submission is that sympathy has been denied to the most deserving class of non-gazetted officers who form, if I may say so, the very backbone and the very foundation of the administration. Without these non-gazetted officers the whole of the huge machinery of administration must necessarily come to a standstill. And, who are these non-gazetted officers? What are their functions? What kind of part they play in the general administration? So far as these officers are concerned they do not get a living wage. A man enters the service in his 21st year or so. He is burdened with a family and, if he is lucky enough to be rid of his parents, to his misfortune he has one or two children. That is the trouble. Then again, the cost of living has increased *pari passu*. There is no use of taking our stand upon the rates that prevailed some thirty years ago and then try to adjust their position in the list of and with reference to the old state of things.

"Now, the grievances of these non-gazetted officers may be said to fall under the following heads:—

"(1) The starting pay of the lowest grade ministerial officer which has been fixed at Rs. 35 for the mufassal and Rs. 40 for the city is too low and is much less than what they have all along asked for.

"(2) The scales of pay sanctioned for the various grades of non-gazetted officers are inadequate and compare very unfavourably with those sanctioned for officers of corresponding rank in the offices and departments under the control of the Government of India.

"This is an invidious distinction.

"(3) The rates of increment allowed are also very miserably low while the rates allowed to higher officers is immeasurably high. Among the ranks of these non-gazetted officers there are sarishtadars, sub-magistrates, tahsildars, deputy tahsildars, deputy inspectors of schools, sub-registrars, etc. Their rates of increment vary from Re. 1-8-0 to Rs. 10 a year."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"May I ask the hon. Member to repeat his last sentence?"

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"So far as the incremental time-scale is concerned some get only an increment of Re. 1-8-0, some Rs. 3, some Rs. 5 and the maximum increment which a tahsildar gets is about Rs. 10 whereas in the case of the higher officers belonging to the imperial and other services they get on an average a minimum of about Rs. 40 and a maximum of about Rs. 100. That is the disparity.

"(4) Unnecessary and invidious distinction has been made between office and office, and department and department, both in the scales of pay and rates of increment allowed.

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"This is rather important and I should like to draw the attention of the House to this manifestly unjust treatment meted out to this army of officers by their employers.

"(5) When the initial pay of the officers was fixed in the revised time-scales of pay, credit was not given to their service as was done in the case of gazetted officers with the result that men of long service have not been benefited by the revision and are in no better position than fresh recruits to service.

"Another thing is:

"(6) the revised scales of pay sanctioned in connection with the general revision were unjustly withdrawn from certain officers of the Educational and Health departments and were replaced by reduced rates of pay.

"While I am on this point, I would like to draw the attention of this House to this point:

"Two acts of glaring injustice have been brought to notice in connection with the revision of pay. To compensate for the abnormal increase in the prices of necessities of life, Government revised the salaries of its servants and sanctioned time-scales of pay for all the subordinate officers. While these officers were complaining that the scales of pay sanctioned for them were low and inadequate, it was not a little surprising to find that Government withdrew unconditionally from all officers alike, even these inadequate scales of pay in the case of Deputy Inspectors of Schools and school assistants in the Education department and of health inspectors in the Health department and finally placed them on reduced rates of pay. This action of Government is open to objection for two reasons. Firstly, there was no reason in Government singling out these two classes of officers alone for such unjust and unmerited and unceremonious treatment. Secondly, when revised scales were first sanctioned and given effect to by Government, they became the officers' scales of pay and Government had no right to withdraw them from the existing incumbents without giving them the option admissible under Fundamental Rule 23 to remain as they chose."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I did not quite catch the last point."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"They were placed on certain scales of pay and they were allowed to draw their pay accordingly, but all of a sudden that privilege was withdrawn to their detriment.

"Another point on which I should like to lay some stress is this—

"(7) Non-gazetted officers acting in higher posts are denied the higher pay attached to those posts while so officiating. To make myself clear, I would give an example of this: A clerk on Rs. 40 if he is asked to do the work of a clerk on Rs. 80 is not allowed to draw Rs. 80 or one-fifth of it in addition to the acting clerk's permanent pay as was the case before. He is expected to draw only Rs. 40 and do the work that legitimately appertained to some other officer drawing a higher pay by reason of that officer being allowed to go on leave or for other reasons.

"(8) In the scheme of presidency allowance sanctioned early this year for officers stationed in the city of Madras, the majority of non-gazetted officers have been left out, and the claims of officers stationed in equally costly cities like Madura and Trichinopoly have not been investigated.

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"(9) The existing pension system is highly disadvantageous to them as very few live to the age of retirement to draw the pension earned and should therefore be replaced by a Provident Fund system.

5 p.m. "There is one other matter to which I wish to advert. Till recently, clerks who were acting as Sub-Magistrates or Tahsildars for six months or for one year were allowed, when they took leave, the allowances they were drawing at the time when they took leave. But now under the Fundamental Rules they are done away with, with the result that notwithstanding the fact that a clerk on Rs. 80 is acting as a Sub-Magistrate getting Rs. 150 or Rs. 200 and has been working continuously for one year, the moment he takes leave he does not get the pay he was drawing; but he is told that he is entitled to the leave allowance on his permanent pay. That is the grossest amount of injustice, and a similar provision does not apply in the case of other officers. This anomaly also ought to be removed.

"Why I am anxious that the representatives of the non-gazetted officers should be on this committee is this: their complaint is that the judgment is at fault, that their cause has not been properly placed and that in the composition of the committees appointed by the Government, no representatives of the non-gazetted services were actually accorded seats. That is a real grievance in the matter. So far as this matter is concerned, the House will find that this resolution does not ask the Government to do anything more; all that it requires is, in view of the circumstances I have just mentioned, that the Government may see their way to consent to the appointment of a committee of the nature and composition outlined in this resolution so that the committee may go into the question thoroughly and satisfactorily and come up before the Government with detailed schemes setting forth the grievances and suggesting ways and means by which the grievances may be minimised or even remedied. Having regard to the fact that the higher services have had a certain amount of privileges all the way round in pay, pensions, passage, rent, etc., it is but fair that a better treatment is accorded to the non-gazetted officers. Let me conclude my remarks by observing that I should very much like the Government to come forward with a proposal of this nature; but for some reason or other the Government did not think of raising their little finger and it is therefore left to the representatives of this House to fight for the claims of the subordinate officers of the Government. Because we find the employer remaining rather reticent or indifferent, it has thrown upon the representatives of the people the responsibility of drawing the attention of the Government to the miserable state of things. In conclusion, I may say that a discontented service will be a regular drag and that it is not likely to conduce to the efficiency of the administration. If the administration is to run on smoothly and on well-conducted lines and if it is to give satisfaction to all parties concerned, I think it is high time that the Government should interfere and see their way to redress the grievances of the subordinate officers. I am glad I am not a public servant and I never hope to be one; but I know the kind of work that these subordinate officers do. They put up references, collect papers, put up notes and oftentimes play the role of a regular adviser to the higher officers; if you care for honesty and efficiency and if you are anxious to exact from the men good

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work, I think it is high time that the Government should realize their sense of responsibility, come to the rescue of these subordinate officers and give sympathetic consideration to their legitimate claims."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"I formally second the motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I shall permit the hon. Member to speak to-morrow. The House will now adjourn to meet again at 11 a.m. to-morrow."

The House accordingly adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

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

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 713 asked by Mr. V. Pantulu Ayyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 31st March 1925, page 952 supra.]

Report from the Collector of Tanjore, No. D. Dis. 15-25-A-2, dated 23rd January 1925.

1. There is no famine-stricken situation in this district nor can I regard the situation as particularly grave.
2. The agricultural situation in the district at the time of the flood was mainly that the kuruvai crop had generally been sown and transplantation was in general progress throughout the delta.
3. The floods by breaching the Cauvery and Coleroon
 - (i) destroyed large quantities of kuruvai seedlings and stopped agriculture for the time being across a small area in the north of Tanjore taluk and a strip widening from east to west from Papanasam taluk across the north of Kumbakonam and Mayavaram taluks and the bulk of the Shiyali taluk;
 - (ii) cut off the main supply of water to the Cauvery-Vennar irrigation system.
4. The breaches with the one notable exception of that above the Grand Anicut were closed with the utmost speed and in a remarkably short time the irrigation system under the Coleroon by the South Rajan Canal was in working order again with the result that agricultural operations were taken up even while breach-closing went on. There has been no shortage of water in this system and there are few good crops of samba paddy on that area mainly the north of Mayavaram taluk and all Shiyali except the south-east end. The deposit of silt over this area by the flooding appears to have been very beneficial in spite of the representations made to me at the time by several large ryots to the effect that their lands would be ruined.
5. The result of the Grand Anicut breach was more serious as it cut off the main supply to the Cauvery and Vennar rivers involving the bulk of the delta. But the supply was not completely cut off and with the opening of the old Vennar head and cutting through the shoals in the Cauvery there was enough water coming down to keep the delta going with the exception of the tail end lands and a normal kuruvai crop was reaped.

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6. The pinch was, however, being felt by the middle of September and the ryots were advised to delay the transplantation as long as possible so that the meagre water-supply in the rivers could be concentrated on seed-beds and used in a most effective manner. It was then expected that the Grand Anicut breach would shortly be closed. The situation was however saved by unusual rains general over the district and I reported to the Board on 26th September 1924 that I did not anticipate any serious loss of crops in the Vennar delta.

The supply in the rivers fell and towards the end of October rains again revived the crops over considerable area. This rain did not however last very long and to meet the situation the upper anicut was closed across the Coleroon and water forced down the Cauvery past the breach. This afforded some relief and the crops were kept going until there was more rain at the end of November and during the first half of December. This and the closing of the Grand Anicut breach on 12th December 1924 provided for the crops until the delta water began to fail in January. Rains on the 12th and 13th January, I am informed, practically again saved the unripe samba crops but rather damaged the earlier crops which were then being harvested.

7. The present situation therefore is that over the bulk of the delta there is a samba crop, but the outturn will be below the normal. Over the whole of the centre of the delta reports show that the outturn should be about 7 or 8 annas for samba and kar crops, that is to say, below the average. The udu samba will probably be less, but there is a considerable variation locally—in some places it is above the average and in others below.

8. There are, however, localities principally at the tail ends in Mayavaram, Negapatam and Tiruturaipundi taluks where practically no irrigation water has been received and there has been a failure of crops. In the south and east of Mayavaram and the south-east of Shiyali there are considerable areas which have never been transplanted and in Tiruturaipundi taluk about 500 acres are in the same condition. In Tanjore and other taluks the areas covered by sand have generally remained waste and there are other small areas principally in Papanasam and Kumbakonam taluks where owing to failure of irrigation supplies the crops have either not been planted or have failed.

9. I anticipate that remission in Mayavaram division will run nearly to two lakhs and hope that five lakhs will cover it for the whole district; but this is uncertain. I have with the approval of the Board given instructions that kist should not be collected by coercive process for lands for which remission applications have been submitted and I am meeting Divisional Officers on the 24th to discuss the question of remission so that the rules may not be enforced too rigorously and to ensure their uniform application throughout the district.

10. The price of paddy rose immediately after the floods and has remained high ever since. There is now a tendency for it to fall and I expect that there will shortly be a considerable reduction. This district generally exports large quantities of paddy. This year there will be less to export, but I anticipate that the production will be more than sufficient for the needs of this district. Other areas are, I understand, producing more paddy than ever and it stands to reason that the prices locally will fall.

11. The Census reports show the population dependent on agriculture in this district. It is the main occupation of this district and a considerable

31st March 1925]

portion of the population will benefit by the high price of paddy although producers will on the average have less to sell than usual. But I must point out that it is less than a year ago that ryots were complaining freely of the low price of paddy in this district.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 726 asked by Mr. C. Gopala Menon at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 31st March 1925, page 961 supra.]

List of town-planning schemes within and outside the limits of the City of Madras.

Serial number and name of scheme.	Extent of private land proposed to be developed as far as information is available.
	ACS.
1. Mambalam Eastern Section Town-planning Scheme ...	623
2. Choolai Development Scheme	...
3. Scheme for developing Moolakotalam Hutting ground. ...	...
4. Housing Scheme in R.S. No. 466, Tondiarpet ...	...
5. Do. in R.S. No. 1020, Lloyds Road ...	...
6. Do. for fishermen, S. No. 2344, Mylapore. ...	...
7. Do. in S. Nos. 4491, 4657, Mylapore ...	...
8. Mambalam Southern Section Town-planning Scheme	about 1,200
9. Mylapore Eastern Section Town-planning Scheme ...	295
10. Do. Western do. do. ...	...
11. Nungambakkam Town-planning Scheme	...
12. Scheme for S. No. 47/1, Puliur	558
13. Development of sand accretion	...
14. Improvement Scheme, Esplanade	...
15. General Hospital Road remodelling Scheme ...	...
16. Proposed over-bridge for St. Mary's Road level-crossing. ...	...
17. Whannel's Road over-bridge scheme	...
18. Scheme for diversion of Buckingham Canal from Cooum to Tondiarpet. ...	...
19. Scheme for proposed railways and tramways ...	...
20. Ambattur Town-planning Scheme	63
21. Scheme for area around Perambur Loco. Workshops. ...	...
22. Adyar Extension Town-planning Scheme	...
23. Mambalam Western Section Scheme	...

NOTE.—Item 1—Sanctioned.

Item 8—Awaiting orders of Government.

Item 9—Disallowed.

Item 15—Deferred.

[31st March 1925]

APPENDIX III.

[Vide order of the day No. IV—Communication to the Council at page 970 supra.]

Proceedings of the nineteenth meeting of the Finance Committee for 1924-25 held on Thursday the 19th March 1925 at 1-30 p.m. in the Cabinet room, Fort St. George.

PRESENT:

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM, C.S.I., I.C.S. (*Chairman*).
 Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU Garu, *Kt.*, M.L.C.
 M.R.Ry. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR Avargal, M.L.C.
 R. W. DAVIES, Esq., I.O.S., M.L.C.
 Messrs. V. Panduranga Row, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary to Government, Local Self-Government Department, and G. T. H. Bracken, I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Development Department, were also present.

Scheme for introduction in 1924-25.

	RS.
1. Purchase of a comptometer for the Finance Department	1,668

The Committee recommended the scheme for acceptance.

Scheme for introduction in 1925-26.

2. Deputation of two officers for the investigation of indigenous drugs—

	RS.
Average cost per annum	14,275
Total cost for three years	42,825

The Committee recommended the scheme for acceptance.

Further demands for 1925-26.

3. Augmenting the Forest Panchayat staff—

	RS.
Ultimate extra cost	35,474
Provision for 1925-26	30,064
Anticipated savings	5,000
Net extra cost	25,064

The Committee recommended that a further demand be moved, but that early steps be taken to absorb the surplus Forest staff.

31st March 1925]

4. Extra staff in connexion with the scheme for the control of expenditure—

	RS.
Extra cost in 1925-26	9,845

The Committee recommended the scheme for acceptance.

Supplementary demand.

5. “33. Public Health”—Purchase of stores for the Public Analyst and for additional expenditure on non-contract contingencies of the King Institute, Guindy—Rs. 14,660.

The Committee recommended that a supplementary demand be moved; the Committee considered that there had not been adequate control of expenditure and desired that their opinion to this effect should be placed on record.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
 20th March 1925.

R. A. GRAHAM.

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide order of the day No. V at page 971 supra.]

BILL No. 14 of 1924.

Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919.

To

THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
 OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

WE, the members of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Bill further to amend the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919 (Bill No. 14 of 1924), have the honour to submit the following report.

2. The Bill was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* in English on the 9th September 1924 and in Tamil, Telugu and Hindustani on the 30th September 1924.

[31st March 1925]

3. The Committee met at 2-45 p.m. on Thursday the 20th November 1924, the following members being present :—

- (1) The hon. the Raja of Panagal.
- (2) „ Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, C.I.E.
- (3) Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastriyar.
- (4) Mr. P. L. Moore, I.C.S.
- (5) Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao.
- (6) Mr. Muhammad Moosa Sait.
- (7) Mr. R. Srinivasan.
- (8) Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar.

4. We have examined the Bill and recommend it as it stands for acceptance.

5. As no change has been made, it is unnecessary to republish the Bill.

P. RAMARAYANINGAR.

C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR.

T. R. V. SASTRI.

P. L. MOORE.

U. RAMA RAO.

Mr. MOOSA SAIT.

R. SRINIVASAN.

S. VENKATACHALAM CHETTI.

BILL No. 14 of 1924

A Bill further to amend the Madras City Municipal Act IV of 1919.

Preamble. WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Madras City Municipal Act IV of 1919; It is hereby enacted as follows :—

Short title. 1. This Act may be called the Madras City Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1924.

Amendment of section 169 of Act IV of 1919. 2. In section 169 of the Madras City Municipal Act, In the proviso to clause (1) and in clauses (2) and (3) for the words 'one hundred and twenty' the word 'sixty' shall be substituted.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 1st April 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. Oralsupplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS TO QUESTION No. 710
PUT AT THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, DATED
31st MARCH 1925.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“With regard to the answer to clause (a), may I ask, Sir, what was the nature of the enquiry, who was the officer who was deputed to make the enquiry, how the enquiry was conducted, and whether any report was published?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“The enquiry was held by the then Home Member Sir Arthur Knapp in his office. He had invited the Superintendent of Jails and Inspector-General of Prisons to be present.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“May I ask if any of the prisoners who went on strike were examined as to why they went on strike?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“No, Sir.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“May I ask why this one-sided enquiry was held?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“I am unable to say, Sir.”

[1st April 1925]

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" May I ask whether any visitors to the jail were examined ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I ask whether any remarks made by the visitors to the jail were taken into consideration ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" They must have been ; but I do not find anything from the records."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Will the present Home Member be pleased to see whether there is any necessity for a further enquiry and if so hold such an enquiry ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I shall consider the matter."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer to clause (a), may I ask how the percentage of deaths among prisoners in this jail compares with that in other jails ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The office has not been able to get the information to-day, but if the hon. Member would put the question some time next session, I shall give the information."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, in answer to clause (f), asking whether the prisoners are being induced to go to the Andamans and if so why, Government have replied that only applications of those who volunteer to go to the Andamans are considered by Government. On another occasion the hon. the then Home Member stated that a particular Malayalee gentleman was deputed to go and explain to the prisoners the conditions of life in the Andamans. May I ask how that answer is to be reconciled with the answer to clause (f) here ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" When Mr. Künhiraman who was on special duty in the Andamans returned from that place he told the people the conditions of life there, but he never induced them to go there."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Did any of the free Mappillas in Malabar want to go to the Andamans on account of the descriptive efforts of this gentleman ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I do not know ; I have not made inquiries."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Did this gentleman go on with his description only among the prisoners or among the free people generally ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" He did not go about the special business of educating the people. But as he came across them he told them the conditions of life in the Andamans."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" It is on record that he went to the jail to tell them the conditions of life in the Andamans."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I am unable to say."

[1st April 1925]

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask if the description of this gentleman about the Andamans was roseate or the reverse ? My hon. Friend says that he was merely describing the conditions. Was it a prosaic and dispassionate description or was it one which induced these unfortunate people to imagine that in the Andamans they would have a new earth and a new heaven ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" It must have been a description of the exact state of affairs."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know what is the exact state of affairs ? " (Laughter.)

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I do not think I can allow that question."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" At any rate may we ask for the publication of any report which this special officer might have made regarding the conditions in the Andamans ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I do not know if he has made any report ; I shall look for it."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Did this gentleman proceed under instructions from Government and as part of his official duty ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No, I do not think so."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I ask whether the description given in the Jail Commissioner's report about the conditions of life in the Andamans was explained to the Mappilla prisoners ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I do not know what has been done."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Will the Government be pleased to place this precious report of Mr. Menon on the table of the House ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I have said already that there is no such report to my knowledge."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has promised to look into the matter."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" I do not know whether it is fair to ask a few more questions. But may I ask the hon. the Home Member to consider the whole question of sending the Mappilla prisoners to the Andamans and try to put an end to the system ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes, I would look into the whole question."

Village Establishments.

Effect given to the resolutions regarding the regrouping of villages.

* 728 Q.—Mr. P. ANJANEYULU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether and when the Government intend to give effect to the resolution of this Council regarding the regrouping of villages ?

A.—The question is under consideration.

[1st April 1925]

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I know whether the consideration given by the Government is a favourable one ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" All consideration is favourable." (Laughter.)

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Sir, this question was put first on 23rd February 1925. May I know that since then Government have come to any conclusions on this matter ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir, it is under consideration."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The answer is dated 30th March 1925 ; and there has not been very much of an interval between now and then."

Jails.

Hunger strike in Alipuram Jail.

* 728-A Q.—Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have made any enquiry into the causes that led the prisoners in Alipuram jail to resort to a general hunger strike in December last ; and

(b) if so, whether they will place the result of such enquiry on the table of this House ?

A.—The Government have made enquiries into the causes that led to the hunger strike in the Alipuram jail in December last.

The Superintendent of the jail found on 16th December 1924 that a large number of convicts who ought to have been at work in the factory were idling in other parts of the jail. He ordered these to be collected and put to work in No. 4 block which is wired. After they had been assembled they suddenly overpowered their warders and then broke out of the enclosure. The Superintendent had the convicts collected again and ordered that the men should be put into link fetters for security. These convicts went on hunger strike on the morning of 24th December 1924, the remaining portion of the block on the same evening and the whole jail next morning in sympathy. The whole jail took food on the 26th with the exception of the fettered men who held out until the 27th morning. Food was always available and no convict was forcibly fed.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask whether this enquiry was the same as that referred to in answer to question No. 710 ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer that the Superintendent of the jail found on the 16th December 1924, that a large number of convicts who ought to have been at work in the factory were idling in other parts of the jail, may I ask what was the number ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" One hundred and twenty-two."

[1st April 1925]

Revised edition of the Jail Manual.

* 729 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether, in view of a large number of amendments made to the rules in the Jail Manual, it is intended to publish a revised and up-to-date edition of the said manual ?

A.—Yes.

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Sir, we are all interested in the subject of jail administration. Will the hon. Member therefore arrange to supply us copies of the Jail Manual ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question of the free supply of publications is one for the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Finance Member."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Education.

Revision of pay of elementary schoolmasters.

730 Q.—Mr. V. HAMEED SULTAN MARAKKAYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is likely that the temporary allowance of Rs. 4 now being paid to elementary schoolmasters under local boards and municipal councils (Government contributing half the cost) will be continued and whether local bodies can permanently revise the scale of pay of elementary schoolmasters taking the Government subsidy as a recurring one ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to paragraph 1 of G.O. No. 226, Law (Education), dated the 27th February 1922, which has been issued as a press communiqué.

District Educational Officer, Tanjore.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Educational Officer, Tanjore, is living with his family in the office premises which are in the same compound as the Government Training School, Tanjore ;

(b) whether his living in the school compound is not prejudicial to the discipline of the school ; and

(c) whether he holds any permanent appointment in the department, and if so, where ?

A.—(a) The District Educational Officers of Tanjore have been occupying a portion of a block of buildings which are situated in a corner of the school compound with a separate entrance.

(b) No.

(c) The officer who till recently was the District Educational Officer, Tanjore, holds a permanent appointment in the Madras Educational Service as headmaster of the Model School, Teachers' College, Saidapet.

[1st April 1925]

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS TO WHICH ANSWERS WERE
RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR BEING LAID ON THE
COUNCIL TABLE ON 1st APRIL 1925.

Irrigation.

Meeting of the ryots, Ambur, regarding irrigation from the Palar.

732 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether he has received a copy of the minutes of proceedings of the meeting held at Ambur on the 1st February 1925 by the ryots of the village adjoining the Palar river and what action the Government have taken or will take on the matter?

A.—Yes. A copy of the resolutions has been sent to the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore Circle.

Police.

Period of service of the present Police Inspector in Ootacamund.

733 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the period for which the present Police Inspector has been serving in Ootacamund?

A.—Since 15th December 1918.

Appointments.

734 Q.—MR. B. OBALESAPPA: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have received a copy of the proceedings of the first conference of the barbers of the Godavari district held at Cocanada on the 10th January 1925 under the presidency of Mr. Pannada Bhaskaram, Native Doctor and Municipal Councillor of Rajahmundry, with the signatures of several persons who attended the conference; and if so, what actions were taken or proposed to be taken with regard to the resolutions Nos. 4 to 7?

A.—The Government have now received a copy of the proceedings of the conference in question. The resolutions of the conference will receive their attention.

His Royal Highness the Prince's Visit.

His Royal Highness the Prince's visit to Madras.

735 Q.—MR. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state the number of non-gazetted Government officials from the mufassal that attended His Royal Highness the Prince's visit to Madras?

A.—The Government have no information.

[1st April 1925]

Marine.

Lease of land to Messrs. Shaw, Wallace & Co.

736 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state the basis on which the rental for leases of land, e.g., that for 0.61 acre of land on the south accretion leased to Messrs. Shaw, Wallace & Co. at Rs. 91-8-0 per mensem, is calculated and whether there are any other such leases and if so, how many and on what terms respectively?

A.—The lease of the 61 cents of land in the south accretion referred to was granted by the Madras Port Trust Board, within whose premises the land lies. The lease covered the period from July 1919 to December 1923 and has expired. The monthly rental was Rs. 100 per acre for the first year and Rs. 150 per acre for the subsequent period. The Government are not aware of the basis on which the rental was calculated.

The following statement gives particulars of the other leases sanctioned by the Port Trust Board in the accretion south of the Madras Harbour:—

Name of lessees.	Extent.	Period.	Terms.
1. Messrs. Parry & Co. ..	ACS. 0-50	Three years from 1st July 1923.	Rent at Rs. 200 per acre per mensem.
2. „ Wilson & Co.	0-50	Do.	
3. „ Jessop & Co.	0-23	Three years from 1st November 1923.	
4. „ Asiatic Petro- leum Company.	6	Five years from 1st September 1922.	Terminable at 12 months' notice on either side in the case of item 4, and terminable at 6 months' notice on either side in the case of the other items.
5. Messrs. A. M. Ponnuswami Chettiayar and Brothers.	0-30	Three years from 1st August 1923.	
6. Messrs. Devar & Co. ..	0-09	Three years from 1st March 1924.	
7. „ Shaw, Wallace & Co.	0-21	Three years from 24th March 1924.	
8. Messrs. Bombay & Co.	0-50	Three years from 1st April 1923.	
9. „ Binny & Co. ..	1	Three years from 1st April 1924.	

Village Establishments.

Election of village headmen to taluk boards.

737 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the triune officers who are appointed as village headmen and karnams can stand for election to taluk boards?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

[1st April 1925]

Depressed Classes.*Scholarships to members of depressed classes.*

738 Q.—Mr. L. C. GURUSWAMI: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of scholarships awarded by the Commissioner of Labour and the Educational Department to the members of the depressed classes during the years 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924; and

(b) how many of these scholarships have been awarded to the members of Arundhatiya communities (Mahadigas)?

A.—No scholarships were granted by the Commissioner of Labour prior to 1923–24. The figures relating to 1923–24 and 1924–25 are as follows:—

			Number of scholarships awarded to pupils belonging to depressed classes.	Number of scholarships awarded to Mahadiga pupils.
1923–24	...	...	321	18
1924–25	...	...	617	65
(inclusive of 111 fee remissions).				

The number of scholarships awarded by the Educational Department to members of the depressed classes was as follows:—

1921	...	...	...	...	62
1922	...	...	...	...	67
1923	...	...	...	...	69
1924	...	...	...	...	62

The Government have no information as to how many of these scholarships were given to members of the Mahadiga community.

Forests.*The Forest Panchayat staff.*

739 Q.—Mr. M. GANGARAJU: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- in how many districts the Forest Panchayat staff is working;
- whether it is proposed to extend the jurisdiction of the staff;
- how many Inspectors of Forest Panchayats there are now;
- what is their grade and scale of pay;
- how have they been recruited and what are the qualifications required for selection;
- how many were recruited directly and how many from other departments; if so, from what department;
- how many were recruited from the Revenue Department;
- whether the panchayat staff is permanent or temporary;
- if it is temporary, how are the prospects, promotion, etc., of the Inspectors recruited from other departments guaranteed; and
- whether there is any time-limit as to the period one should work as Inspector?

[1st April 1925]

A.—(a) The Forest Panchayat staff is working in eleven districts.

(b) Yes.

(c) Six.

(d) The Forest Panchayat Inspectors are of the grade of Deputy Tahsildars on Rs. 150—5—200.

(e), (f) & (g) Five Inspectors have been recruited from men already in service, of whom two came from the Revenue Department, two from the Chief Conservator's office and one from the Secretariat. One Inspector has been recruited direct. No qualifications have been laid down for the post; but generally men possessing the qualifications required for a Deputy Tahsildar's post have been selected. With one exception, all the Inspectors are so qualified.

(h) Temporary.

(i) Men with permanent appointments retain a lien on those appointments. The pay of Inspectors is fixed on an incremental scale.

(j) No.

Working of the Forest Panchayat staff.

740 Q.—Mr. N. DEVENDRUDU: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- in how many districts the Forest Panchayat staff is working;
- whether it is proposed to extend the jurisdiction of the staff;
- how many Inspectors of Forest Panchayats there are now;
- what is their grade and scale of pay;
- how they have been recruited and what are the qualifications required for selection;
- how many were recruited directly and how many from other departments; if so, from what department;
- how many were recruited from the Revenue Department;
- whether the panchayat staff is permanent or temporary;
- if it is temporary, how are the prospects, promotion, etc., of the Inspectors recruited from other departments guaranteed; and
- whether there is any time-limit as to the period one should work as Inspector?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 739.

Number of Adi-Andhras in Forest Panchayats.

741 Q.—Mr. N. DEVENDRUDU: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- whether among members in the Forest Panchayats and Inspectors of Panchayats there are any Adi-Andhras; and
- if so, their number, names and headquarters?

A.—None of the Forest Panchayat Inspectors are Adi-Andhras. The Government have no information about the number in forest panchayats but will enquire.

[1st April 1925]

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.*Alleged grievances of Muslims against the Chairman of Calicut municipality.*

742 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD MOOSA SAIT: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received any representation of grievances of the Muslims of Calicut against the chairman of the municipality;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the Calicut municipality a maidan recently reclaimed from a tank opposite to the Hanafi mosque has been so used as to be a permanently disturbing factor to the congregation of worshippers in the mosque;

(c) whether it is a fact that repeated representations made by the local Muslim community to the municipal chairman to put a stop to the disturbance during the prayer time had been ignored;

(d) if the Minister has no information on the matter, whether he will be pleased to call for information; and

(e) what is the proportion of Muslim representation of the Municipal Council of Calicut?

A.—(a) & (d) The answer is in the negative.

(b) & (c) The Government have no information.

(e) The hon. Member is referred to the Annual Civil List, 1925.

Supply of the 'Fort St. George Gazette' to local bodies.

743 Q.—Mr. B. OBALESAPPA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government are supplying the *Fort St. George Gazette* in full to the local boards and municipalities either free or at reduced rates?

A.—The answer is in the negative. Only Part I-A of the Gazette is supplied to district boards and municipal councils free of cost.

Nomination of presidents to the district boards.

744 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the names of districts where the presidents of district boards are nominated instead of being elected;

(b) the community to which the nominated presidents belong; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to give effect to the resolution of the Legislative Council to nominate only Muhammadans and members of minority communities as presidents where necessary and throw open the rest to election?

A.—(a) & (b)—

	District Board.			Community.
1. Anantapur	...	...	...	Non-Brahman Hindu.
2. North Arcot	...	...	...	Do.
3. Bellary	...	...	...	Do.

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District Board.

Community.

4. Chittoor	...	...	...	Non-Brahman Hindu.
5. Coimbatore	...	...	...	Do.
6. Cuddapah	...	...	...	Brahman.
7. Ganjam	...	...	...	Non-Brahman Hindu.
8. Godavari	...	...	...	Do.
9. Guntur	...	...	...	Do.
10. Malabar	...	...	...	Do.
11. The Nilgiris	...	...	...	European.
12. Ramnad	...	...	...	Non-Brahman Hindu.
13. Trichinopoly	...	...	...	Brahman.

(c) The Legislative Council recommended that presidents might be nominated also for other reasons to be notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. The advisory committee for local and municipal administration was consulted in the matter and it was of opinion that unless a district board resolved to elect its president and until the presidentship became vacant, the privilege need not be granted. The question is being considered as vacancies arise.

The privilege of the Taluk Board, Dharmavaram, to elect its own president.

745 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the action taken by the Government on the resolution of the Taluk Board, Dharmavaram, dated 28th February 1925, requesting for the privilege of electing its own president?

A.—The Government are awaiting the report of the President, District Board, Anantapur, on the subject.

The privilege of district boards to elect their own presidents.

746 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have accepted the resolution of the Legislative Council passed on the 13th December 1923 "that all district boards should be given the privilege to elect their own presidents unless for securing the adequate representation of the Muhammadan and other minority communities or for other reasons to be notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette* the Government decide to the contrary";

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon;

(c) whether the advice of the Local and Municipal Standing Advisory Committee was taken thereon; if so, what was the opinion of the Committee;

(d) how many district boards have been granted the franchise of election and how many refused in pursuance of the said resolution and for what reasons; whether the reasons for the refusal of the privilege have been notified in the Gazette and if so, whether he will lay a copy of the reasons on the table;

(e) whether the case of each district board has been considered on its merits in the light of the said resolution; which are the district boards in

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respect of which the question of the 'franchise' has been decided; which are the district boards in respect of which the question is still pending consideration;

(f) whether the opinions of the district boards and of the District Collectors have been called for in each case and if so, whether he will be pleased to lay them on the table;

(g) whether there is any district board or boards in which the right of nomination has been retained by the Government for securing the adequate representation of the Muhamnadan and other minority communities; if so, which;

(h) whether the case of the Bellary district has been considered in respect of the matter; if so, what is the decision arrived at; if not, when it is likely to be considered; and

(i) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Bellary has recently reported that the district board might be trusted with the choice of its own president and the District Board of Bellary formerly passed a unanimous resolution praying for the elective franchise in question?

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

(b), (c), (d), (e), (g) & (h) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (c) of question No. 744. The Government see no need to furnish any further information.

(f) The hon. Member is referred to question No. 493 asked at the meeting of the 4th March 1924 and the answers to the supplemental questions connected with it.

(i) The reports of Collectors are confidential and the Government are not prepared to disclose their contents.

The Dindigul Municipal Council.

747 Q.—MR. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether five councillors including Muhammad Meera Sahib have resigned their membership of the Dindigul Municipal Council as a protest against the action of the Government in withdrawing the right of election of its chairman by the council?

A.—The Government are informed that five municipal councillors including M. J. Muhammad Meera Sahib Bahadur resigned their seats on the council after the privilege of electing its chairman was withdrawn from the council.

By-laws under the Madras Local Boards and Municipalities Acts.

748 Q.—MR. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether all the district boards and municipalities have submitted their finally approved by-laws under the Madras Local Boards and Municipalities Acts;

(b) if not, what are the bodies that have not done so yet;

(c) what steps, if any, Government have taken to expedite the matter;

(d) what are the local boards and municipalities which have submitted their by-laws and in what cases Government have given their approval and in what others, if any, the approval of the Government is pending;

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(e) whether it is not a fact that these local boards and municipalities have suffered in their efficient administration owing to the delay in publication of their by-laws; and

(f) when were the model by-laws framed by Government and communicated to these local bodies?

A.—(a) to (e) The question does not specify the period for which the information is wanted. The Government do not consider it necessary to collect the information as the task would involve considerable work. If, however, the hon. Member will bring to their notice any individual case of delay, they will inquire into the matter.

(f) A statement is furnished.

Statement showing when the model by-laws concerning C section were issued.

Subject.	G.O. No. and date.
1. Licensing of motor vehicles plying for hire.	1778, 26th September 1922, amplified in G.O. No. 1174, L. & M., dated 7th May 1924.
2. Guidance of toll-collectors.	240, 25th January 1923, amended in G.O. No. 2249, L. & M., dated 12th October 1923.
3. Street control—Traffic control.	402, 10th February 1923. They have been revised in G.O. No. 233, L. & M., dated 2nd January 1925; No. 235, L. & M., dated 22nd January 1925; No. 287, L. & M., dated 26th January 1925; No. 234, L. & M., dated 22nd January 1925; No. 251, L. & M., dated 23rd January 1925; and No. 236, L. & M., dated 22nd January 1925.*
4. Parks—Avenues—Protection of avenues, trees, etc.	
5. Parks—Use of parks, gardens and public places.	
6. Fire protection—Storage of timber, fuel, etc.	
7. Fire protection—Fire prevention.	
8. Streets control—Advertisement.	
9. By-laws about water-supply and drainage, Industrial control, Animal control, Sanitation, etc.	409, L. & M., dated 10th February 1923.
10. By-laws regarding rabies.	1081, P.H., 2nd July 1923.
11. By-laws regarding conservancy latrines.	402, L. & M., 10th February 1923.
12. By-laws regarding conservancy ash pits.	
13. By-laws—Weights and Measures.	3068, L. & M., 3rd November 1924.

* They are being published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

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Medical.*Proposals for a dispensary at Pamidi, Gooty taluk.*

749 Q.—Mr. B. OBALESAPPA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether any mahazar signed by several persons of Pamidi and other villages of Gooty taluk, Anantapur district, requesting Government to establish a dispensary at Pamidi, Gooty taluk, was received in the month of February 1925 and if so, whether any proposals have been made to the Government or whether they intend making proposals in the matter?

A.—A mahazar praying for the opening of a dispensary at Pamidi was received in February last. The petitioners were informed that they should address the taluk board concerned in the matter. No proposals have been submitted by the taluk board concerned. Until such proposals are received the Government do not propose to move in the matter.

Out-patients at the General Hospital.

750 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether a number of people are made to wait outside the General Hospital every morning and evening before the gates of the out-patients' department are opened for their admittance;

(b) whether they are obliged to do so even if there is severe rain; and

(c) whether the Government intend providing them with a covered veranda for waiting before the gates are opened?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 751.

Opening of doors of the Out-patients' dispensary in the General Hospital.

751 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government are aware that the doors of the out-patients' dispensary in the General Hospital are opened exactly at the time specified in the notice board, and that in consequence patients are made to wait outside in the open street exposed to sun, rain and dust; and whether the Government will direct that in future the doors of the dispensary be opened at least half an hour before the allotted time so that the patients may be accommodated comfortably inside?

A.—The doors of the out-patients' dispensary in the General Hospital, Madras, are opened at the time specified in the notice board. The question of opening the dispensary earlier was considered in 1922. An account of the out-patients who arrive early was recorded for a week and the number of such patients was found to be not more than 15 to 20 a day on the average. It was therefore decided to accommodate this small number of patients in the waiting room at the main office gate. The system was found to work well, but it is now reported that the out-patients do not take advantage of it. The suggestion made at the end of the question will be considered.

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Public Health.*The Leper Asylum, Chingleput.*

752 Q.—Mr. M. RATNASWAMI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received within the past 15 years offers to manage the Government Leper Asylum at Chingleput from any Roman Catholic Order of nursing sisters;

(b) what reply the Government have made to any such offers;

(c) what the reasons are for Government preferring the offer of Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland of Chingleput to that of the Roman Catholic sisters; and

(d) whether the cost of the management now accepted by Government would be cheaper than that of the Roman Catholic sisters and, if so, by how much?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 649.

(d) It is not possible to institute a comparison. In the one case the proposal was confined to the nursing arrangements and other minor duties; the other relates to the entire administration of the settlement.

Qualifications for vaccinators.

753 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: With reference to question No. 123 answered at the last sitting, will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what are the qualifications required of vaccinators in the various parts of the Presidency, who employs them and pays them, and which agency supervises their work;

(b) whether there is any agency for seeing (i) whether vaccination has been done satisfactorily, and (ii) whether it has been attended or followed by ailments due to bad vaccination; and

(c) whether registers are kept in public hospitals for noting such ailments?

A.—(a) The following qualifications have been prescribed for local fund and municipal vaccinators:—

I. First-class vaccinators—

(1) Certificate of good conduct;

(2) Possession of a completed Secondary School-Leaving Certificate.

(3) Qualification as Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Inspector or Sub-Assistant Surgeon;

(4) Ability to read and write at least one vernacular of the Presidency;

(5) Physical fitness for hard camp life; and

(6) Completion of a course of training in the King Institute of Preventive Medicine at Guindy.

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II. Second-class vaccinators—

- (1) Certificate of good conduct ;
- (2) Possession of a completed Secondary School-Leaving Certificate ;
- (3) Ability to read and write the vernacular of the taluk where he is employed ;
- (4) Physical fitness for hard camp life ; and
- (5) Completion of a course of training under the District Health Officer as may be prescribed by the Director of Public Health from time to time.

Vaccinators are employed by local bodies who meet their pay from their own funds.

Their work is supervised by the staff of Health Inspectors (old Deputy Inspectors of Vaccination), and District Health Officers in rural areas and by the Municipal Health Officers in the municipalities where they have been employed. In municipalities not employing Health Officers, all vaccination work is conducted under the supervision of the medical officer of the station.

- (b) (i) & (ii) No special agency exists except the agency mentioned in answer to clause (a).
- (c) The answer is in the negative.

Education.

Alleged closing of the hostel, Government Secondary Training School, Tiruvalur.

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

(a) whether there was a hostel for the Government Secondary Training School, Tiruvalur, and the same was closed after the present headmaster came and whether the hotel-keeper was paid from the public fund when there was no hostel actually working ;

(b) the reasons why the headmaster, Government Training School, Tanjore, refused to run the hostel ;

(c) whether the students especially the non-Brahmans sent a memorial for the opening of the hostel ;

(d) the result of the memorial ;

(e) whether the vessels and furniture of the hostel are allowed to deteriorate in the school lumber room to be used by the District Educational Officer, Tanjore, and by the headmaster ;

(f) whether the present headmaster is afraid to cope with the responsibility of conducting the hostel ; and

(g) whether some of the students who signed the memorial are particularly teased and ill-treated in the school ?

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- A.—(a) Yes. The hostel keeper was not paid from public funds.
- (b) Even prior to the amalgamation of the Tiruvalur and Tanjore schools there was no hostel. There is no urgent need for one and buildings are expensive and difficult to secure.
- (c) & (d) No.
- (e) No.
- (f) No.
- (g) The question does not arise.

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

II

POINT OF ORDER REGARDING QUESTIONS AND SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS.

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ Sir, as I fancy that there is a tendency to curtail our liberty in regard to asking questions, I beg to raise a few points for your ruling regarding our privilege to put a set of questions or supplemental questions. Before mentioning these points I may refer to our own Rules and Standing Orders and read the following extract from Redlich's Procedure in the House of Commons, Vol. II, page 241.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ If the hon. Member would tell us what his points are before reading the extract, we might be able to follow him easier.”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member wishes to raise some points regarding the privilege of hon. Members asking questions and their right to get answers from the Government. It is probably to circumvent what has been called ‘ evasion ’.”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ Redlich says :

“ ‘ Asking Questions ’ is a modern method, developed by recent parliamentary practice, of supervising the general policy and the administrative acts of the Ministry. The chief object which they serve is the explanation to the public of the meaning of political events, and it is permissible to frame questions so as to draw from the Government statements of their intentions or plans as to particular matters of public concern. Further, they are often arranged by the Government itself so as to give them an opportunity of making announcements in a somewhat informal way.”

“ Further it is also said that questions should be asked with a view to get information and not to give information to the House.

“ I may now put my questions, Sir, for your ruling. *Firstly*, do the rules debar us from asking the Government to verify and ascertain the truth of our allegations or information and communicate the correct facts to the House ? *Secondly*, are Government at liberty to tell us to go and investigate the facts ourselves ? *Thirdly*, is it right on the part of the Government to say that no possible purpose will be served by answering a certain question ? Is it for the Government to decide what purpose a question will serve or for the hon. Member asking the question to reserve to himself the responsibility for using the answer he may get for what purpose he likes ? *Fourthly*, is it open to Government to tell us to get the information from a departmental officer or some local authority ? *Fifthly*, what is the real meaning of the term so often used, viz., ‘ Government have no information ’ ? Are we to assume that Government have no information at all or that Government know the facts on

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which information is sought, but think it inadvisable to give us the information, or are we to raise a presumption against Government, namely, that they are withholding information unfavourable to the authorities?

"I shall illustrate the points which I have just now enumerated. 11-15 a.m. from answers to questions, viz., recently I put a question, No. 520 (on the 19th March), concerning ships carrying emigrants from Madras. The answer given was that Government had no information. I said that the information about the condition of an emigrant ship was of very great importance to the House as we wanted to know the truth of the allegation, as one Member put it, that the emigrants were huddled like cattle or as I have heard it said, that they were packed like sardines in the ships. We wanted to know what the exact facts were. But, Sir Arthur Knapp, the late Home Member, said: 'I am afraid I cannot see whether any possible purpose will be served by this question'. Now, my submission is that it is not for the Government to say what possible purpose a question will serve, but it is for the interpellator to see to it. Therefore it behoves Government to throw light on such questions like the one above referred to unless the questions are frivolous. My hon. Friend, Mr. Satyamurti, asked further questions and Government answered him 'go and investigate yourself'. I submit that the ambit of our activities is the Legislative Council. It is not for us to go to the Collector or the District Judge because we know to our cost how the Collector or the District Judge will treat our questions. They will ask us 'under what authority you are putting these questions and what business have we to answer your questions?' Our place for putting questions is only this House. It is here that we expect to get answers to our questions. Then again, I put a question, No. 530 on 19th March 1925, about the condition of the *bunder* or landing place at Mangalore. In that question I brought to the notice of the Government that a number of kerosene-oil depots were being opened there. A number of Indian merchants think that reclamation of the lands at the *bunder* was being done for the benefit mainly of American and European Oil Magnates, the Standard Oil Company and other companies and that the Indians were being deprived of all possible use of the extension of the landing place, that there would be greater danger of fire, and that the *bunder* was disfigured by a firewood depot. I enquired whether these depots could not be shifted to some other part of the town and the hon. Mr. Marjoribanks who spoke for the hon. the Finance Member that day said

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"He spoke, not on my behalf, but on his own, as Revenue Member."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Well, Sir, the hon. the Revenue Member said 'I do not know if Government can get any further information which the hon. Member is not already aware of'. I submit, Sir, that this is not the way in which we expect answers from Government. It is the duty of the Government to verify whether these kerosene-oil installations and fuel depots cannot be fixed at some other part, away from the landing place. The Indian merchants object to kerosene-oil installations been fixed within the landing place just as people here would object to these installations being fixed within the docks."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I may say that the hon. Member from South Kanara has told me that he would allow me time during the recess to think

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over these and other questions and give him a considered ruling. I am very obliged to him for the suggestions he has made and I shall be glad to look into the matter. Meanwhile, in order that hon. Members of Government and the House generally may be aware of the important points raised by the hon. Member from South Kanara, I shall see that all his questions are properly circulated by the Secretary as a notice. Then hon. Members of the Government will have time to look into them and I myself shall take some time. I dare say there are some points worth looking into."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, you said you would look into the important questions raised by the hon. Member from South Kanara. Perhaps you will consider the advisability of asking him to put down on the paper in the form of a letter to the hon. the President, the gist of his remarks, so that we might apply that amount of attention which they undoubtedly deserve."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I shall do so."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"May I ask if Government want time to answer these questions?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I am perfectly prepared to answer all questions of general principles at once. But I really want to know whether, as a matter of fact, there has been evasion as he calls it of our obligations or any systematic getting away from the ideas which have been adumbrated in the hon. Member's speech. So far as the principles are concerned I am ready to answer. As to the godowns and matters of a like nature, and as to why the kerosene-oil godowns were allowed to have their installations and so on I cannot possibly forthwith come to a decision. But on general principles I am perfectly prepared to answer."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member from South Kanara told me yesterday of his intention to move in this matter and I said he could raise it after question-time. At the same time he said that he would not hurry me for an immediate answer, only that to-day being the last day of the session he was obliged to raise these questions. If it had not been the last day of the session I dare say we should be ready with some answer to these questions in two or three days' time."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know if these questions are going to be answered by you, after you have consulted only the Government? If that is so, we should also like to have the privilege of advising you on the matter. If you are prepared to take advice from one side, we should like to have the privilege of advising you from the other side also."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Far be it from me to arrogate to myself the position of being an adviser to you, Sir. Apart from the question that the Government are liable to answer these questions or are not liable to answer them, we have some ultimate voice in the decision of this matter, especially as it is a well-known principle that in abstract theory the Government are not bound to answer questions. It is a well-known theory both in England and in India, but we have not taken any such line. We are willing to answer and we are anxious to answer every question in the fullest way possible."

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Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"What is the theory enunciated by the hon. the Law Member just now? Is it that the Government are not bound to answer any questions?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The Government are in theory entitled to refuse to answer any questions."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"What is the authority?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"In Redlich, Volume II, page 243, it is stated that a Minister may decline to answer any question without stating the reason for his refusal."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Let me enter my caveat against that doctrine. I know that such a doctrine exists in England, but then the Ministry can be turned out in England, and under that threat they are naturally more amenable to the legislative discipline than my bureaucratic friends are likely to be as they are immovable,—may be, irredeemable also,—and that is why that doctrine cannot apply in its entirety here. We therefore want to come to some understanding as to the principles which govern the interpellations put by us and the responsibilities of Government in respect of them."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It was with reference to the delicate question of irredeemability which has been started by the hon. Member who preceded me and also with reference to other questions that arise from what he has been pleased to call irresponsibility . . ."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Technical irresponsibility?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Technical irresponsibility or other irresponsibilities, I say all those questions deserve consideration."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"What we urge is that in coming to a decision our views too may be called for and taken into due consideration by all parties."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I have absolutely no idea as to what it is that troubles hon. Members' minds. I will take all possible care not to rush to a conclusion."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, the obligation to answer questions, so far as this Council is concerned, is governed by Rules and Standing Orders; and the only Standing Order which allows the Government not to answer questions is that which relates to supplementary questions. It says that a Member to whom a supplementary question is addressed may decline to answer it without notice. If my hon. Friend, the Law Member, wants to follow the Parliamentary practice, I may tell him—I was in the House of Commons and you, Sir, were also there—that if any Minister conditionally declines to answer questions there, he is shouted down. If the Minister is so impertinent as not to answer a particular question, the House makes it very hot for him and I assure the hon. the Law Member that if he is going to apply that trick here, he may expect that we too on this side would apply the same trick, viz., of shouting down the Minister."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It may be that my hon. Friend the Member for the University thinks he is entitled to use expressions like 'trick,' 'shouting down' and so on, but it was hoped that he took my

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observations in the light in which I made them. Apparently he has not, and he has used expressions, either unparliamentary or verging on an unparliamentary usage, and if shouting is going to be resorted to we have our own remedy. So it is not a matter in which the hon. Member for the University or the Government need lose any temper or shed any remains of parliamentary decorum."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"Would the hon. the Law Member be pleased to raise his voice?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I did not think that the observations of the hon. Member for the University were sufficiently important for me to raise my voice."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member then why he is speaking?"

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It is on account of the dignity and status of this House, I wanted to deprecate the use of such expressions like 'tricks' and so forth. I know that the general sense of the House will be with me when I say that the House will deprecate the use of such expressions. It is in order to deprecate the use of such expressions by hon. Members on the one side or the other that I venture to rise at all on this occasion, and I hope that this lesson will be learnt not only by us—for we have already learnt this lesson but also by those who have used facetiously expressions like 'trick' and 'shouting down'. As I said, if the hon. Member for the University resorts to the expedient of shouting down which has been referred to as having the sanction of precedent in other assemblies, I may say we have also our own remedies."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, we speak with very great restraint and with due regard to well known rules of parliamentary practice. My hon. Friend very facetiously said that he could refuse to answer our questions, and I equally facetiously said that if he refused to answer our questions, we had our own remedies, to which he got up and lectured to us about parliamentary practice, which seems to be not the duty of the Treasury Bench, when you are here. It seems to me that this is not the way to treat this House. If as the hon. the Leader of the House thinks he can lecture to us about parliamentary practice, I submit I can also lecture to him as to how we are adopting those practices."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"So far as I understand the hon. the Law Member, and I think the House understood him equally well, it was not his intention to object to the general trend of the remarks made by the hon. Member for the University. But the objection was to two particular expressions used by him, the threat of shouting and the reprimand of tricks. I do not know if the expression 'shouting down' can be objected to because it was merely a reference to what was taking place elsewhere. But the reference to tricks was, I think, reprehensible and it is against that that the hon. the Law Member was chiefly complaining. I do hope that there will be moderation of speech and some self-restraint in this Council."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"What I submit is that, as my hon. Friend Mr. Ratnaswami said the other day, we are being treated as an appendage or appendix—I do not know what it is—of the Secretariat. We shall not be

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treated like school-boys. We are told sometimes that some questions are unnecessary, or that the Government have no information and in some cases we are directed to go to some other source for it. I feel that a treatment like that is accorded only to over-inquisitive school-boys, the hon. Member telling us 'Boys, do not be so inquisitive, be silent'. That is the way we are treated and we feel it very keenly, especially so because when we are treated so shabbily, we feel very small before our constituencies."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member has no reason to suppose that anybody wants to treat him in the manner of which he complains. As regards his questions, they will certainly receive due consideration."

III

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE TO
DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL OF THE BIFURCATION OF THE KISTNA DISTRICT.

Mr. J. D. SAMUEL :—"I wish to make a motion for the adjournment of this House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the postponement of the bifurcation of the Kistna district until the amalgamation of Chingleput with Madras, and Nilgiris with Coimbatore."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Hon. Members have heard the terms of the motion. I shall have to read out the statement if I am of opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order. I feel at first sight that there is an important difference between to-day's motion and yesterday's. Yesterday it was urged that that particular question was not discussed formerly during budget time, but the expenditure was granted by the House under the operation of what is called the guillotine. The motion that is proposed to be made to-day is with reference to a matter on which the hon. Member from Kistna, Mr. Samuel, was permitted to raise a debate as an exceptional privilege although the same question as contended by the hon. the Revenue Member had been decided earlier in the budget. I think I should pause before considering the matter to be in order."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, with reference to this matter, I submit that Standing Order No. 30 is in terms applicable. That says that a motion must not raise a question substantially identical with one on which the Council has given a decision in the same session. I do not desire to repeat the narrative of facts which has been recited by you, Sir, at an earlier stage of this discussion. The facts are that the question of the bifurcation of the Kistna district and the consequent expenditure were appropriate to the Land Revenue budget where everything proceeded on the basis of that bifurcation. There was notice of a motion given by the hon. Member, Mr. Samuel, with regard to the Police budget also. At that time, you will remember, Sir, that the question was raised, you have alluded to that, that having been disposed of during the discussion of Land Revenue budget it could not be repeated. But in pursuance apparently of the general policy which you enunciated yesterday of there being nothing like what may be called constructive disposal of business, you ruled that it was open to the hon. Member to raise the question during the Police budget. It will be within the recollection of hon. Members of this House that the discussion at that time did not confine itself to the utility or expediency of the bifurcation

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solely from the police point of view but travelled a wider ground and included a consideration of all the possible questions arising from the bifurcation of the Kistna district. On that a vote was taken and not being content with the ordinary vote, a poll was taken, and I submit, Sir, that judged by any canon, however strict of construction, this may be said to raise a question substantially identical with the one on which the Council has given a decision in the same session. I therefore urge that it is not in order."

Mr. J. D. SAMUEL :—"Sir, the hon. the Law Member has said that this motion is substantially the same as the previous motion. I beg to point out that it is not. And my reasons are these. That motion of which I had given notice was discussed on a side issue as it were in the course of the discussion on the Police budget. No doubt it was stated and it was understood that the question of the cancellation of the bifurcation would be considered as a whole though it came up only under a particular demand. It was again a token motion and as this House is aware there was not much discussion about it as there was no time. The points raised in my present motion are quite different from that discussed before. Here it is not a question of the cancellation of the bifurcation but a postponement of it until a particular time, i.e., till the two sets of districts I have referred to have been amalgamated. I fail to see, Sir, how by any stretch of imagination these two questions could be held to be the same, similar or substantially identical. Moreover, the result of my previous motion would have been a recommendation to His Excellency the Governor to stop the bifurcation altogether. But in this motion it is the postponement of the affair till something is done. So that these two motions are quite opposite to each other. The first motion was for the bifurcation to be cancelled. The present one is for the postponement of it until after other amalgamations are carried out. If the amalgamation is done tomorrow, this bifurcation may take place the day after. As, therefore, this motion is opposed in a way to the motion previously discussed, far from being substantially the same I wish you, Sir, to reconsider your decision."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I will add a few words to what has been stated by my hon. Friend, Mr. Samuel. During the budget debate, it was not only the case of the bifurcation of Kistna that was before the Council but also other motions advocating the decreasing the number of district charges. I myself gave notice of a motion for the purpose of raising this issue of reduction in the number of district charges. I had in mind the districts mentioned by my hon. Friend, Mr. Samuel, besides the other idea of the five districts, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur and Chittoor, being made into four. All these questions were raised by the Retrenchment Committee and the Government undertook to go into the matter, but they ultimately said that it was not possible in any case to give effect to the reduction. That was considered unsatisfactory in several parts of this House. So we wanted to raise the question and no opportunity was available during the budget discussion for doing so. The question that is now raised by the hon. Member, Mr. Samuel, is not the question of bifurcation of Kistna because he does not want that to be cancelled—but it is the question of reducing two other districts. The main question raised by this motion for adjournment is that effect should be given to the proposal for reducing the number of districts and till that is done the bifurcation should

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be held over. That is, I think, the main issue. Until that is done, he wants that the bifurcation of the Kistna district should be held over.
11-45 a.m. So, this question of the bifurcation of the Kistna district is a subsidiary matter, so far as this motion is concerned. So, in that view I beg to submit that this is not a motion that has been decided by the House, and it cannot be considered that the House is precluded from discussing it now."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I also submit that this is substantially not the same question as was considered by the House previously. This motion starts on the footing that this House gave its vote against the cancellation of the bifurcation. The hon. Mover does not controvert or say anything controverting that position, but suggests that the bifurcation may be postponed until a particular contingency he has mentioned. I submit that this did not form the subject of consideration on the last occasion, and that being the case I submit that it may be admitted and the sense of the House taken thereon."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Did not the House sanction for the purpose some expenditure in the budget? So, the question has already been substantially and identically raised and it was also decided by the Council, I understand."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Though the effect of that vote may be the sanctioning of the expenditure in the current year, I venture to submit that the identical point raised as to whether the bifurcation is to be postponed was not then considered. Assuming that this expenditure has been sanctioned by the Council for the bifurcation, this motion suggests that it may be postponed, and that the Government may not rush to action on that sanction at once. There is nothing wrong in the Council or the Government considering the position again. The mere fact that provision has been made in the current year for the bifurcation does not preclude the House from considering this specific question. The only point to be considered is whether just a few days ago an identical or substantially the same question was raised and decided by the House. If it was so, no doubt it cannot be raised again now. But it is otherwise; this question was not considered, and so I submit that this motion may be allowed."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think we have to consider the objection raised by the hon. the Law Member that the motion must not raise a question substantially identical with one on which the Council has given a decision in the same session. Whether the motion that was discussed recently during the budget is regarded as a motion for the cancellation of the bifurcation of the Kistna district or whether it is regarded as a question of expenditure on the bifurcation, I think the hon. Member is equally precluded from raising the same question again. It is not a matter of urgency; if it were a question, for instance, of the Council asking for a reconsideration of the matter some time or other, they could always do it. But inasmuch as the Council, having applied its mind formally to this very matter, has decided upon a vote that this bifurcation be sanctioned and that the expenditure on the bifurcation be incurred, if the Government gave effect to it to-day, they would be perfectly within their rights. I do not therefore think I ought to ask the Council to express its assent or dissent by hon. Members standing up."

Mr. J. D. SAMUEL:—"The question seems to be this, Sir . . ."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have only to consider this matter in a general way before admitting it or disallowing it. I have, I think, given it as much time as can be reasonably expected. I do not wish to be in a hurry at all, but it seems to me that there is no reason for asking whether the hon. Member has the leave of the Council to make his motion. I do not think that the matter before us is in order."

Mr. J. D. SAMUEL:—"Am I to understand, Sir, that a ruling has been given?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Yes."

Non-official Business.

IV

THE MADRAS LOCAL BOARDS ACT, 1920 (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I beg to present the report^a of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act of 1920, Bill No. 15 of 1924, and move that the Bill be taken into consideration. It will be within the recollection of hon. Members of this House that this Bill was introduced in about August last and was published in September in English and in the other languages in the month of October, and that it was introduced at the meeting held at the beginning of December 1924. This is a small Bill and it ordinarily should have been passed into law at the first sitting but for the importance of the subject and for some necessity, which was then felt for giving sufficient time for any representation being made before it is finally disposed of by this House. There is only one section which is important so far as this Bill is concerned. It seeks to modify the present section 236 of the Madras Local Boards Act which is to the effect that

'any sums which, since the commencement of this Act, have accumulated out of the proceeds of any tax levied under section 57, clause (ii), of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1884, or out of any investments of such proceeds, may be utilized for all or any of the purposes specified in section 113 of this Act, subject to the conditions laid down in that section.'

"It will be within the recollection of hon. Members of this House that varying sums of money have accumulated out of the railway cess proceeds in various districts, there being only five districts which have had the fortune of running district board railways. Various schemes of railway construction have been under consideration and it was not possible for every district to have its projects completed. In the case of some districts like Cuddapah, the amount of accumulations is so small that it has not been possible for them within a reasonable period of time to embark upon any railway projects. On account of the disabilities now imposed by section 113 of the Act read with section 236, the only way in which these railway cess accumulations can be utilized is this: 'With the previous sanction of the Local Government, a district board may in all or any of the above ways construct or maintain or assist in the construction or maintenance of a tramway, ropeway, motor omnibus or other transport service within, or partly within and partly without, the local area for which it is established, subject, in the case of tramways, to the provisions of any law for the time being in force relating to the construction and maintenance of tramways.'

^a Printed as Appendix on pages 1091-93 infra.

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"If this amendment is accepted, the effect would be this. It will be open to the local board to obtain the sanction of the Local Government and utilize the proceeds for any of the purposes already mentioned in section 113 of the Act. It would also be open to the local board to obtain the sanction of the Government and utilize such accumulations for capital expenditure on roads and bridges. Further safeguards have been provided in pursuance of this new amendment. For adopting a resolution to this effect, it must be passed at a meeting of the district board held specially for that purpose and supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the members of the district board present. It must be ratified, or confirmed, at a subsequent meeting of the board held three months after the date of the first meeting; and it must be similarly ratified by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the members present. In addition to these safeguards to show that the district board has deliberately given its best consideration to the facts of the case, there is the further guarantee of the sanction of the Local Government being obtained. It will be open not only to the district board but also to the Local Government to examine the possibility of a board carrying on a railway project, and if it is possible for the district board to carry out any railway project according to the original intention, it is expected that neither the district board could utilize the amount otherwise nor would the Government give their sanction for it. Now, Sir, there are cases in which it has not been possible for the district boards to take up such railway projects and the money has been lying idle, except perhaps bringing in a small rate of interest. That being the case, it has not been possible to develop communications within the district board areas. It is certainly unfair and unreasonable, after having collected money from the people in the shape of railway cess, to prevent them from utilizing that money in any other way for benefit of the people. To avoid the possibility of this sum being utilized for the maintenance of communications, the words 'for capital expenditure on roads and bridges' have been inserted in this Bill. It is not suggested that these special railway cess accumulations should be used under any circumstances even with the previous sanction of the Government for the maintenance of existing communications. If it is not possible for a district board to have a new railway or a tramway or anything of that nature, it must be open to the district board at least to develop new communications in that district and to incur capital expenditure for the purpose out of this amount. That is why the words 'capital expenditure on roads and bridges' have been used. I am aware that one of my hon. Friends wanted to make the matter clear by saying 'capital expenditure for the construction of new roads and bridges'. I have no objection to the amendment being accepted, the object of it being this: if it is not possible to develop railways, it must be possible for the district board to utilize the amount for new communications, that is, for new roads and bridges. I think the amendment is a reasonable and simple one and it has been already circulated. I hope the House will be pleased to allow this Bill to be taken into consideration and to be passed. With these remarks, I move that the Bill be taken into consideration."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar seconded the motion.

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Sir, the Government have no objection to the amendments being accepted. In fact, the amendments were considered at the Select Committee stage of the Bill and the Government have accepted them, with the further safeguard of which notice has been given by the hon. Member from Vizagapatam."

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The motion that the Bill be taken into consideration was then put and carried.

* Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that for the words 'capital expenditure on roads and bridges' in sub-clause (b) of clause 2 the words 'construction of new roads and bridges' be substituted. The object of my amendment has been already explained by the hon. the Mover of the motion. The amendment refers to sub-clause (b) of clause (2). It was expressed by the committee itself that the funds should not be diverted for such purposes as maintenance of existing roads and bridges. It was the intention of the committee itself that this money when diverted to other purposes should only be for the purpose of laying down new roads and constructing new bridges. And with a view to make it clear, I sent up this amendment. It is only quite in line with the ideas of the Select Committee on the matter. I therefore formally move my amendment."

Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan seconded the amendment.

12 noon. Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I also accept the amendment, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"Is it to be understood, Mr. President, that the word 'new' should be introduced so that there may not be any more hair-splitting hereafter?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I think, Sir, that the word 'new' is necessary. The amendment of Mr. Venkatapathi Raja may therefore be accepted."

The motion was put to the House and carried.

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Now, in clause 2, sub-clause (b), we find the words 'with the previous sanction of the Local Government'. Section 113 of this Act contains provision to the effect that there should be previous sanction of the Local Government. Therefore there is much difficulty in the matter of interpretation. Here section 113 runs like this: 'With the previous sanction of the Government of India the District Board may,' etc. Therefore the section contemplates the previous sanction of the Local Government and the first portion of clause (2) says: 'subject to the conditions laid down in section 113'. Therefore it appears to be a redundancy. I think the word 'with the previous sanction of the Local Government' may safely be omitted."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Has the hon. Member got the leave of the House for moving an amendment of this kind without previous notice? I presume the House gives leave."

* Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—"I second it."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"The amendment may be accepted, Sir. When the Bill was originally introduced in this Council, the words which now find a place in the amendment did not appear. Those words were inserted by the Select Committee. One of the conditions laid down in section 113 is that the previous sanction of the Local Government should be obtained. When this clause was accepted by the Select Committee, attention was not drawn to the fact that those words occur twice over. I think they may be omitted."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I think the words may be omitted. I have no objection to the omission."

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The amendment of Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju was put to the House and carried.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"I now move, Sir, that the Bill as amended be passed into law."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"I second it."

The Bill as amended was put to the House and carried and was passed into law.

V

MOTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO THE GRIEVANCES OF NON-GAZETTED OFFICERS—*cont.*

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will now resume consideration of the motion, moved on behalf of Mr. Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo, by Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar, for the appointment of a committee, etc."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move an amendment to the motion moved by my hon. Friend Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. The following words shall be added to the resolution: 'including the grievances of unpassed men affected by G.O. No. 164, Law (Education), dated 4th February 1925, published on page 66 of Part I-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 17th February 1925'. I may, Sir, read the recent order and explain it, and I hope that I shall be able to show that this order of Government is a very unfair and inequitable one to the persons concerned. The order runs as follows: 'The following instructions are issued in regard to the grant of increments in the time-scales of pay to clerks who are not qualified under article 1 of the Public Service Notification', namely, those in short, who are called unpassed candidates. 'Clerks who do not possess the qualifications prescribed in article 1 of the Public Service Notification, but are holding posts which fall within the scope of that article may be divided into two classes—(1) those who have been specifically exempted from the provisions of article 1 of the Notification.' Thus, the requirements of this class is that one ought to have completed the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Examination. That is the minimum general educational qualification for admission into public service for any post in the superior service. With such qualification the pay of a clerk, passed or unpassed, was Rs. 20 to begin with and it rose by gradations from Rs. 20—25, 25—30, and so on. The second class is 'those who have not been so exempted but were confirmed in posts on Rs. 20 in the old graded scale of pay, either with reference to G.O. No. 991, Home (Education), dated 29th July 1918, or with reference to the old Public Service Notification which required no educational qualifications for posts on Rs. 20. Clerks falling under the first of these classes may be allowed to draw increments in time-scales of pay in accordance with the orders contained in G.O. No. 722, Law (Education), dated 13th June 1922, and G.O. No. 1525, Law (Education), dated 8th December 1922.' As a result of those orders, the pay of men who were drawing Rs. 20 as the minimum was automatically raised to Rs. 35, and under the new regulation there was a scale beginning with Rs. 35 and rising to Rs. 50 with an efficiency bar in the middle. In the case of clerks falling under the second class, namely, those who were drawing the minimum of Rs. 20, there was no general order that they should

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rise to higher pay. Clerks falling in the first class may be allowed to draw increments in the time-scales of those clerks for whom there is a provision for a rise without a qualification. The Government have now ordered that the first class will be allowed to draw the pay in the ordinary scales of pay. 'As regards the second class, these were not eligible under the old graded system to rise to posts carrying pay above Rs. 20 a month and according to the recent Government Order the substitution of an incremental scale for a graded scale did not authorize the grant, without specific sanction, of increments in the new scale to persons who could not have got more pay. These clerks are eligible in the scale for the minimum rate of Rs. 35 in the mufassal and Rs. 40 in the Madras City in the new time-scales of pay and are not eligible for increments in those scales unless they are specifically exempted from the provisions of article 1 of the Public Service Notification either by Government or by heads of departments who are competent to do so. When so exempted, the clerks in question may be allowed to draw increments subject to the conditions prescribed.' Now, Sir, I beg to draw the attention of the House to the fact that Government is right in contending that those clerks who were exempted from passing and drawing the minimum pay of Rs. 20 without any right to rise further if the old state of things had continued, would not have been able to rise above Rs. 20 without a specific order from the head of the department. But either in its generosity or because some clerk in drafting the order was careless, the Government Order conveys quite a different meaning. I do not want to go through all these technicalities and weary you with them. All the Collectors, all the District Judges and the Forest and other officers in each district have considered that the old distinction ceased to exist.

"In the case of the district court clerks, the District Judges did not consult 12-15 p.m. the High Court and automatically they gave to both these classes of men the incremental salary year after year. That is what also the Forest officers did and everybody else. I really do not know of any department where the clerks were not allowed to get this. And the clerks were quite happy. They went on drawing their increments. But the Board considered that the Collectors were wrong and that they had misinterpreted the rules, and, therefore, in the case of the second class of subordinates the increments they had drawn for a long time were ordered to be refunded. I know in my own district some clerks were ordered to refund this amount. A rupee may look very small to us here but it is so much for those poor clerks. You may note that the Revenue Board which alone collects so much revenue from the people has thought it fit to assume so much strictness and made the clerks refund every pie of the amount that they had been receiving for many many months. I do not want to dwell longer on the technicalities and I would appeal to the Treasury Bench and the hon. Members and to the House to consider the great hardship of these poor class of clerks and have pity upon them. For the sake of humanity as well as justice, I request them to see that this order is cancelled. I think the number of these clerks all over the presidency is large, and even if they have refunded these amounts they might be given back the amounts that have been taken back from them. So I hope that the hon. the Revenue Member, the Law Member, the Home Member and the Finance Member, and all the Ministers will take into consideration, also view with sympathy, this request and pass favourable orders very soon."

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* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I suppose in seconding the amendment I may as well speak on the general question as a whole. I have had a talk with the hon. Mover and I expect he has no objection to accept the amendment and therefore I do not think I need speak once again on the motion. I do not think very much need be said to commend the proposition to the favourable consideration of the Government. So far as the non-gazetted officers are concerned, there are numerous grievances. I do not think the Government will say that they have no grievances. The only possible objection that might be taken by the Treasury Bench is in regard to finance. They may say that even if you are going to give some two or three rupees more to each clerk the amount will come to several lakhs if not crores. That will be, I take it, the only main objection that will be brought forward by those who are not in favour of this proposition. I submit, Sir, that the question of finance should not stand in the way of fair justice. As regards the higher officers ever since the reforms were inaugurated, their pay has been increased considerably. Their allowances have been multiplied very liberally and added to that we have had the Lee Commission to crown all under the recommendations of which we must be prepared to part with about a crore. Therefore if it is a question of finances, I do not think that is a reasonable objection. I do not at present wish to go in detail into the question of the grievances of these people, because I hope the Council and the Government will accept this resolution as it is only a very modest request to the Government for the appointment of a committee where it would be possible to consider their grievances and say what remedies could be found. But I will give only one instance."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Probably it will save time if the hon. Member will formally second the amendment. He will have another occasion to speak on the merits."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I first of all mentioned, Sir, probably you did not hear me, that I will once for all speak on the motion as a whole as it was very likely that the Mover of the resolution could be expected to accept the amendment."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I would ask the hon. Member to second the amendment, so that I can communicate with the Mover of the motion whether he accepts it."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I may add one thing, Sir. In fact, the grievances of the two sets of men are the same. That is one reason why I spoke on the motion and the amendment as a whole. What I was going to say was that the one main grievance of non-gazetted officers as also of the class of men dealt with in the amendment is in regard to the great injustice done to these people, passed or unpassed. When the order as to revision was passed, every one was started on Rs. 35, irrespective of the length of his service. Even if he had put in, say, 15 years' service before, still he was classed with the man who was started anew. He might have been receiving Rs. 30 or 32 just before this order and yet he was treated as equal to a new man who had just been confirmed. In all these matters, we have to take the example of the Government of India. They made a distinct difference in this matter and the salary was fixed according to the service. They had under them a very large number of unpassed men and in the Local Government we had a lot of passed men. When the revision came up, what

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happened was the position of the unpassed men in the postal service, became much better than the position of the passed men in the Local Government. That is one great standing grievance of the non-gazetted servants, and I think that a committee should be appointed to go into the question and come to certain conclusions. In speaking of this one grievance, I do not mean to minimize the other grievances they have but, as I said, I do not think I need now trouble the House with detailing all of them. As for the unpassed men, their question has been raised on the floor of this House by means of interpellations more than once and it was found that, so far as the grievances of the employees in the Revenue Department are concerned, the new orders of the Board of Revenue have placed this category of men in a very unfortunate position. Those people were receiving the increments whether passed men or unpassed men and they never could have thought that there was going to be this distinction drawn. A committee went into the whole question and the Government passed orders on the report of that committee. Neither of them said anything about such a distinction having to be made with the result when the orders of the Board were passed these poor people were deprived all on a sudden of their increments. All on a sudden the Government have taken upon their heads—I would not directly say so but I shall indicate it by an analogy—to rob Peter to pay Paul and when the Government wanted money to pay the services on the recommendation of the Lee Commission they thought these dumb millions could be—I won't say robbed—asked to pay with the result that the latter they were driven to the necessity of having recourse to money-lenders."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" May I ask if the hon. Member is speaking from his own personal knowledge?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" From my own knowledge as well as from the knowledge of others. When all on a sudden they are asked to pay back these amounts, what could they do but to go and borrow money?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" So, Sir, the hon. Member is only drawing an inference and does not apparently talk of any personal knowledge."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I am a money-lender myself. I do not think that many arguments are necessary. We know, Sir, that many of these poor people have to go to the money-lenders and pawn their jewels, including their wives' *tali*. The fact is there. People who were considered deserving of increments by their higher officers were given the increments and they were permitted to draw them for a long time. Then the idea all on a sudden dawned on the minds of the Government who now ask them to refund the amounts already drawn. In this connexion, I shall quote an analogy. A warder in the Coimbatore jail had his pay increased from Rs. 18 to Rs. 22 or Rs. 23. He drew the increased pay for about three years and he is now asked to refund all the increments, about Rs. 200 in all. Where is he to get the money from? Knowing his difficulty, the Government still insist on the refund. There is no use of saying: You took what was not your due and therefore you must refund. Here is the fact; the money is due and has been paid to the clerk but by

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some order that money is asked to be refunded. These poor clerks have not with them even hundred rupees to draw upon and meet the unreasonable demands of the Government.

"Even now I do not see whether the Government Order quoted by Mr. Saldanha applies to the High Court and their subordinates. It seems doubtful whether it would apply. All I wish to say is that Government having once by omission permitted the district authorities and other officials to permit their subordinates to receive their usual increments, it is not fair for them now to ask them to refund the same. Rightly or wrongly, these people have been drawing their increments so long, and it is but fair, reasonable and equitable and in the interests of the subordinates of the Government also that Government should not insist upon refunding the money already drawn by them. Probably the proposed committee may be asked to go into that matter and make recommendations. But if the committee after going into the question considers that these clerks should refund the amount, that would be some consolation. But, by one stroke of the pen, the Government have issued this order. It is very desirable that all people—both passed and unpassed—should be brought under this category. I strongly support the amendment as well as the proposition itself."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Does the hon. Member who moved the motion accept this amendment as part of the proposition?"

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I do accept it."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I wish to speak a few words before the amendment is embodied in the resolution."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. the Finance Member to the Accountant-General's opinion on the subject."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I am not aware of the Accountant-General's opinion on the subject. But before the amendment is embodied in the resolution, I should like to point out that the wording of the resolution recommends the appointment of a committee to report on the organization, conditions of service, etc. So far as this amendment is concerned, there is not the slightest doubt as to the facts and therefore there is nothing to enquire into. The only question is whether the Government Order is right or wrong. That is not a question concerning the organization, conditions of service, etc., of the non-gazetted Government services. I do not know whether the hon. Members quite follow the wording of the amendment. The matter has been discussed at various times and all must have a fair idea of the facts. But I should like to protest against some of the hyperboles of the hon. the Seconder of this motion. He spoke of the 'dumb millions' in the lower ranks. I think the whole number of persons concerned may be a hundred or possibly two hundred."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"The phrase can well apply to all clerks, both passed and unpassed."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"As regards the people referred to in the amendment, I should like to point out that, so far as the Revenue Department is concerned, there cannot be many who have had to refund large amounts. The revision of pay was brought into effect from March 1921. No increment became due therefore before March 1923 and any increments drawn must have been for the months after March 1923. The question whether unpassed

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clerks could draw increments was raised in July 1923, and the Board then issued orders to all Collectors. Consequently, if after July 1923, any clerk in the Revenue department who was not entitled to draw increments drew them, the fault lies entirely with the district authorities. The cases of all other clerks will be governed by G.O. No. 164 which the hon. Member has quoted. I hope he is not right in saying that officers in other than the Revenue department are going to show such a want of discipline as to disobey the orders of Government, but if they do not recover the arrears they are ordered to collect, the result will probably be that they will have to pay themselves.

"I do not think it can possibly be argued that a man who, before the revision of pay was introduced, had been allowed to be appointed on Rs. 20, because at that time no educational qualifications were required for posts on Rs. 20, is in the same position as a man who had been definitely exempted from the requirements of article 1 of Public Service Notification and had therefore been appointed, presumably on Rs. 20, with full prospects of further promotion. The man who had not been definitely exempted had no further prospects. His pay was raised from Rs. 20 to Rs. 35 but it was never intended that these persons should rise automatically in the time-scale."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"My only complaint is that such intention was not published by Government."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"However, Sir, my main point is that this is really a matter entirely separate from the resolution; it does not come into it at all, and I put that point to the hon. the Mover of the resolution before he accepts the amendment."

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"I should like to know from the hon. the Finance Member whether these unpassed men cannot come under the category of non-gazetted officers. I think they do come under that, though other considerations might perhaps not apply to them."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I still have to address myself to the general question. I am now suggesting that this particular point does not come within the terms of the resolution."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"If the House does not wish to accede to the proposal of the hon. the Mover to incorporate the amendment in his motion, the amendment will have to be discussed first and then put to the House, and if it is carried incorporated in the motion. The discussion may bear on the whole matter and in the end the amendment will be put first to the House."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I wish to speak on the main question. Sir, much as I may object to questions like this being raised in the Legislative Council, I must begin by congratulating the non-gazetted officers on the choice of their advocate before the Council. His speech was forcible yet conciliatory and I am sure he voiced the requests of his clients in a manner that would particularly accord with the notions of a body of men who, except for a few slight outburst in the earlier months of the existence of their association, have always urged their claims in temperate language."

"I hope that the allegation made yesterday, among a number of sweeping and for the most part groundless charges, that the non-gazetted servants of Government exercise a great influence in the elections, is not true, and that this does not constitute the reason why so many hon. Members have in the past year tabled resolutions similar to the one under discussion."

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* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" It was made not with reference to this resolution but with reference to some other resolution and certainly not by me."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I entirely agree. I merely mentioned it to say that I hope it is not true. I object to the raising of questions like this in the Council chiefly because they are not primarily the concern of the legislature. Its concern is rather to see that the executive does not spend too much on the services than to suggest larger expenditure; and I do not think that the hon. the Mover or any other Member who has interested himself in the subject realizes anything like the extent of the extra expenditure he is pressing on Government.

"Nor can I agree that, if the conditions of service are not altogether satisfactory to the persons concerned, the proper way to find a remedy is to appoint a committee—much less a committee of the kind suggested. If adopted as a general practice the effect would be to destroy the responsibility of the executive, to subvert all discipline in the services and bring about chaos in the administration. If the Government were habitually sweating their servants, overworking them or grossly underpaying them, the natural result would be that those who did not die would resign and Government would be unable to replace them; short of this if there were any defect which amounted to a scandal, it would be quite proper that it should be exposed in the Council. Otherwise, it is the duty of the executive to see that the offices of the Government are staffed on an adequate but not an extravagant scale, and it is the executive alone that is in a position to undertake the duty.

"Committees have been appointed in the past to advise the Government on the subject of the proper remuneration of their servants, but only in very exceptional circumstances. The hon. Mover has given an outline of the history of the case. It must be remembered that about the year 1918 a very serious rise in the cost of living began and when the Salaries Committee was appointed in 1919, there had been such a great change in the general conditions of life that sweeping measures were called for, measures which the Government considered necessary but which they hesitated to undertake without the fullest support of the public. Before that, an attempt had been made to carry on by granting temporary allowances which, in the case of the lower-paid servants, were substantial; but after considering the report of the first Salaries Committee, the proposals of Sir Arthur Knapp as to the application of that report and the recommendations of the Committee of the Council in 1921 the Government instituted a series of revisions, the most striking of which, as the hon. Mover has said, was the raising of the minimum pay of clerks from Rs. 20 to Rs. 35 in the mufassal and to Rs. 40 in the city. Another change which he has not noticed was that they were all put on time-scales so that whereas formerly a clerk might stay for years on the minimum pay—and many used to stay there all their service while others never rose beyond Rs. 30—every clerk who now begins on the minimum that is every clerk who is qualified under the provisions of the Public Service Notification is sure of regular, if small, increments, and may reasonably expect to reach Rs. 60.

"Similar improvements in pay and prospects were given to all grades of non-gazetted servants; but the cost was so great that the Government could not face it without making sure of the support

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of the Council. It has been the main cause of the financial stringency from which we have been suffering ever since and of the great rise in expenditure which has been the substance of most of the charges against the Government in the last three or four years.

"The hon. Mover (and I think another hon. Member) has said that the Government would not be bound by the opinion of the committee; of course that is perfectly true. It is quite right in theory; and in practice it is not difficult to foresee that the recommendations of a committee constituted as proposed would be of a kind which it would be quite impossible for the Government to accept. This makes the appointment of such a committee all the more undesirable. Its appointment would raise great expectations; its recommendations still more; and the decisions of the Government on those recommendations would be a most grievous disappointment.

"Now, the resolution asks for the appointment of a committee to report on the organization, conditions of service and other matters relating to the various branches of the non-gazetted Government services. I do not know what there is to report on with regard to the organization. The organization seems to be pretty good. We are told that the non-gazetted officers' association is 35,000 strong. My information is that the total number of non-gazetted officers is something under 36,000. So, the association must include practically the whole lot. From the number and the nature of the representations received as well as the pride which the hon. the Mover has shown in it, it is quite evident that the non-gazetted Government servants are pretty well organized. The chief defect seems to be that owing to the all-embracing nature of this one association it feels bound to put forward claims for all classes of its members at once and therefore it makes it particularly difficult for any one claim to be considered by itself.

"The conditions of service except as regards details of pay are embodied in the Fundamental Rules and other rules which are accessible to all, so that there is not much scope for investigation there; and the other matters turn out to be all connected with emoluments.

"The hon. Mover has given us particulars of what these are and I will proceed briefly to deal with them in detail.

"The first complaint is with regard to the starting pay of clerks—Rs. 35 in the mufassal and Rs. 40 in the city—which, he says, is not a living wage and is inadequate owing to the increase in the cost of living. Well, Sir, the cost of living has not gone up since 1921. It has gone down if anything. However, the term 'a living wage' is a relative rather than a positive term. It cannot be said that a man cannot live on Rs. 35 a month. If it were so, the persons who would need first consideration would be the peons and others who get Rs. 15 or 18 a month. What the hon. Member probably means is that it is not enough to enable a man who has a wife and child to maintain the standard of living to which he is accustomed. Here he may be on surer ground; but that figure was accepted by the Committee of this House and by the House itself subsequently in 1921 as a fairly good starting point; and the incremental system made it certain that the man's income would not remain at that figure for any great length of time.

"The second point was that the scales of pay sanctioned for the various officers compare unfavourably with those given by the Government of India

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and the Accountant-General. That, I suppose, is true, but I am not sure if the House would have been very pleased if, at the time of the revision in 1921, we had proposed scales similar to those which were later introduced by the Government of India and the Accountant-General. The Government of India, I presume, has one scale for the whole of India, and those scales were fixed more with reference to conditions elsewhere than with reference to conditions here. I do not think therefore that we can be reasonably asked to follow their scales in revising the pay of our officers.

"The third point is that the rates of increment are miserable. The complaint seems to be that in the case of clerks the increments are about Re. 1 and in the case of tahsildars Rs. 10, whereas in the case of higher officers, they may be Rs. 40 or more. Sir, the rate of increment must of course bear some relation to the scale of pay. If you have an officer on Rs. 800, you cannot expect to give him the same increment as an officer on Rs. 50. It is of the essence of a time-scale that it should be spread over a number of years. A tahsildar's pay is Rs. 200, rising by increments of Rs. 10 to Rs. 300. If the scale were such that he reached the maximum in one or two years, the result would be that he would have to stagnate at that point for years before he ever got a chance of further promotion. This would be most undesirable. It is no use giving jumps of this kind and the idea underlying a time-scale is that it should be spread over a period of 10 or 15 years. I take it however that the hon. Mover's chief objection is to the Re. 1 increments of clerks; but though these may be small each year, they make a considerable difference in a clerk's income in a few years.

"Then, the hon. Mover objected to the distinctions made between the different services and the different offices in the matter of pay. That there should be distinctions, Sir, I think is inevitable. You cannot pay all services on the same scale. Some involve more responsibility, others harder work. The revision of pay in 1921 did bring about much more uniformity than existed before. A good many of the services were brought on to either the same scale or similar scales, but the process could not go on indefinitely. There must be distinctions.

"The next objection raised was that the past services of these people were not taken into account in fixing the points at which they should start in the time-scales. What actually happened was that the lowest pay of a clerk was raised from Rs. 20 to Rs. 35. I am not aware what happened in the case of post office clerks and others in the service of the Government of India; but the clerks here had been receiving temporary allowance for a considerable time and the pay in each case was fixed at the stage in the time-scale next above what the man had been getting, including his temporary allowance. There would have been no justification for raising their pay higher."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I said that even people on Rs. 25 and Rs. 30 were put on Rs. 35."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I think my hon. Friend is mistaken. A man whose pay was Rs. 30 must have been getting a temporary allowance of Rs. 10."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"With allowance they were getting Rs. 25 and Rs. 30."

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The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Then they must have been men drawing less than Rs. 25."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"There were people getting Rs. 15 and Rs. 17½ although they were not clerks."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I am afraid then they do not come under the category of clerks. They are persons on some different scale altogether.

"Then there is the complaint about the Deputy Inspectors of schools and Health officers. With regard to these officers the complaint is that at first one scale of pay was sanctioned and that it was then withdrawn and afterwards a different scale was sanctioned. Well, I am afraid I was not at the time well acquainted with the case, but I do not think that effect was ever given to the first order or that any of the men were actually placed on the scale first contemplated.

"The next complaint is about acting allowances. That, I take it, refers to the question of lower division clerks acting in the upper division. Well, Sir, the Fundamental Rules brought in considerable changes on the subject of acting allowance. In former times when a man high up in an office went on leave, all the lower men got some small promotion, and all got small acting allowances. Under the Fundamental Rules a person who officiates in a higher post gets the full pay of that post, but though the acting allowance is larger the occasions on which it can be claimed are fewer; and no acting allowance is permissible unless the officiating appointment involves the assumption of duties or responsibilities of greater importance than, or of a different character from, those attaching to the substantive post. I am speaking as a man with some experience of Government offices. There is really very little difference between the work actually exacted from a clerk because some other clerk goes on leave. An attempt was made at first to make a distinction, but it soon had to be withdrawn. In practically every case what happens is that the clerk goes on doing exactly the same kind of work he was doing before.

"The next point is about the presidency allowance. I am afraid I did not catch exactly what the hon. Mover said about that. But I may say that no general system of presidency allowance has been introduced. In the

original revision two separate scales of pay were sanctioned, 1 p.m. one for the city and the other for the mufassal. It was realized that a clerk in the presidency town had greater expenses than a clerk in the mufassal. It is not usual for a clerk in the presidency town to serve in the city only for a time and then be transferred to the mufassal. He is generally a man who has lived in the city always and is likely to be in the city all his time and it was considered that the difference in expenses was covered by the difference in his scale of pay. There were, however, certain officers who drew extra allowances before and, in order to bring these into line, they have been made uniform and classed as presidency allowances. Practically no new allowances have been given. What has happened is merely the regularization of the existing allowances.

"Then there was the further complaint about the pension system which the hon. Mover said should be replaced by a provident fund. That is a proposal with which the Government have great sympathy. It is certainly hard

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luck that when a man dies while in service, his family gets no benefit however long his service; and if a system of provident funds can be instituted instead of the pension system, I personally think it would be a great improvement. It is a matter, however, which is not entirely in the hands of the Local Government. The Local Government are in favour of it and they have said so to the Government of India, and I understand that the Government of India have the matter under consideration. But various factors have to be taken into account such as the position of the men who have already been serving for a considerable time without having subscribed to a provident fund.

"Then there was the question of alteration of the note to Fundamental Rule 87. That again is not a matter in which the Local Government have any responsibility, and the Local Government were not consulted before the note was altered. A representation received from the Non-gazetted Officers' Association on the subject has been forwarded to the Government of India. But I may point out one anomaly which the change was probably intended to get over. The note as it stood before the amendment ran:—

'When a non-gazetted Government servant takes leave, his pay at the time of taking leave may be treated as his average pay for the purpose of this rule, if (i) his pay is less than Rs. 300, or (ii) the leave taken does not exceed one month.'

"I am not quite sure whether this is the former rule or the present rule. However, the difficulty I am alluding to may be illustrated by what happened here a year or two ago. I think it was in 1922 that the Council began its campaign against allowances and it proceeded at the budget meeting to cut off the allowances of a good many of Government officers. The result was that those Government officers took leave immediately and under the Fundamental Rules they were entitled to average pay including their allowances so that they were better off on leave than they would have been if they had stayed at work. I think it was to prevent this sort of thing happening that the Government of India found it necessary to alter the note.

"It is, however, the cumulative effect of complying with all the demands made that is staggering. The hon. Member from Coimbatore has forecasted that I should say something about the effect of giving Rs. 3 all round. I have not calculated what would be the cost if everybody was given Rs. 3, but I have calculated that to give Rs. 5 a month extra to 35,000 people would cost Rs. 20 lakhs a year and I do not think that Rs. 5 all round would go very far towards satisfying the demands now made. If, besides raising the starting pay of clerks, we are to start a large number of them at higher stages in their time-scales, increase the rates of increment and raise the scales of pay all round, we shall be lucky if we get out of it with an addition of less than a crore to our expenditure. Then we have continual complaints that the expenditure on reserved subjects is greater than that on transferred subjects and that the expenditure on reserved subjects is growing. There are various factors which vitiate calculations of percentages of expenditure, such as services which one-half does for the other; but may I remind hon. Members that one of the chief causes of increasing expenditure is the time-scales? This alone adds 11 or 12 lakhs to our expenditure every year and is likely to continue to do so till we reach the stage of stability, which will not be within ten years. The great majority of Government servants,

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whether gazetted or non-gazetted, are employed in the departments at present reserved. Consequently the time-scales affect reserved expenditure more than transferred."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Does it include Imperial officers also?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I am including Imperial officers also. Consequently one effect of increasing the emoluments of all non-gazetted servants would be to increase the proportion borne by the expenditure on the reserved half to the total expenditure. I am not saying that it would be wrong but I want the House to understand all the implications of any course of action which it presses on the Government.

"I do not want to be unsympathetic, and the Government do not want to lay themselves open to a charge of underpaying their servants. I think, however, that the remuneration offered by the Government compares favourably on the whole with that offered by private persons or business men for similar service; and I do not think it would be right for the Government to pay much more than what such service can command. They are willing to accept any reasonable suggestion and will of course be the more ready to improve the position of the non-gazetted services if they feel that it is the unanimous opinion of the Council that that is a proper object on which to spend money if money is available; but it must be recognized that the demands now made on behalf of those services are beyond the range of practical politics; that the same rupee cannot be spent twice over; and that if large amounts are devoted to this purpose there will be so much the less available for other objects which the Council has at heart."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I should like to begin by congratulating the hon. the Finance Member on the very fair speech he has made on the resolution. I only wish he had followed up his speech by saying 'I gladly accept the resolution'; for, it seems to me, with the number of points he has conceded the validity of, and with the promised examination of, so many points, he would certainly not have been guilty of any illogicality if he had concluded 'I have great pleasure in accepting the resolution'. I take it that he opposed the resolution though he did not say so. So, I presume that I have to put before the House certain grounds which, I think, would justify us in voting for this resolution.

"My hon. Friend began by very mildly criticising the part, which the Council wants to take, of ventilating the grievances of these non-gazetted officers. Well, Sir, in theory and in principle I agree to it. I think, under a real responsible government such questions as the emoluments of subordinate services ought to be left to be decided between the executive and its subordinates. It is not for a popular House like this to interfere in such matters. But that assumes that the executive is really responsible and can be removed by a vote of the House. It is premature to ask us not to interfere in such matters. Moreover, Mr. President, I am strengthened in pleading on behalf of these unfortunate officers by what is happening in the Mother of Parliaments very often. Almost every week a member gets up during question time and asks Earl Winterton or Lord Peel a number of questions on matters of individual grievances of officers of the Indian Civil and other services as regards pensions, as regards leave, as regards this and as regards that. There, Sir, I find that innumerable questions are asked in the

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House on matters of even small wrongs alleged to be done to a Civilian and the Secretary of State answers the questions and assures that remedies would be found. If the hon. Members of the House of Commons can bestir themselves about these small matters and the Secretary of State and his successors feel it their duty to answer the questions fully, I do suggest to my hon. Friend that we, humbler folk, can certainly voice forth the grievances of the non-gazetted officers who have no representatives in this House but whose interests are entrusted to us.

"I also agree that these officers do not influence the elections. I do not think it is their idea or their purpose. But, Sir, many of us have many of our voters among these men who are non-gazetted officers, and although we are not here to represent them in any peculiar sense because they do not form a constituency—and I personally think that they ought not to form a constituency for a popular Legislative Council—still I think we have also a duty to perform in ventilating their just and reasonable grievances before the Government. No doubt they are the servants of the Government and I venture to believe—although it is mere theory—that the Government are the servants of this House. I, therefore, think it my duty not to enter into details of the organization, of pay, of leave or of anything of that kind; but I wish to suggest some broad lines of policy and some broad principles according to which all these questions ought to be settled. That is the reason why this resolution recommends the composition of a committee.

"Now, Sir, my hon. Friend did not refer specifically to the proposals for the formation of the committee, but I think he more or less referred to them and said that the composition of the committee is something impossible. I think he had . . ."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I did not say that the composition of the committee was impossible but that the composition was such that it would be impossible to give effect to its recommendations."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I take it he assumes that the representatives of the non-gazetted officers who will serve on the committee will so influence the recommendations as to make them unacceptable or impossible of acceptance by the Government. Again, Sir, in theory, I also agree that the servants ought not to be a party to a matter regarding their conditions of service. But in our unfortunate country—I remember there were many commissions—we had the Lee Commission on which the Civilians found a place. Whether anybody else is there or not, the Civilian is there in sufficient numbers to influence the judgment of the commission as a co-member and as a colleague."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I do not think there was a Civilian on the Services' Commission."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I stand corrected; I apologize to my hon. Friend. A man who has just retired and who joins the commission at once is better qualified to represent the grievances of the Civilians than a man who is already in service. Perhaps if an amendment is suggested that only pensioned non-gazetted officers should be on the committee, the hon. Mover will accept it. Therefore I think we are justified by precedent in asking that the non-gazetted officers should have representation on the committee.

"My hon. Friend also stated that the Government did not want to be accused of underpaying their servants or of overworking them; if that is the

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friends remarked, this cannot be expected even from the most absolute Indian potentate. You passed an order and it was worked, and now to say that all were wrong is not right; further, it is an order which even the Accountant-General interpreted in one way and the Government interpreted in another way. I think there must be something wrong, something ambiguous about that order, and something which was in favour of the clerks who have drawn that amount in excess. Having regard to the fact that so many officials in all the departments have interpreted it in one way, it is unfair that the Government should interpret it in another way and apply the order retrospectively, not merely to be effective for the future or prospectively, so that it may apply only to clerks to be recruited hereafter, but also retrospectively. On these grounds I appeal to the House and hope that if my amendment is put, it would be carried."

The amendment was put to the House and carried.

The resolution as amended was then put to the House and carried.

OPENING OF PADDY CULTIVATION FARM IN SOUTH MALABAR

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I move the resolution which stands in my name and which runs thus:

'That this Council recommends to the Government that a Government farm for the improvement of paddy cultivation be opened in a suitable place in South Malabar.'

"Malabar, as hon. Members of this House are aware, is one of the paddy-producing districts in this Presidency. Rice is a staple grain of that district. Normally in the whole district about 8½ lakhs of acres are placed under paddy cultivation. The average yield of this paddy crop may be estimated at about 1,400 lbs. of paddy per acre. The total yield at this rate would be about 5½ lakhs of tons of paddy per year. The average daily consumption per head would be about 2½ lbs. of paddy. The population of the district is over three millions. So that for these three millions of population the total output of paddy from the district would be barely sufficient for even six months in the year. Further, crops in Malabar are not always reaped and owing to the vagaries of the season the outturn is seriously affected. During the time of war, owing to the dislocation of trade and the restrictions on export of rice, considerable difficulty was experienced in the district for want of paddy. Such being the case, I submit, Sir, that it is incumbent upon the Agricultural Department and my hon. Friend the Minister in charge of the Development Department to study the question of the crop thoroughly with a view to increase its outturn. The necessity for a separate paddy farm was recognized even by the department long ago and the matter was urged by the department upon the Government, I believe, in 1912-13, in 1917 and in subsequent years. And when His Excellency Lord Pentland, the demonstration farm at Taliparambha in 1914, he made the following observations in the visitors' book. The relevant portion of those remarks is this:

'To meet the whole need of the Malabar coast this farm alone (the Taliparambha) is inadequate and too remote, and should be supplemented by another in order to give facilities for demonstration, experiments and research in the main typical crops of the coast coconut and paddy.'

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"Now this advice of Lord Pentland could not then be carried out for more reasons than one. One was the insufficiency of the agency that could be employed in the work of the department. Now, sufficient number of hands are available and it is possible to give effect to this advice of Lord Pentland. No doubt it is a fact that some work in connexion with paddy has been done on the Taliparambha farm, but the area available for paddy cultivation in the Taliparambha farm is quite inadequate and the farm itself is unsuited because it contains no double crop land. The study of the paddy crop was never thought of at the time of starting the Taliparambha farm and that farm was primarily meant for the study of pepper. Taliparambha itself in which this farm is situated is a very backward village and is situated in a very remote corner of the northernmost taluk of the district, and it is not a typical paddy tract. Investigation has to be made with reference to the study of the seedlings and manure in connexion with the paddy crop. Some reduction has been made in the usual seedgrain which was used some 30 or 40 years ago to the extent of about a third, but the experience in the Taliparambha farm shows that the seed-rate can be reduced still further. The fact of seed selection is also appreciated by the cultivators, and this is evident from the innumerable applications received at the Taliparambha farm for seed, but the quantity of seed available there is entirely inadequate to meet the demand.

3-15 p.m. "The green manure has now become quite insufficient when jungle leaves have already disappeared. The problem of manure has to be seriously considered if the fertility of the soil is to be maintained at all. This question of manure has to be tackled from various standpoints. The system of collecting and serving cattle manure is deplorably poor and has to be improved, for manures such as bones, oil-cakes, etc., and above all the fish manure which is abundant in the district have to be popularised. Thousands of tons of fish manure are produced in the west coast, in Malabar and in South Kanara also, and most of these is exported to foreign countries since its utility has not been fully understood by the people. I submit, Sir, that these facts lead to the conclusion that it is desirable and necessary to establish a paddy farm in Malabar.

"Then the next question is where this paddy farm is to be located and where its site must be. With reference to this it seems to me that some place near a railway station either in the Palghat taluk or in the Waluvanad taluk may be chosen. The three other taluks in South Malabar are Ernad, Ponnani and Calicut. Ernad is far away from the railway line and it is too hilly. Ponnani and Calicut are not typical paddy tracts. So the choice must lie between Palghat and Waluvanad and I will suggest to my hon. Friend the Minister for Development that some spot near the railway line either in the Palghat taluk or in the Waluvanad taluk may be chosen and I believe, Sir, that the present is a fit opportunity for establishing such a farm. I believe the Development Department, like every other department in the hands of the hon. the Ministers, will come forward for a very good use of the 126 lakhs which this Government is going to get. For these reasons, Sir, I would earnestly recommend to my hon. Friend the Development Minister to establish a paddy farm in the official year which has commenced now."

r. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"I heartily second the resolution which was so ably moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar. Sir,

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[Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan]

I am one of those who think that the Agricultural Department will be justifying its existence only in case its influence could be felt among the cultivators. I should think, Sir, more prominent attention should be given to the cultivation of indigenous crops, the staple crops on which the people of the land depend for maintenance than to other varieties of crops. Though Malabar is a paddy-cultivating land, yet it does not produce sufficient food-grains for its own consumption and we have mainly to depend upon Rangoon rice and the rice that is being sent from Calcutta and other places. It is found that the Calcutta paddy and the Rangoon paddy can be sold at cheaper rates than the paddy grown in the district itself. I should think the fact that sufficient grain is not grown in the district for the consumption of the people even for six months is sufficient reason for the Agricultural Department to devote its attention to the needs of the district. Sir, it is rather unfortunate that the fertility of the land is getting deteriorated every year. That has been my experience. It may be that the ryots are not using sufficient manure, but whatever it is, it is a fact which we have to face. As my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar said the facilities for getting green manure are becoming very difficult and some sort of artificial manure will have to be substituted. Hitherto the ryots depended mainly upon green manure and cow-dung. But they are now finding it difficult to secure either the one or the other. I know that through the endeavours of the department the fish-manure is very much getting in vogue. But it is a costly stuff and beyond the reach of the ordinary ryot and I believe that further researches to find a manure within the reach of all should be made. There are several varieties of paddy in the district. Certain kinds yield better results and the choice of the variety has not been cultivated as an art. Lead can be given by the department in that direction also. The main difficulty in the way of giving effect to our resolution would be want of funds. The Government generally acquire land for such purposes by paying fabulous prices. There is no need for such thing. They may easily take a lease of a plot of land from any landholder for a period of ten years or so and make demonstrations there. Any landlord will be only very willing to give his land if the usual rent is given. I shall myself try and get a plot for the purpose if the idea commends itself to the Government. That would help the Government to tide over the difficulty of the initial outlay. I am one of those who think that demonstration farms of that kind should not be permanently located at one and the same place. For a period of say, six years it may be tried in one place and after that time it may be shifted to some other place in some other taluk so that the benefit of demonstration will be extended to other places as well. Therefore it is highly desirable that the land should not be acquired but should only be leased for a certain period. As regards the location of the farm I do not think there is any difficulty. It is highly desirable that it should be located in a place which would be useful to the largest number of ryots and also easily accessible to them. It should also be near the railway line. If the Government are willing to accept our proposal, we hope to be able to render such assistance as we on our part possibly can for the achievement of this long-felt want. With these few words I second this resolution."

Rao Sabib U. RAMA RAO:—"Sir, with your permission, I would like to move an amendment. After the words 'South Malabar' please add 'and South Kanara'."

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Hon. Members are entitled to object for want of notice. Unless anybody is prepared to object I shall ask the hon. Member to move his amendment."

No Member having objected, Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO proceeded :—"The conditions in South Kanara are exactly like those in Malabar. In fact only about 50 per cent of the people live by agriculture in Malabar, whereas in South Kanara 75 per cent of the people live by agriculture and the land is getting barren day by day owing to the heavy floods. The fertility of the soil is washed away into the sea and thus all the available manure is exhausted. So fish-manure is manufactured in a large quantity in South Kanara. But it is all exported. People do not know how to use it. So under these circumstances, Sir, a farm of the kind asked for by Mr. Krishnan Nayar may also be started in South Kanara. As regards the place it may be entirely left to the authorities concerned. With these few words I move my amendment."

* Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—"I have very great pleasure in seconding the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Rama Rao. As he pointed out it has been generally admitted that the land is deteriorating every day and unless we replenish the soil in the same proportion as what we have taken from it the fertility of the land is not likely to improve. This is an axiom which our poor ryots are unable to understand and it is necessary that some amount of propaganda work should be done. The object of the resolution is to establish a paddy-breeding farm in South Malabar and in South Kanara in order that the ryots may be induced not only to use better class of paddy seeds but also better manure and better implements. We know that there are two paddy-breeding farms to-day in this Presidency, one in the Tanjore district and the other at Coimbatore. It may be argued that paddy grown at Coimbatore may be tried in Malabar. That is what has been done by the Agricultural Department and it has proved a failure. The condition of other districts do not suit Malabar. Unless the Agricultural officials have the special paddy grown in Malabar itself they cannot preach to the ryots of the country the usefulness of improving paddy. It is for these reasons that a paddy-breeding station is essential, I must say, not only in Malabar, but also in every other district. The problem that we will have to face is whether a given area of land is producing the same yield as it did ten years ago. What I mean is that this is a question which will have to be tackled not only for the district of Malabar but also for every other paddy-producing place. Malabar is, I believe, the third biggest paddy-producing district in this Presidency. We all know that paddy produced in this Presidency is of very poor quality and it is necessary to nourish it and improve it. It is for this reason . . ."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"I may mention, Sir, that the hon. Member is unduly accusing the paddy-producers in this province. I may say that Godavari and Kistna districts produce some of the best rice in this province."

* Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—"I was not at all accusing anybody. I am only mentioning that there is a great scope to improve the paddy seeds that is now being used by the ryots in this country. That is what I beg to point out. Now, Sir, with regard to that suggestion the hon. Minister may say that there are no funds available. But it cannot be denied that there is an

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[Mr. C. Gopala Menon]

absolute necessity for making a modest beginning and in this way an experiment may be tried on a small scale and effect may be given to the suggestion in some suitable centre. I therefore strongly second the amendment moved by Mr. U. Rama Rao."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The amendment has been moved and seconded and I am now to ask the Mover of the original motion whether he agrees to incorporate the amendment."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I accept the amendment, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The discussion will now proceed on the motion as amended which will read as follows :—

'That this Council recommends to the Government that Government farms for the improvement of paddy cultivation be opened in suitable places in South Malabar and South Kanara.'"

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"May I also take this opportunity of asking you, Mr. President, your permission, and if necessary, the permission of the House to suggest an amendment to the amended resolution so as to include Cuddapah district also? I am sorry we have no farm in Cuddapah. Our conditions, no doubt, differ from those of South Kanara and Malabar; but, we have really no suitable farm. As a matter of fact I had given notice of a resolution to that effect some time ago but which unfortunately did not come up in the ballot. I may now be permitted to take this opportunity of including my district also by an amendment to the motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I very much fear the House may object to this amendment on the score of want of notice. I have therefore to ask the House whether it gives leave for the amendment being moved without notice."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I object, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think the hon. House is not prepared to give leave for the introduction of the amendment. I therefore disallow it."

Mr. V. MADHAVA RAJA :—"Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution which has been moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar. It is highly expedient and necessary that we should have an experimental farm in South Malabar. The agriculturists expect aid from Government and the first aid they naturally look up to is more facilities for irrigation. As the hon. Member for Irrigation has already said, unless the demands in other districts are satisfied, Malabar cannot expect anything. The next aid is expert advice with regard to improved methods of agriculture, such as how to prepare manure, how to select paddy, how to prepare the soil for receiving what is sown, etc.; all these improved methods can be shown to agriculturists only if there is an experimental farm. As the hon. Mover pointed out, Palghat and Waluvanad are the two chief paddy cultivating centres. So an experimental farm somewhere there near a railway station, so that the agriculturists may find it easy to come, is absolutely necessary. I strongly support the motion."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Sir, in supporting the resolution, I wish to make a few suggestions how to practically carry out this resolution. We may emulate with great advantage the example of what I have known taking place in the Bombay Presidency. I mean to lay stress on the need of co-operation of some rich men. We are accustomed in this Presidency to demand too

[Mr. J. A. Saldanha]

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much from the Government for everything that we want. There are rich men like the hon. Member Dr. U. Rama Rao in South Kanara and like the hon. Members the proposer and the seconder in Malabar who are in a position to come forward with a scheme like the one adopted by a Sirdar in the Kolaba district. What he has done is this. He offered all the land that Government needed for a paddy and garden farm. Besides these lands, he allotted something like 150 acres of land for training children in paddy cultivation under the advice of the teachers provided by the Government. He established a school for them at his own cost as also boarding houses with the benefit of a museum attached thereto. I found the whole experiment was very successful. There were a large number of boys in the neighbourhood whom he housed and fed with the agricultural produce of their own handiwork and a large number of boys have thus learnt the new system of manuring crops and seedlings and such other things. I hope that some rich landlords or merchants in South Kanara and Malabar will come forward with a scheme like that and that the hon. the Minister for Development will co-operate with them. The public may also co-operate just as they did in collecting subscriptions for the Mangalore hospital. We were there able to get subscriptions to the extent of about Rs. 20,000. In this way the rich people might go halfway and I hope the Government also will meet them halfway to devise necessary farm schemes."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I may say at once that I am in entire agreement with the position enunciated by the hon. Members from Malabar. In fact the necessity to establish a farm at Malabar was under consideration of Government even so early as 1915. In 1923, the hon. Member Mr. Krishnan Nayar pressed the same subject at the time of the budget discussion and then he was told that for want of funds the Government could not undertake the opening of a farm in Malabar. The whole thing has been thrashed out at several conferences. At present we have got one station in the Government Agricultural College, one at Tanjore and another at Samalkota in the Godavari district. These are the important places where paddy is grown now. Next to them we come to Malabar and we have no objection to open a farm there but the only handicap is want of funds. In fact our programme was to open one at Kistna during 1925-26, another at the sugarcane-breeding station at Anakapalle in the next year, viz., 1926-27. And we wanted to take South Malabar during the year next to it, viz., 1927-28. That was the programme we had before us. But now there is a diminution in our provincial contributions and I expect the Agricultural Department will get a good slice of it. If I do succeed, as I very much hope to, I shall start a Malabar paddy station in the current year. To do so the estimates have got to be made ready and we must also make a selection of the site. With regard to the question of site if there is going to be any difference from the view expressed by the hon. the Mover of the resolution, then it will form the subject of an informal discussion between himself and me, and if necessary others interested in the subject will also be consulted. I strongly expect to get financial help in this direction and I shall undertake to take the scheme through the Finance Department, through the Cabinet, and then when I come before the Council with a demand for a supplementary grant, I hope hon. Members who have been interesting themselves on this subject will give me their support. Incidentally my hon. Friend Mr. Rama Rao raised the question that a farm

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should be opened in South Kanara: and if leave had been given, the hon. Member from Cuddapah, Mr. Koti Reddi, would also have asked for a farm at Cuddapah. And if opportunities were given to the other hon. Members of the Legislative Council, each one in his turn would have asked for a farm in his own district. This, of course, is a physical impossibility."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if it is suggested that it is not possible to open a farm in South Kanara? "

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" Also, Sir, may I know how it is a physical impossibility? "

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" I had almost said it was a financial impossibility. If funds were really forthcoming, I have really no hesitation to open such farms in every district and if necessary in every taluk in the districts. I would ask hon. Members from the other districts to kindly reserve their requests for some time more until we are financially in a position to tackle the problem for their districts."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—" May I also ask to make every farm self-supporting? "

* Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" May I ask the hon. the Minister for Development whether South Kanara is not one of the best rice-producing centres? "

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" It is a paddy-producing centre and so are many other districts. In making the selection, as I said, the best producing centres, Malabar and South Kanara, have for all purposes been taken together. What applies for the West Coast applies also to South Kanara. For the matter of that the present station at Taliparambha is intended to serve both North Malabar and South Kanara."

" As regards the suggestion that was made that instead of purchasing land, leases may be obtained, I think it is a good suggestion and I will bear it in mind and see that it is carried out if possible. As a matter of fact, in certain agricultural stations, we have been following that principle. If I remember right, at a station called Palur, we took a lease of certain lands; so also in Wandiwash or Ambur—I don't remember which."

" Then, some hon. Members insisted on the opening of more demonstration farms. That we are doing in 400 or 500 places, exhibiting to the ryots what can be done under improved management and under improved cultivation by the use of improved manures and improved ploughing. So far as the resolution originally stood, I am at one with my hon. Friend the Mover and I accept it in the hope that when I come to the Council for a supplementary grant it would be given without any objection."

" As regards South Kanara, Cuddapah and other districts, of course it is a pious wish and I will bear it in mind as such "

* Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" South Kanara has already been included in the resolution; so it must be given effect to if it is passed."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—" May I ask the hon. Member for a reply to my suggestion? So far as these farms are concerned and also those which the hon. the Minister may be pleased to open hereafter, will he see that they are made self-supporting? "

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* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"That is the very essence of experimental cultivation and so I am obliged to give an answer in the affirmative. (Laughter.) Further, it has always been the problem with the Agricultural department as to how to run these institutions without incurring extra cost. We always bear in mind that the attention of the department should always be directed to the fact that it must be run as economically as possible, and I believe it is done so."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Mr. President, I was carefully following the debate on the resolution, but I am not able to understand what is being debated upon. (Laughter.) I want first of all to know whether Mr. Krishnan Nayar wants an experimental farm, a demonstration farm or a paddy-breeding station. If it is an experimental farm or demonstration farm, I do not think the hon. the Minister will be justified in promising another farm for Malabar, as long as there is the Taliparambha farm on the West Coast."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"May I say that the Taliparambha farm is intended mainly and solely for making experiments on pepper?"

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"In the course of the debate, if I remember right, my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar said that even in Taliparambha paddy cultivation is being carried on. If that is a fact, I do not find any necessity for having another farm for Malabar. I think the hon. the Minister for Development is quite correct in saying that we cannot sanction an experimental farm for every district. Two or more districts ought to be coupled and there shall be one experimental farm, and the demonstration work in those districts ought to be carried on by persons attached to the various farms. Government have adopted the policy of appointing demonstrators to go to the several places and talk to and induce the big ryots to resort to the improved methods of agriculture."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"It will save some little time, if I explain the difference between experimental farm and demonstration farm."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I know the difference between the two. An experimental farm is a farm where the experts of the Government take all the approved seeds and canes, and other things and cultivate and see, when those things are beyond the stage of experiment whether they are fit for demonstration and propaganda. During the demonstration stage the big ryots are induced to cultivate these seeds or canes and in that way the propaganda work is done. That is exactly what is in my mind. Therefore I said that you must select one place for two or three districts and there carry on experimental work. And when once the experts have come to the conclusion that experiments in that area are sufficient, then begins the work of demonstration. You can multiply the number of demonstrators, and let each demonstrator work in a taluk. If that is in the mind of the hon. Member Mr. Krishnan Nayar, the Taliparambha farm may be extended and there paddy cultivation may be carried on and such strains of paddy that prove useful for the West Coast may be put on demonstration in the various taluks of South Kanara and Malabar. If what is in the mind of Mr. Krishnan Nayar is a paddy breeding station, it is quite on a different footing. It means that the experts have to select the various strains, they have to study their characteristics."

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"I have not got the papers, but I have a clear remembrance that Taliparambha has been considered as unsuitable for paddy breeding."

* Mr. T. M. MOIDOO SAHIB :—"May I make a suggestion, Sir? As the Taliparambha farm is not a paddy breeding farm at all, the proposed farm for Malabar should be situated in a place easily accessible to North Malabar also. So, I will suggest some place near Calicut, and not in Palghat or Ponnani taluk."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"So, if I understand the debate now, the only question is whether the experimental farm is to be at Malabar or South Kanara, or whichever place is suitable as a paddy breeding station."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"That is what I wanted to explain to my friend the Leader of the Opposition. But he has explained it and I am quite sure he has understood the subject." (Laughter.)

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I think we all understand what experimental farm is and what demonstration farm is. Now the question is what a paddy breeding farm is. In a paddy breeding farm what the experts are expected to do is to study the different strains of paddy, study their characteristic features, and see how these features can be perpetuated in other cases. That is the experiment stage. A series of experiments have to be made, and different varieties have to be selected and tried. Government will not be justified in saying that they would not study the conditions of the Ceded districts, where the rainfall is only 20 inches, as in Cuddapah for instance. Each area has its own peculiarities and conditions and these have to be studied. I hope in that light they have selected the Tanjore and Kistna districts as paddy breeding stations. They are deltaic areas. There is supply of water. They have to take into consideration the quantity of rainfall."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"May I tell my hon. Friend that the average quantity of rainfall in Malabar is nothing like 30 or 40 inches but 120 inches?"

* Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"In South Kanara it is 280 inches."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"In my own district, it is 40 inches, and I know that Malabar and South Kanara it is 120 inches. My point is this, that Government must not be content with one or two stations as Tanjore and Kistna. They must establish such farms in various suitable centres, where they can go on with paddy breeding operations. Improved strains mean increased production. With these remarks, since I now understand my Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar and the hon. the Minister for Development, I do not propose to say anything further."

The motion as amended was put to vote and carried.

THE EXCISE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The following motion was the next one and it stood in the name of Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar :—

"That this Council recommends to the Government that its excise policy should be radically changed and immediate steps should be taken to secure substantial reduction in the consumption of intoxicants in the Presidency at once and total prohibition in the near future."

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The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, I beg leave to state that in this matter I am expecting the report of the Advisory Committee as early as possible. Soon after I receive it, orders will be passed stating the policy of the Government, and the orders will be laid on the table of the House. Members of the House would then be in a position to make recommendations on the policy outlined. I therefore suggest to my Friend (Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar) that he might defer his motion till the policy is published."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" If the hon. Minister will give us facilities for discussing it, I will not press it now."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Before my hon. Friend accepts the suggestion or rejects it, I should like to know from the hon. the Minister for Excise, whether the report which appeared in the *Madras Mail* purporting to be the report of the Excise Advisory Committee is a report of the Excise Advisory Committee or not, and secondly what he exactly means by saying that an opportunity will be given to this House for discussing the orders of Government on the report. First of all, Sir, I feel that to say that it will be placed before the Council for discussion after orders are passed on the Committee's report is merely postponing taking advice to a time when the advice will not be useful to him; secondly, I do not know exactly what he means by saying that the House will have an opportunity of discussion. Supposing it is placed on the table of the House, the only thing we can do is to move an adjournment of the House, and the hon. the President might say, as he has done in another case, that it is neither urgent nor recent; the only other method is to table a resolution. My hon. Friend Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar has been giving notice of this resolution for the last two years and this is the first time that it has got a place in the ballot. Many of us will not agree to give up this ballot which has been in our favour, unless the hon. Minister assures us that he will give us an opportunity either by tabling a motion with your leave—as the hon. the Law Member did with regard to the Mettur project—or by moving for a supplementary grant. In either way, unless he categorically undertakes to commit himself to give us a very early opportunity, I, personally speaking,—I hope I speak for some others at least—cannot give up this opportunity when the question can be discussed apart from political bias or whatever it may be."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" There is another circumstance which ought to be taken into account before we give up our right to move this motion and that is the big slice expected for the Excise department from the expected remission of a part of the provincial contributions. If that is realized, I believe most of it, if not all of it, ought to go to the Excise Minister because the hon. the Minister complained that for want of finance he was not able hitherto to carry into effect his policy of prohibition which is our ultimate aim. If that is our policy, we should take advantage of the promised remission of the provincial contributions and go one step forward in the direction of prohibition. Therefore before the big slice expected is distributed among the various departments, the House ought to express its opinion on the policy to be followed and so I do not think it is advisable for us to give up our right to discuss this question now."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I am in a difficult position. I am anxious that the question should be dealt with as early as possible. I feel very strongly in the matter and, as stated, for the last nearly two years I have been giving notices of similar motions. Whenever possible I have also been drawing attention to this matter. The present opportunity

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seems to me not the best one for considering this question in view of the fact that the committee appointed by the Government would be submitting its report to the Government in a few days and the Government would be framing its policy on that report. Now, I do not know whether we will gain anything by attacking the old policy of the Government in regard to excise. They are now going to frame a new policy and before we make any criticism in regard to the excise policy of the Minister, we ought to know what it is going to be. The hon. the Minister told me two days ago that he is going to frame a new policy and that he will allow this House an opportunity to discuss it. I thought that on that condition we might put off this motion. Even now, if the hon. the Minister will undertake to bring the matter before the House in some form or other I would not move this resolution at all. That is the position in which I am."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" I submitted already that as soon as orders are passed they will be laid on the table of the House and that then it will be open to any hon. Member to bring forward a motion of this kind." (Cries of 'Oh! Oh!')

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" That does not seem to be a satisfactory answer to arrive at a compromise. For the last two years, as I said already, I have been giving notices of similar motions and the chances of the ballot were such that it was put on the agenda only this time. I think if the hon. the Minister for Excise is really sincere in what he says that he wants to give an opportunity to this House to express its opinion on his new excise policy, the minimum that is expected of him is a promise that he will bring the matter before the House in some form or other, for instance, it may be in the form suggested by my hon. Friend Mr. Satyamurti by asking for a supplementary grant. I think that in some such form it ought to be brought before the House to be discussed. Without that, if we are simply to be told 'I am going to announce the policy later on; you should not discuss it at all and I am not going to give you an opportunity to do so,' we would not be satisfied. The other day, a Member of the Reserved half, the hon. the Law Member, promised to give the House an opportunity to discuss the question of the Mettur project, agreed to place the matter before the House before taking action on the question and did accordingly. At least when necessary we expect the hon. the Ministers, Members of the Transferred half, to consult the House and do such things. Instead of doing that if they take advantage of the Standing Orders and rules and say that any hon. Member can bring in a motion, I do not think we would be satisfied. I do hope that he will agree to bring this matter before the House early."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, in order to meet the wishes of the House to discuss the policy, as soon as I frame the policy I shall lay the report on the table of the House. Afterwards it is open to any hon. Member of the House to bring in a motion and if that is done I am prepared to meet it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I must lay my own point of view before the House. The House has been openly contravening the Standing Orders in this matter. Standing Order 56 says :

'A member in whose name a resolution appears on the List of Business shall, when called on, either—

(a) withdraw the resolution, in which case he shall confine himself to a mere statement to that effect; or

(b) move the resolution.'

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"Neither has been done. I wish the hon. Member would do one of two things. The rest should be done outside the House."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"From a talk I had with the hon. Member two days back I believed that he would not move this motion and so I informed the hon. Members on this side of the House accordingly. Therefore, thinking that it will not come up, they left the place. The very thing that I suggested to the hon. Member on that occasion was that I would lay the report of the committee on the table of the House as soon as a policy is enunciated, but day before yesterday night I received a message from the hon. Member that his party wanted to press his resolution and this made it difficult for me to give any intimation to the Members on this side of the House."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"If the hon. the Minister is not prepared to give even the undertaking I suggested and if he is not even prepared to be so courteous to the House as to consult it after the framing of the policy, I must think that we should do what we can. He is not evidently prepared to meet us even half-way. He does not want to give an opportunity to the House to discuss the question. That is what it comes to."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"When a policy is once enunciated it becomes the policy of the whole Government and I cannot again recommit the Government to another policy."

MR. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—"Am I to understand from the speech of the hon. the Minister for Excise that before he passes final orders on the report of the Advisory Committee and enunciates a policy he will give us an opportunity for discussing it and then pass orders or, does he say that he will pass orders and give us the information as he gives to the newspapers?"

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"No. I would place it on the table of the House after the orders are passed for the information of the hon. Members."

MR. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—"Am I correct, Mr. President? As soon as orders are passed, whether it is placed on the table of the House or not, we will be in a position to know what it is. How does the situation improve by placing it on the table of the House?"

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"If the Government are not prepared to meet us half-way, I must move my resolution."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not wish to suggest anything, but I would say that the hon. Member might reserve his right of moving this motion by allowing it to stand over till the next non-official day."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"These resolutions would lapse since we are at the end of a session. Sir, I therefore move the resolution which reads thus:

That this Council recommends to the Government that its excise policy should be radically changed and immediate steps should be taken to secure substantial reduction in the consumption of intoxicants in the Presidency at once and total prohibition in the near future.

"Sir, this resolution consists of three parts; one says that the present policy of the Government is not satisfactory; the second portion wants some immediate steps to be taken for the reduction in the consumption of intoxicants; and the third wants to go a step further and says that total prohibition should be kept before the mind's eye of the Government as the goal and

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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. At the moment this is achieved, if I am so fortunate enough to take this Bill to 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. 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 a 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 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 a 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 be out of power, nevertheless an inflexible rule is that the President is to hold 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's office 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 the means of enhancing his remuneration—for instance by way of examination 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. 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 of the House and be independent and free from any other considerations which influence him in his official capacity."

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"not 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.

"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 propose, Sir, before this House disperses to constitute and announce the personnel of a committee for the purpose of considering the whole question 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, 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, 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 the 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 on all sides of the House."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"If I may add my own voice in the matter, I 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 objection to remunerating the work in prospect and I am glad that the hon. Member has absolutely no intention of making any further remarks by not de-

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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 advantage 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 fresh restrictions should be imposed on me. It seems to me that it is only that condition that I could participate in a discussion on this matter, that 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 view 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 been said 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 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 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 want it, I shall try to avoid it by all means within my power—there is no 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 to 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 a Bill may be brought forward and discussed. It was in that light because I was anxious that there must not be a series of amendments 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 permission, I move for the postponement of the consideration of the Bill."

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Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"I second it."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I say one word, Sir? I do not want it to be on the record that I was opposed to this adjournment. This is a matter which all of us are agreed and I am agreeable to the conditions suggested by the hon. the Law Member."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The question before the House is that the business of the day be adjourned until the next day appointed for business of this kind in the next session. I believe it will then come on independently of the ballot."

The motion for adjournment of the Bill was put and carried.

VII

THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1919.

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras City Municipal Act (Amendment) Bill, 1919."

No objection having been taken, leave was declared to have been granted to the hon. Member.

VIII

THE MADRAS LOCAL BOARDS ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras Local Board's Act (Amendment) Bill."

No objection having been taken, leave was declared to have been granted to the hon. Member.

IX

MOTION ON A MATTER OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC SERVICE AMONG SUBORDINATE OFFICIALS.

Mr. K. KOI REDDI :—"Mr. President, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on my resolution. My resolution is in the following terms :—

'That this Council recommends to the Government to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials to enquire into and suggest measures to put an end to the existence of corruption amongst the subordinate Government officials.'

"Sir, in moving this resolution it is not my desire to depreciate to the slightest extent the valuable services that are rendered to the State by the honest and devoted, and I may also say, mostly honest subordinate officials of the Government. But, Sir, I am very jealous that our public services, superior and subordinate should like Cæsar's wife be above reproach. And as long as I do that our public services, at any rate the subordinate services, are not what they should be, I am compelled by a sense of duty to my constituents in the parts with which I am familiar, namely, the Ceded districts, police stations and the country at large to move this resolution."

"Sir, I have been put several questions after I had given notice of the motion, whether it would be possible to put an end to corruption, whether without endangering my chances of election next time by losing the support of the subordinates of Government. I shall briefly answer them to the subject. As for the danger of my losing the support at the

Sir, that I feel so strongly that I am bound

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possible. But resolutions are a different matter. I do not think the hon. Member quoted any resolution in the House of Commons on any service question."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir. Resolutions are very rare in the House of Commons."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"May I also bring to the notice of the President, Sir, that there was one instance where the services of a single lady in Government service which formed the subject-matter of discussion in the House of Lords and when the House of Commons did not consent, the House of Lords carried their own resolution, appointed a committee to inquire into the whole case and established her name and right?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"One swallow does not make a summer. Sir, resolutions here are common and I was objecting especially to resolutions asking for action the results of which cannot easily be appreciated."

"If a committee is appointed, I regard it as a perverted view that it is the business of the Government to persuade the committee that they are not over-working or under-paying their servants. The Government have effected a very large measure of revision of pay; and the way the committee would presumably set to work would be to find out whether there was reason to suggest any further action to Government; and there can hardly be any doubt that the recommendations of a committee composed as suggested would be such as it would be impossible to accept. From this point of view it would certainly be an improvement if, instead of active non-gazetted servants, there were appointed to it pensioned non-gazetted servants who could not hope to get any personal benefit out of its recommendations. The question is not whether the grievances are just, but whether the emoluments of the non-gazetted servants of Government or any of them are such that it is a scandal in which the Legislative Council should interfere."

"I am afraid I must have been misunderstood if it is suggested that I admitted that such was the case. What I did say was that if the Council, unanimously or by a large majority, passed a resolution on the subject the Government would be encouraged to take the matter into consideration."

"With regard to the increases given by the Government of India I may remind the Council that the Incheape Committee suggested that they had gone too far, and that the Government of India should attempt to retrace their steps. This recommendation was considered by the Madras Retrenchment Committee which concluded however that there was no case yet for a reduction of pay and that economy was to be sought in a reduction of numbers. It is the numbers that are the real difficulty; and personally, as Finance Member, I have always set my face against increases in staff, largely for the reason that the larger the staff the more difficult it is to improve the condition of individuals. I still think that material improvement for individuals can only be brought about concurrently with a reduction in numbers."

"I entirely admit that real efficiency can only be attained with a contented staff; but if the cost of the staff increases unduly the question must arise sooner or later whether the service is worth carrying on at all. I mention the cost of giving Rs. 5 per head merely to indicate something of the

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magnitude of the problem, As to whether it would cost 20 lakhs, that is a simple sum in arithmetic—35,000 multiplied by 5 multiplied by 12 will give you the figure. If any hon. Member would like to check the calculation I shall be glad to give him a pencil and a piece of paper. (Laughter.)

“Well, Sir, if the resolution is carried I cannot promise that a committee will be appointed. In the first place it is not in my power to make such a promise and in the second place I do not see what useful purpose a committee can serve. But if it is carried it will be an indication that, in spite of the considerations which I have put before the Council, the Council does regard the present position of the non-gazetted services as something like a scandal and that it regards the improvement of those conditions as an object having a first claim on the resources of the Government.”

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“Is the House still of opinion that the amendment should be put first?”

*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“I thought the Mover accepted the amendment, Sir.”

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“But the House did not permit the amendment to be embodied then.”

*Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—“I have only one word to say, Sir, on the amendment. The hon. the Finance Member asked how there could have been an enforcement of a refund. Let me take an individual case, for instance, that of a clerk who was asked to refund Rs. 24 which he had drawn in excess. That is not the only case, but there are several cases in which refunds of several rupees were ordered and exacted. How this is done I do not know. The Government Order was passed in March 1921, and it came into force on the 1st of April, and so the increment of Re. 1 or so must be given on the 1st April 1922.”

*The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“No, Sir. It became due in 1923.”

*Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—“I do not want to enter into a controversy, but there were refunds.”

*The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“I hope the hon. Member will accept my statement that, according to that order, the incremental scale is 35—35—1½—50—1—60. So that for the first two years the pay was Rs. 35, and the increment began after that.”

*Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—“Be that as it may, there has been yet an order issued by the Collector for refund and that has worked hardship. I also wanted to say this: that the Accountant-General himself, who is a very strict officer of whom the Governor himself and the highest men in the service are afraid, and who is so very exact in the matter of audit, on a reference made to him by the High Court, interpreted the order in this way: that in the case of unpassed men, under the order of 1922 of the Law (Education) Department, the increment to be given every year could be given under the signature of the head of the office, not head of the department. So, the Accountant-General interpreted the order in one way and the Collector has accepted that interpretation. But now, the Government come down and say that all this was wrong and that the money should be refunded, that is, the money that has been overdrawn. That is really a hardship. As one of my

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COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO THE GRIEVANCES OF NON-GAZETTED 1063 OFFICERS

[2 April 1925]

[Mr. S. Satyamurti]

13st, may I ask the Government to agree to the constitution of a committee ?
 2ess they assume that this committee is going to be unreasonable, let the
 W-15 p.m. Government place the evidence at their disposal before the
 committee and show that their servants are not over-worked,
 e not underpaid and are not sweated. If the committee also come to the
 une conclusion, then the Government may come before this Council and say
 hat the very committee which we have appointed have strengthened their
 nds. If the Government have got a convincing case. I do not think they
 ld fight shy of this committee. My hon. Friend towards the end of his
 b referred to the extra cost to the Government and said that it would
 ol. o Rs. 20 lakhs, if we give Rs. 5 to each individual."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" Yes, Rs. 5 to each individual."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" The hon. Member said that it would be Rs. 20 lakhs a year if we give Rs. 5 to each individual, and that it would be Rs. 100 lakhs if all the concessions they ask for are granted. I do not want to dispute these figures. I think, Sir, my hon. Friend will concede that instead of granting all these demands, if only the more reasonable ones are granted, he cost will be reduced. Let the committee go into the whole question and find out the minimum demands which alone are to be granted. I venture to suggest that the cost will be found to be very much less. Even assuming further that the cost is so high as that suggested by the hon. Member, if really these men are underpaid and overworked, why should the Government fight shy of this extra obligation of Rs. 20 lakhs or even Rs. 100 lakhs? The Local Government—I do not want to say that they are responsible—the Government of India, a subordinate branch of the Imperial Government, had to difficulty in finding one crore of rupees for the sake of the superior services. It seems to me, Sir, that we cannot have two kinds of gospels preached in this country. On the one hand we are told times without number that only when we have our services contented we could have them efficient. We now learn that Lord Birkenhead—I believe he has not yet used his broadcasting apparatus—"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Lord Meston is the broadcasting apparatus."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am glad to be supplied the ellipsis in my speech. Lord Meston broadcasts all round the United Kingdom that the white man's burden is falling down for want of white men to bear it in this unfortunate country, and the British youths are exhorted to join the services and bear the white man's burden. Now if the Government think kindly of their services and set about to see for themselves the conditions under which they have got to work, they will see that something must be done for them to keep them contented, even though they are not happy. My hon. Friend pointed out the inadvisability of great expectations being raised and meeting with disappointments. I now ask him to choose between raising expectations and facing disappointments, although I do not see why we should be disappointed in our expectations, and having these services contented. From my own experience and from my conversation with these Government rvants, I have learnt that all these men are discontented. We have got to dge for ourselves whether these grievances are just and reasonable. We ave that they are just and reasonable. My hon. Friend perhaps does not He says that the cost will be very great. Towards the end of his

[Mr. S. Satyamurti]

[1st April 1925]

speech he said that the Government will examine this question, if the Hon. is fairly unanimous. That is why we are pressing the appointment of committee upon the Government to see whether these grievances are just, how many of them and to what extent.

"My hon. Friend referred to the terms of the resolution and referred to the organization of the Association. I should like to know whether the Government view with approval the Non-Gazetted Officers organizing themselves and will put no obstacles in the way of their organizing themselves help them to form themselves into an organization so that they may express their own opinions in a constitutional manner to the Government."

"With regard to the conditions of service, my hon. Friend stated that there are the Fundamental Rules. I know they are there. But even there I think a committee may possibly advise the Government. This Government may not be able to change the rules. But the recommendations of this Government supported by those of the committee may go some way towards redressing the grievances of the services and making the conditions of service more acceptable."

"The real crux of the whole problem is the question of emoluments. On that matter I am surprised to see that no other than the hon. the Minister for Education—who is busy carrying on a conversation there—has not fought the battle on behalf of the educational officers, the deputy inspectors and others. There was a new scale granted to them; but the Secretary to the Government robbed them of the scale almost when they were about to enjoy the increased scale. It is a truism, Sir."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I am afraid my hon. Friend the Member for the University is making a mistake when he says that the Education Department did not press on the Finance Department. I pressed as much as the rules permitted."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Do I understand the hon. Minister to say that he pressed on the Finance Department for the adoption of Sir Arthur Knapp's Scheme?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"A scheme which the department thought it fair in the interests of the services."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"The particular scheme referred to?"

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"If so, my hon. Friend's idea of pressure and my idea of pressure are different. My hon. Friend believes that if he writes some notes and keeps quiet, everything is done. That is not my idea of pressure and I appeal to him to speak on behalf of these unfortunate educational officers. We have a duty by them."

"I was saying, Sir, that it is a truism that teaching is the noblest professions but the sorriest of trades and my hon. Friend has helped to make this saying apply to these officers also."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Question."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I do hope the hon. Minister will question another place, in the Cabinet, will question with vigour and see that the granted to them but withheld are restored."

[Mr. S. Satyamurti]

1st April 1925]

"With regard to the presidency allowances again, there has been a great deal of legitimate complaint. My hon. Friend told us that there was no general rule exactly."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"There is no general system of presidency allowances."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I know what happens. One class of officers gets the presidency allowance and another class of officers does not get it, though they live in Madras. I want to know why. I dare say we shall be told about some meaningless rules which we cannot understand the interpretation of. Really the system of presidency allowances is based, I presume, on the higher cost of living in Madras."

"There is one more matter on which I should like to say a few words before I resume my seat. That is the question of initial pay. On that matter, Sir, the hon. the Finance Member practically conceded the position or rather he admitted that the hon. the Mover of the resolution would have been on surer ground, if he had contended that a man with a wife and two children could not maintain himself on the initial pay given by the Government."

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I said that perhaps he could not maintain the standard of living in which he has been brought up."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Of course it is possible to live on half a meal a day. Mahatma Gandhi has shown that, by fasting for 21 days. We are not here to exhibit feats of starvation. A Government servant is entitled to the same standard of living to-day to which he was accustomed before. He does not want to lower his standard of living and thereby lower his efficiency and make it impossible for the Government to get the best out of him. Any man who knows the cost of living in this Presidency will see that the initial pay of Rs. 40 a month is not at all sufficient to enable a man with a wife and two children to live out of want, not to say in comfort. It is impossible. It is to solve all these questions that I am pressing on the Government to appoint a committee."

"Some time ago the *London Times* stated that the foundations of British Raj in India are weakening to-day. The time will come when the Raj will go down. That time will come when the Hindu-Muhammadan trouble is settled in the Northern India and the Brahman-Non-Brahman trouble is settled in the Southern India. The *London Times* went further and said that there was already a great deal of discontent in the military and the civil services in India and that the civil services were already disaffected. The time is not far distant when even the military may be disaffected. On that day the death-knell of the British Raj will be rung. As a Swarajist I am not anxious to postpone that day. But as a Member of this Council, I do want to suggest that we should have a committee appointed to consider the whole question of the conditions of service of the non-gazetted services and see that these unfortunate servants of the Government who are serving this Government loyally and faithfully—I presume the hon. the Finance Member will concede that—are not left discontented. I therefore appeal to you

of the House to support the resolution for the appointment of a committee of an unwilling alien Government to inquire into the conditions of the emolument money."

[1st April 1925]

* Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—“ Sir, I associate myself with this resolution and support it wholeheartedly. About six years ago the non-gazetted officers formed themselves into an association. And from that moment till to-day they have been agitating by sending memorials after memorials to the heads of the departments for a revision of their pay and for redressing other grievances. To-day I wish to discuss the grievances of the non-gazetted services in general and in particular about the copyists' establishment of the Revenue and Judicial Departments and the clerical establishment of the Local Fund Audit Department. I shall first of all say a few words as to how the non-gazetted services came into existence and how the initial pay was fixed.

“ This non-gazetted service has a history of its own, and it dates back from the days of the East India Company. When the British Government took charge of the administration of India they formed a Council of Education in the year 1845, which laid down certain tests for appointment as clerks. In the year 1856 a distinction was made between the covenanted service and the uncovenanted service. In about 1863 a distinction was made between the gazetted officers and the non-gazetted ones. After a thorough investigation one Mr. Pelly recommended that the salary of non-gazetted officers may be fixed at Rs. 15 per mensem for the important services and Rs. 12 for other services of the non-gazetted officers. That system continued for about half a century. Later, in the year 1907, Government granted a grain compensation allowance of Re. 1-8-0 to these Government servants. This continued till 1919. Then there was an agitation for increased pay and Government granted a war allowance of Rs. 6 per mensem which was later on amalgamated with their salaries and fixed at Rs. 20 per mensem in the mufassal and Rs. 25 in the city. But even after that, the war-prices did not come down. In the pre-Reform days when Mr. Yakub Hassan wanted to move a resolution regarding this matter Government promised to consider the matter and then appointed a Salaries Committee which recommended that the salaries might be fixed at Rs. 30 in the mufassal and Rs. 35 in the city. The Non-Gazetted Officers' Association was not satisfied with that, because they thought that the inquiry made by the Salaries Committee was not a thorough one and the basis on which the members of the Salaries Committee came to the conclusion was the calculation made by Dutta.”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member may continue his speech after lunch if he wishes to do so. The House will now adjourn for lunch and meet again at 2-30 p.m.”

After Lunch (2-30 p m.).

* Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—“ I was mentioning to you when we rose for lunch the calculation by which the Salaries Committee arrived at the figures of Rs. 30 and Rs. 35, being the salaries of non-gazetted officers. I say, Sir, they based these figures on a wrong calculation because the Members that sat on the Committee came to their conclusion on the basis of the calculation which prevailed between the years 1890 to 1894 followed by the Non-Gazetted Officers' Association have not been supplied

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

their criticism on the second chapter of the Salaries Committee Report and sent it up to the Government for their perusal and early consideration. Of course, nothing has happened after that.

“ Coming particularly to the copyist department, the hon. the Law Member, the present Leader of the House

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—“ Without any disrespect to the hon. the Law Member I want to know how such an expression as the ‘Leader of the House’ has come into use. I can understand the expression ‘Leader of the House’ being used for the Leader of a party which is in a majority in the Council. But I do not see how that expression is in order as applied to the hon. the Law Member.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ All I can say is that His Excellency the Governor has permitted me in official matters to represent the Government and it is in the same capacity and exactly in the same manner as the hon. Sir Charles Todhunter and the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp were styled as Leaders of the House, that I am also styled. The leader of the party in power will be the Chief Minister and we do not detract from his being the Leader of the party in power. Being the Vice-President of the Council it was thought convenient that I should represent Government in official matters. I had a discussion with His Excellency the Governor and he has permitted me to represent the Government in official matters. I may remind you, Sir, that in a communication which you got on behalf of His Excellency the Governor with regard to certain matters I have been referred to as the Leader of the House.”

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask my hon. Friend, Mr. Marthandam Pillai, why he kept quiet so long without raising this question, and the moment an Indian becomes the Leader of the House, he wants to raise it?”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ When Sir Charles Todhunter and Sir Arthur Knapp were styled as Leaders of the House, there was no objection. However, I do not mean to say that there is any personal aspect involved in this objection.”

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—“ I was only anxious to represent that you, Sir, as President of the House, might ascertain what is happening in other Councils so that we may have an idea of it. It is not at all that I have raised the question out of any disrespect to the hon. the Law Member.”

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I may mention that this matter has to be considered. At the present moment my recollection is that that the Senior Member of the Executive Council who happens to be the Vice-President of the Council is styled the Leader of the House in every other Province. However, that matter will be further investigated. I realize that the only motive that has animated my hon. Friend is the desire for information which apparently was not equally vivid all these five years. Now that the thirst for information has started, I think, it must be quenched.”

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—“ As a matter of personal explanation, I may tell my hon. Friend, Mr. Satyamurti, that the hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ullah was in his time called ‘the Leader of the House’ and he is not the

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[Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar] [1st April 1925]

old policy that we have been pursuing has not been satisfactory. As regards the new policy anything which has not got total prohibition for its goal and which does not start on that policy immediately will not be satisfactory.

"I want to say something about the special pleading of the hon. Member, Dr. John Matthai, the other day. But exigencies of time do not allow me to go into that subject fully. But this much I will say that even the hon. Member, Dr. Matthai, has in his book stated: 'We are thus driven to the conclusion that local option is perhaps the most suitable of the remedies open to us.' I believe he has also stated that the policy of raising the cost of liquor is not so suitable a remedy. But he has nothing to say in his book in favour of the policy of the Government. He thinks that there ought to be a substantial reduction in the liquor consumed by the people; otherwise it cannot be said that the people are leading a proper life from the economic standpoint. Even the hon. Member, Dr. Matthai, in spite of what he might have said the other day, in his more critical and more dispassionate moments has recognized the necessity for a new policy."

Dr. JOHN MATHAI:—"I did not say anything in that speech the other day which I have not said in that book."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"The hon. Member said that he was satisfied with the policy of the Government. That does not find a place in the book."

(Dr. Mathai rose to speak.)

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I request Dr. Mathai to reserve his speech?"

Dr. JOHN MATHAI:—"I simply want to give a personal explanation; I do not want to make a speech on this matter. What I said the other day was that I considered that in certain important respects the policy of the Government was good; but I am not altogether satisfied with the speed."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I am glad he is not satisfied with the speed. When this subject was discussed recently it was seen that the Muhammadans and also the depressed classes were not satisfied with the policy that has been pursued hitherto. Practically all parts of the House are of opinion that the policy pursued at present is not a satisfactory one and that a satisfactory policy must be adopted. With these words I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER:—"Sir, I beg to support the motion. I do not wish to cover the whole ground, but I wish only to say a few words. The results of the experiments hitherto pursued by the Government are seen in the statistics given in the Administration Report. The whole of the revenue that is got from the Excise department comes from the labouring classes. This revenue has been growing by leaps and bounds during the last few years." (At this stage consultations were going on among several hon. Members from both sides of the House.)

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"Order, order."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The point was that there was some attempt at an agreed motion on this question."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I beg to suggest that it might be better done . . . ?"

[1st April 1925]

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"It has been done, Sir."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I am explaining and the hon. the Leader of the House will kindly excuse me if I am wrong . . ."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"You are the final authority, Sir."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"Conversation was going on across the table when the hon. Gentleman was addressing the House. I would point out that it is out of order and that it might be done conveniently outside the House. In the meanwhile the hon. Gentleman might go on with his speech without disturbance."

* The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"We stand corrected by the remarks that have fallen from the Chair. As the matter has reached some kind of satisfactory termination, I thought it was my duty to mention it to you."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"May I ask the hon. the Deputy President if he deprecates conversation between the two front benches?"

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"Yes, across the table."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"It would be a great advantage to the hon. Members sitting on the back benches if the hon. the Deputy President enforces the rule, for if conversation goes on across the table the hon. Member speaking will not be well heard."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I am endeavouring to do that."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"The best thing is to remove the table from the middle." (Laughter.)

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER:—"I was saying that the abnormal growth of revenue in the last few years in the Excise department . . ."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PARTO:—"May I say with your permission that as I submitted in the beginning no useful purpose would be served by the discussion at this stage. I think my hon. Friend will be satisfied when I say that before final orders are issued the sense of the House will be taken by affording facilities for the discussion of the report of the Excise Advisory Committee."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I thought the hon. the Minister had finished his speech. Does he wish to move an amendment?"

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PARTO:—"No, Sir."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"Is the hon. the Minister going to reply?"

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PARTO:—"I do not want to reply to all that the hon. Member has stated. It will occupy a long time. I have outlined what I have to say and would reserve reply."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"The hon. the Minister may do so after the hon. Member, Mr. Vellingiri Gounder, has finished his speech."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER:—"The revenue from the Excise department filled the coffers of the Government to such an extent that in the pre-Reform days they did not know how to spend it. That was the chief reason, in my humble opinion, for this heavy contribution that we have to make to the

[Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder] [1st April 1925]

Central Government. If therefore there is a remission of this 126 lakhs from our contributions, it must go wholly towards ameliorating the conditions of those classes of people from whom this money has been extracted by this policy. It is the depressed classes who are the chief contributors of this revenue.

"The evil effects of this system of renting toddy and arrack are seen from the Administration Reports themselves. The rentals rise up every year, because the authorities force the shop owners to take their shops at a higher rate. Of course in some places the renters have combined and as a consequence the Government have not been able to get as much as they liked. This is not the way of stopping the evil of drink. In any method that Government may adopt to reduce the evil of drink they have one eye on the revenue that is derived from it. It seems to be a very easy way of getting the revenue. In every country you will see that drink and drink alone is the cause of the miserable condition of the depressed classes and the labouring classes. It is not that they are ruined in health by drink but all their money is taken away from them by this policy of the Government in raising the cost of drink. We find a thousand and one experiments going on and a thousand and one explanations being given. But all the while it is unbearable to see the poor people suffer acute misery all on account of the excessive cost of these drinks."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"Hear, hear."

* Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—"We do not want this sort of lip sympathy from the Government. I have had a talk with the hon. Members who represent the depressed classes in this Council and they all agree that the misery of the depressed classes is due more to the enormous cost of the drink than to the drink itself. Most of them are illiterate and they have become habituated to the drink and it is not possible for them to shake off those habits in a day. Even the educated and cultured men are not able to shake off any bad habits once they become accustomed to it. They have no facilities to spend their time in a happy way and therefore they take to drink. I am not against prohibition, but in the present state of our country we must see that drink is not made very costly. If we want to reclaim them we must do so gradually : and before we reclaim them we must see that they keep their body and soul together. You cannot get rid of their habits all at once. At present care must be taken to allow them a margin of their income for supporting their wives and children. We must not extract all that they have because they have got into the habit of drinking. We must leave a margin for their maintenance. I therefore submit that there must be some radical change in the policy of the Government. They need not be anxious hereafter about the revenue aspect of the problem, because they are getting a remission of Rs. 126 lakhs from the contribution to the Central Government."

4-45 p.m. "So, we must pass this resolution as a sort of protest against the policy adopted by the Government."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"In view of the assurance given by the hon. the Minister for Excise that he will give us an opportunity of discussion when the report of the Excise Committee is placed before this House, I beg leave to withdraw my resolution."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his motion?"

1st April 1925]

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, Mr. Deputy President . . ."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"Does the hon. Member want to make a speech?"

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"No, Sir."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"Then, why?"

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"I want to put a question."

* The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"Unless the hon. Member wants to oppose leave being granted to the other hon. Member to withdraw his motion, I do not think he will be in order in raising any question now. We have got only 15 minutes more for closing our discussion."

The motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

* The hon. the Deputy PRESIDENT :—"I have to announce to the Council that His Excellency desires to prorogue the session. The date of the next meeting of the Council will be announced later on."

The session was prorogued accordingly.

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

APPENDIX.

[Vide order of the day No. IV, page 1047 supra.]

BILL No. 15 OF 1924.

*Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend
the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.*

To

THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

WE, the members of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, have the honour to submit the following report.

2. The Bill was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* in English on the 16th September 1924, in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kanarese on the 7th October 1924 and in Hindustani on the 21st October 1924.

3. The Committee met on Monday the 2nd February 1925, the following members being present :—

- (1) The Hon'ble the Raja of Panagal (Chairman),
- (2) Mr. P. L. Moore,

[1st April 1925]

- (3) M.R.Ry. T. R. Venkatarama Sastriyar,
- (4) „ Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu,
- (5) Mr. J. A. Saldanha,
- (6) M.R.Ry. R. Veerian, and
- (7) Khan Bahadur Haji Abdulla Haji Qasim Sahib.

4. The Committee decided that the following be substituted for clause 2 of the Bill:—

In section 236 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, for the words “may be utilized for all or any of the purposes specified in section 113 of this Act subject to the conditions laid down in that section” the following shall be substituted:—

“may subject to the conditions laid down section 113 be utilized—

- (a) for all or any of the purposes specified in that section, or
- (b) with the previous sanction of the Local Government for capital expenditure on roads and bridges.”

The object of the amendment is to subject any proposal to utilize the accumulations of railway cess to the conditions laid down in section 113, viz., two special meetings with an interval of three months and a two-thirds majority.

5. A copy of the Bill as amended by the Committee is appended. The Committee considers it unnecessary to republish the Bill as no material alteration has been made in the Bill.

P. RAMARAYANINGAR.
 P. L. MOORE.
 B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU.
 P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU.
 K. KOTI REDDI.
 J. A. SALDANHA.
 B. RAJARAJESWARAN.
 H. ABD-UL-LAH H. KASIM.
 A. S. KRISHNA RAO.
 R. VEERIAN.
 T. R. VENKATARAMA SASTRI.
 * P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU.
 K. SITARAMA REDDI.

* Subject to a dissenting minute.

[1st April 1925]

Minute of dissent.

The words ‘capital expenditure’ used in clause (b) of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee are capable of being interpreted in such a way as to permit local boards to spend amounts on roads and bridges already in existence by way of thorough overhauling. Any amount spent on permanently improving an old road or bridge has to be debited to ‘capital’ according to practice in vogue at present.

To safeguard against the diversion of funds to such purposes I am of opinion that clause (b) of the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee will have to be further amended by adding at the end the words ‘to be newly constructed.’

P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU.

27th March 1925.

[NOTE.—The alterations made by the Select Committee are printed in clarendon type.]

BILL No. 15 OF 1924.

A Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.

(Bill as amended by the Select Committee.)

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Madras Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1924.

2. In section 236 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, for the words “may be utilized for all or any of the purposes specified in section 113 of this Act subject to the conditions laid down in that section,” the following shall be substituted:—

“may, subject to the conditions laid down in section 113, be utilized—

- (a) for all or any of the purposes specified in that section, or
- (b) with the previous sanction of the Local Government for capital expenditure on roads and bridges.”